



A Brief Introduction

Neil Beagrie

Chinese National Academy of Sciences July 04



Mission of the DPC



“ The aim of the Digital Preservation Coalition is to secure the preservation of digital resources in the UK and to work with others internationally to secure our global digital memory and knowledge base ”



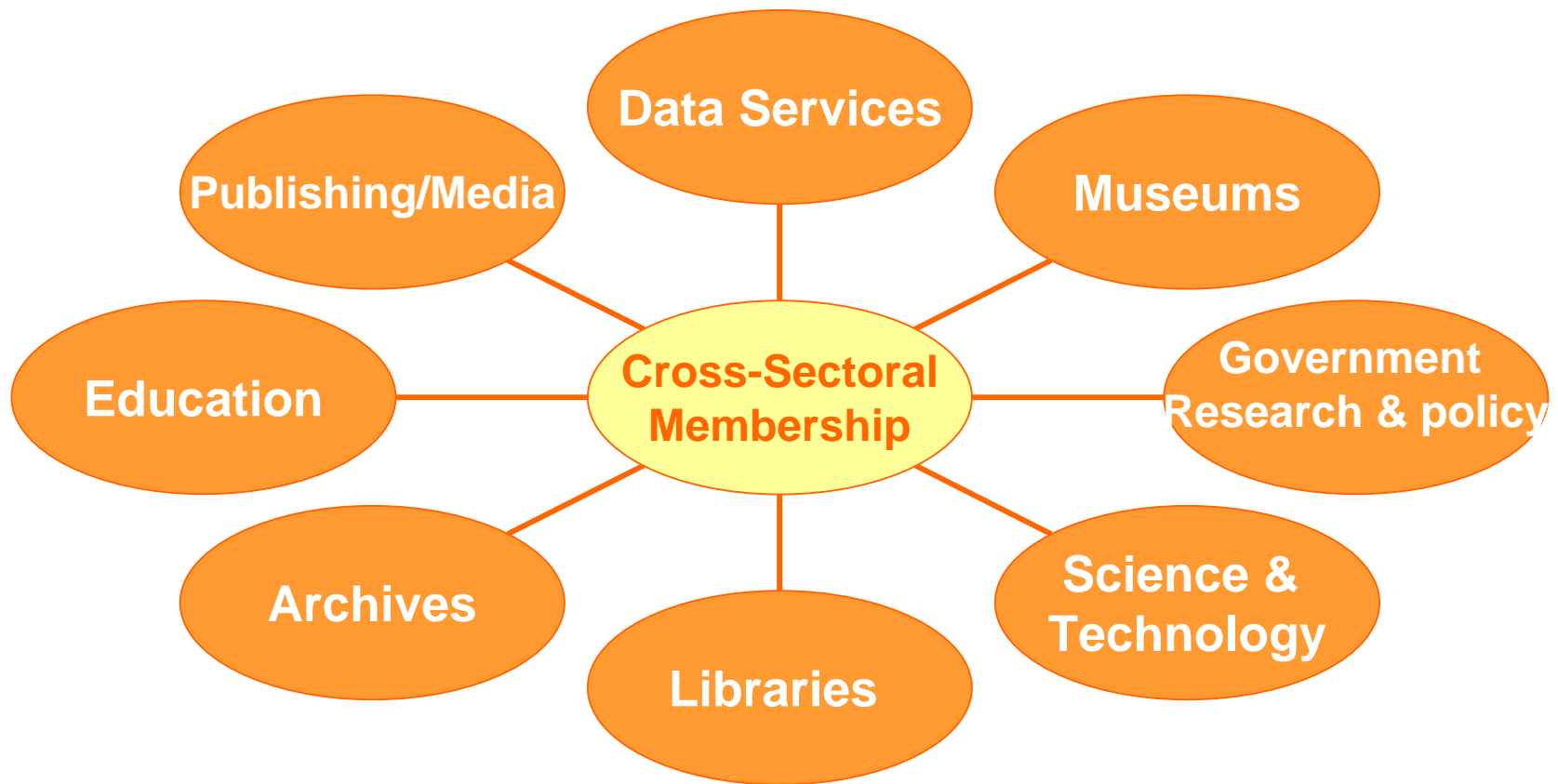
Timeline



- **March 1999:** A JISC/BL workshop recommended establishing a coordinating mechanism to tackle digital preservation
- **June 2000:** JISC Preservation Focus post established. Its main priority was to establish the DPC
- **January 2001:** First Summit meeting held, first civic meeting with 9 full members
- **July 2002:** DPC established as a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee
- **May 2003:** New post of Digital Preservation Co-ordinator was established, first full-time employee
- **March 2004:** 27 members of the DPC, comprising a wide cross- sectoral range



Members of the DPC



Rationale for the DPC



What does the DPC do?

- **Raises the profile** of Digital Preservation
- **Runs advocacy campaign** which targets stakeholders:
 - Owners and Creators of digital resources; Funding bodies
- **Provides examples** of Good Practice
- **Highlights** where gaps and priorities for action and responsibility are
- **Acts as catalyst** for Action
 - Builds partnerships, disseminating information; maintaining current awareness, develops projects



Programme of Activities



- The DPC is committed to building digital preservation infrastructure in both the UK and the global environment
- DPC carries out its functions via six Work Packages
- A Programme of Activities is also in place which maintains a global perspective and attracts a world-wide audience
- International collaboration is important to the DPC:
 - Memorandum of Understanding with National Library of Australia (NLA) means that the UK has an input to PADI, and 'What's New in Digital Preservation' is prepared jointly between the DCC and NLA
 - Potential for future collaboration with Europe (6th Framework) and USA: Cornell University, and Library of Congress
- **Collaboration through Memorandum of Understanding and/or working groups**



Six Work Packages



- 1. Promoting Digital Preservation**
- 2. Acting to increase funding**
- 3. Fostering collaboration and forging strategic alliances**
- 4. Producing, providing, and disseminating information**
- 5. Promoting and developing services, technology, standards and training**
- 6. Continuing to develop the Coalition's activities**



Activities – Regular events



DPC Forums

- Three held each year which focus on different themes
- Provide a key method for disseminating information on current activities and keeping them informed of developments in the field
- Also provides excellent networking opportunities
- Themes have included: Web Archiving; Open Source Software; Digital Curation; Preservation Metadata; Cost/business models
- Evaluation feedback so far has been very positive



Activities – Regular events



- **Training Workshops for DPC members:** Three have already taken place in Edinburgh, London and Belfast
- **DPC Website:** The site has received 1.3 million hits since it was established. A private members area is also available which holds information for members, technology reports, shared documents. Most popular is the online version of the Preservation Management Handbook
- **List Serve:** The popular JISCmail Digital Preservation list has grown to more than 1000 members. A private list for members has also been created.



Activities – Regular events



‘What’s New in Digital Preservation?’

- A quarterly report prepared by the National Library of Australia’s PADI and the DPC (UKOLN compiles this for the DPC)
- PADI, set up in 1996, is a comprehensive subject gateway to international digital preservation resources
- The reports lists a summary of international preservation activities
- Information compiled from the PADI gateway and mailing lists



Activities – Regular events



Advocacy Campaign

- Little awareness of digital preservation dilemma outside of the information community – only one reference to digital preservation in 2002, before the PR campaign was underway.
- DPC embarked on a professional PR and Media Campaign to raise the profile of digital preservation in both national and specialist media
- PR consultant hired to assist with 2002 DPC launch
- Launch at House of Commons
February 2002



Activities – Regular events



Advocacy Campaign

- Twenty-five articles have appeared in the national media in the first year of the DPC's operation including a strong presence in the Guardian's Online supplement
- Now, selected projects are focused on and promoted in the media



Activities – UK Initiatives



Preservation Management of Digital Material Handbook

- Developed by Neil Beagrie and Maggie Jones in 2000 and is constantly updated Available free at: www.dpconline.org
- Online version to be developed further
- Used as a basis for workshops and tutorials, and may be used for more intensive training programmes
- Offers a practical step-by-step guide for those involved in all stages of digital preservation



Activities – Initiatives



Digital Preservation Award:



- This award, the first of its kind, is worth £5,000 and recognises achievement in the digital preservation field
- Sponsored by the DPC, it is aimed at encouraging creative and practical approaches to the preservation of 'born-digital' materials
- The award reflects significant progress both in the work of the DPC and institutions who are carrying out important digital preservation work
- The 2004 winner announced at an awards event on 22nd June 2004



Activities – Initiatives



UK Needs Assessment Exercise:

- One of the goals of the DPC is to *“get digital preservation on the agenda of key stakeholders in terms that they will find persuasive and understand”*
- A survey of DPC members was carried out to provide more detailed information on the current state of play in digital preservation
- Aim is to highlight priorities for action over the next 18 months and to carry out targeted approaches





Results of UK Needs Assessment Exercise:

- The survey led to a workshop for DPC members, which in turn led to a number of recommendations for the DPC to take forward
- An implementation plan included 24 tasks for the DPC to follow up, among which were:
 - Seeking funding for a survey of regional organisations (identified as high priority at the workshops)
 - Facilitating planning and development of intensive training programme
- These exercises also help to further support the case for increased investment in national digital preservation infrastructure



Activities – Initiatives



Technology Watch Reports:

- These are user-friendly reports the DPC has commissioned experts to write. Authors avoid complicated jargon-filled language so that reports are accessible to all
- Reports focus on emerging preservation standards, technical formats, and developments in tools which are critical in assisting digital preservation activities
- Reports available on the DPC website:
 - *'Introduction to OAIS'* – Brian Lavoie/OCLC
 - *'Institutional Repositories'* – Paul Wheatley



Further Information



Digital Preservation Coalition Website:

www.dpconline.org



Digital **Preservation** Coalition