



Developing a National Preservation Policy: Experiences in Germany

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Outline

- The nestor Project – Background
- The nestor Project – Activities
- nestor Activities for a National Preservation Policy
- First Results



The nestor Project

- **nestor - Network of Expertise in Long-Term Storage of Digital Resources**
- **nestor is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research**
- **The funding amounts to approx. 800,000 EUR**
- **Project duration: June 2003 until May 2006**

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The nestor Partners

- Die Deutsche Bibliothek
- Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (Goettingen State and University Library)
- Computer and Media Services of Humboldt-University, Berlin
- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Bavarian State Library)
- Institut für Museumskunde (Institute for Museum Information)
- Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns (Bavarian State Archive – Head Office)
- Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archive) (since 2005)

Tasks of the nestor Project

- make expertise and information available**
- facilitate cooperation**
- present models**
- promote standards**
- raise awareness**
- establish a durable organization**
- ...**

nestor Activities – Information

- ▣ **Subject Gateway**
- ▣ **Who Where What**
- ▣ **News**
- ▣ **Calendar**
- ▣ **Project**
- ▣ **Newsletter**

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nestor Activities – Communication

- **Mailing Lists**
- **Workshops**
- **Workspace**
 - **WG Repositories**
 - **WG Multimedia**
 - **...**

nestor Activities – Working Groups

Active Working Groups:

- WG Trusted Repositories Certification
- WG Multimedia

Planned Working Groups:

- National Preservation Policy
- Curation of Scientific Raw Data
- ...

nestor Activities – Expert Reports

Published Expert Reports:

- ❖ Digital Preservation and Law
- ❖ Digitisation and Preservation in the museum sector
- ❖ A comparison of archiving systems

Planned Expert Reports:

- ❖ Electronic Journals
- ❖ Perspectives of long-term preservation of multimedia objects
- ❖ Study about the curation of scientific raw data
- ❖ ...

nestor Aim: Proposal for a National Preservation Policy

nestor wants to strengthen the discussion about a national Preservation Policy by:

- ❖ Commissioning an expert report on the development of a description profile for a national Preservation Policy (to be published soon)
- ❖ Preparing a report on collecting guidelines and selection criteria (to be published soon)
- ❖ Organising Workshops: e.g. Workshop on a national Preservation Strategy (June 2004), iPRES conference (September 2005)
- ❖ Setting up a working group on policy and selection issues (soon after the iPRES conference)

Preservation Policy

- ❖ **Digital Preservation is, on the one hand, a technical issue – on the other hand it is foremost a national and international organisational and political challenge!**
- ❖ **A Preservation Policy is the declared intention to preserve the digital heritage!**

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National Preservation Policy

- What is to be preserved?
- Why shall the objects be preserved?
- How shall the objects be accessed in the future?
- Who is responsible for the preservation?
- How long shall the objects be preserved?
- ...

General Framework set by a National Preservation Policy

- The legal background must be defined!
- The responsibilities must be identified!
- Adequate and durable financing must be provided!

Legal Background

- Intellectual property rights must be adjusted. Today some preservation workflows can be illegal, because objects are copied and altered during the preservation process.
- It must be legal to bypass Digital Rights Management Systems (DRMS) for preservation purposes.
- ...

Responsibilities

- Because of the federal structure of Germany, there is a need for a precise arrangement between the responsibilities of the Federal Government and of the Federal States to achieve a compatible structure.
- Is it possible to adopt the responsibilities from the analog to the digital matters, as it is presumed by many institutions? Or do we face a process of concentration?
- ...

Financing

- ❖ Digital Preservation is urgent, risky and expensive
- ❖ A suitable and durable funding of the digital preservation must be guaranteed
- ❖ The amount of funds needed for preservation depends on the present will and future needs (indexing, access, rendering, ...)

Expert Report: Development of a Description Profile for a National Preservation Policy

- ❖ Contractor: Institute for Science Networking Oldenburg GmbH
- ❖ Authors: Eberhard R. Hilf and Thomas Severiens
- ❖ Initially intended as a statistical evaluation of a survey, later performed in an inductive, synoptic and argumentative manner
- ❖ To be published in fall/winter 2005

Expert Report: Recommendations I

- ❖ Digital Preservation has to preserve the functionality and the content of the resources as complete as possible
- ❖ Digital Preservation needs national and international redundancy
- ❖ Open formats, regular migration, well trained staff and active participation in international developments are essential for long-term readability

Expert Report: Recommendations II

- Selection must be made on the basis of content and potential impact – independent of distribution and publication channels
- A preservation law is necessary
- Access must be durable, comfortable and open (exception: confidential or sensitive data)

Expert Report: Structural Recommendations

- Germany needs a distributed and at the same time integrative preservation architecture which is based on division of labour. This architecture should be the result of a broad discussion between all parties involved.
- Because of the complex distribution of responsibilities between the involved ministries on Federal Government level as well as on Federal States level, the expert report pleads for a federal digital preservation law.



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**Thank you very much for
your attention!
Questions, comments ...?**

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