

Presto4U- European Technology for Digital Audiovisual Media Preservation

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ABSTRACT

This poster describes the actions, progress and research results of the Presto4U project, an EC funded two year coordination and support action which started in January 2013 focussing on the long term preservation of digital audiovisual media within a diverse range of Communities of Practice. The aim of the project is to identify useful results of research into digital audiovisual preservation and to raise awareness and improve the adoption of these both by technology and service providers as well as media owners. It will deliver new tools and services to connect different constituencies involved in AV Media preservation: expert users, who understand the problems and require technological solutions; researchers who can develop the fundamental knowledge; and technology providers who can commercialise research results as sustainable tools and services.

General Terms

communities, preservation strategies and workflows, digital preservation marketplace

Keywords

digital media preservation, communities of practice, standards, digital preservation marketplace, preservation tools, best practice

1. INTRODUCTION

The long-term preservation of digital audio-visual media presents a range of complex technological, organisational, economic and rights-related issues, which have been the subject of intensive research over the past fifteen years at national, European and international levels. Although good solutions are emerging, and there is a large body of expertise at a few specialist centres, it is very difficult for the great majority of media owners to gain access to advanced audio-visual preservation technologies. Presto4U aspires to raise awareness and improve the adoption of audio-visual preservation research results, both by service providers and media owners, and with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of smaller collections, private sector media owners and new stakeholders.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to create a series of Communities of Practice in the principal sub-sectors of audiovisual media preservation and develop a body of knowledge on the status of digital preservation practice, outstanding problems and needs for access to research results;

- identify useful results of research into digital audiovisual preservation;
- promote the take-up of promising research results by users, technology vendors and service providers, based on results of hands-on technology assessment, promotion of standards, analysis of economic and licensing models, and provision of brokering services;
- raise awareness of the need for audiovisual media preservation and disseminate information about project results; and
- evaluate the impact of the project and develop plans for long-term sustainability.

3. COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Nine Communities of Practice have been identified and established in the field of AV preservation, each based on a shared concern, a shared set of problems and a common pursuit of technological solutions. By collaboratively sharing examples of the problems and challenges that their audiovisual collections face, they are raising awareness and contributing to knowledge creation and transfer of the issues and concerns specific to audiovisual preservation. Expert groups within each community of practice have been set up to provide a key exchange environment through meetings and networking events, pooling the available expertise between academic research, media, culture and industry sectors. Identifying the commonalities and differences across communities functions as a way of inspiring the research sector to develop products that better fit the needs of the different communities. The Communities are as follows each with a Community of Practice leader from a project partner:

- Music and Sound Archives (INA)
- TV, Radio and New Media broadcasting
- Video Production and Postproduction (TV2)
- Film Collections and Filmmakers (DFI)
- Video Art, Art Museums and Galleries (TATE)
- Footage Sales libraries (LUCIE)
- Research and Scientific Collections (CNR)
- Learning & Teaching Repositories (KCL)
- Personal Collections (INA)

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4. PROJECT RESEARCH OUTCOMES

4.1 Identification and Analysis of Research Outcomes

The core work will be a preservation research technology watch and assessment to identify potentially useful results of research into digital preservation and to track and map research projects, emerging commercial technologies and new technical approaches to establish their readiness for take-up, and to match the specific needs of each Community of Practice.

A research outcomes methodology will be developed to create a set of criteria, metrics and test datasets for analysis, comparison and assessment of these technological outputs and the results will be published through PrestoCentre. Outcomes of research initiatives that address issues related to rights will also be tracked and analysed including definition of formats for rights expression languages, models for representation of rights ontologies, new services for the management of rights information and technologies for enforcing appropriate use of rights.

4.2 Technology Transfer from Preservation Research

The project will promote the take-up of promising research results and encourage adoption of technologies emerging from digital preservation R&D that solve problems experienced by the Communities but which have not yet reached the market. It will investigate barriers to the uptake of research results, including licensing to vendors for productisation and ways of engaging new suppliers into the market place. Promoting technology standardisation and services is another task which will support the application of standards based tools and services by analysing audio-visual and preservation standards relevant to each Community of Practice, including upcoming specifications and the process for adoption. The outcome will be a set of standards recommendations and the creation of a Standards Register which will include a taxonomy of standards and guidelines on application of standards for technologies within each Community of Practice, providing evidence of adoption. Further outcomes will include a Tools Catalogue and a Market Place.

4.3 Impact and Sustainability

There will be an evaluation of the impact of the project on the uptake of research outcomes by the audio-visual media preservation sector, analysing feedback from the Communities of

Practice and researchers and conducting impact and satisfaction surveys. It will also develop plans for long term sustainability by gathering and developing economic models and business plans for the long term maintenance of activities by PrestoCentre[1]. PrestoCentre will be open to developing the scope of the Communities of Practice as opportunities present themselves, for example, the work of the Pocos project on complex media objects[2].

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PRESTO4U

Presto4U is a two-year project supported by a consortium of fourteen partners from seven EU countries covering a wide range of preservation expertise based on extensive research, multiple Communities of Practice, and centres specialising in technology transfer between research and industry. The project receives funding from the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme [3].

6. REFERENCES

- [1] <https://www.prestocentre.eu>
- [2] <https://www.pocos.org>
- [3] <https://www.presto4u.eu>