

Happy World Digital Preservation Day 2019!



Dear Preservation Enthusiast,

As we have done in past years, Ex Libris likes to mark the World Digital Preservation Day in as interesting a way as possible.

Preservation is an important aspect of what we do as a company.

Preservation for Ex Libris is more than just a product. At Ex Libris we deal with the full lifecycle of data, from the creation and curation of data, to ensuring its accessibility, and of course its preservation for generations to come.

This year, we approached a few members of the Ex Libris Rosetta community and asked them the following:

Why is Digital preservation important in your organization? What are you trying to preserve?

You can read their extremely interesting responses below. .

A big thank you to those who participated, as well as to the entire Ex Libris Rosetta community.

Dvir Hoffman
Corp VP Resource
Management
Solutions
Ex Libris

Daniel Greenberg
Rosetta Product
Manager
Ex Libris

And the entire Rosetta team



Name: Michelle Lindlar

Role: Digital Preservation Team Lead

Institution: TIB, The German National Library of Science and Technology

Digital preservation is important because it goes beyond “just preserving the bits”. As a national subject library covering the fields of architecture, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics, TIB collects materials of various media types and languages. 69% of our holdings are grey literature. Collections include items such as a 1987 promotional video for a Geographic Resource Analysis Support System narrated by William Shatner, a 2016 3D scan of a Fraunhofer office as well as conference proceedings of GESG 2018 – the International Conference Green Energy and Smart Grids.

In addition to having a solid IT infrastructure, meeting the task of preserving these materials requires in-depth knowledge of technology – in particular file formats and associated risks – as well as of current and future users’ needs.

In addition to preserving TIB’s own holdings, we function as a host of a preservation system for two other national subject libraries – ZB MED and ZBW and also offer digital-preservation-as-a-service. While ZB MED and ZBW make their own digital preservation decisions within the consorcially operated system, our digital-preservation-as-a-service customers do not have the resources to conduct digital preservation tasks, such as digital object characterization or migration, in-house. They deliver data packages to us, which we ingest and preserve based on a submission agreement and regular reporting.

To me, the combination of requiring both, a solid understanding of the “bigger picture” of digital objects as well as in-depth knowledge about issues such as file formats, make digital preservation the most exciting field to work in!



Institution: National Geographic Library & Archives

The National Geographic Society uses the power of science, exploration, education and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. A global nonprofit founded in 1888 in Washington, DC, NGS has archival holdings of more than 25 million items, including film & audio, photographs, art, documents, maps, rare books, and other materials. Accrued over 130+ years, these collections bear witness to the accomplishments, contributions, and unique history of the organization. Over the last few years the Library & Archives staff has developed a preservation-based digitization program that will retire originals from handling, increase global access to the archives for scholarly research, and create new knowledge from the depth of information available from large-scale digital collections.





Name: Dr. Andres Quast

Institution: HBZ - North Rhine-Westphalian Library Service Centre

Digital preservation has become an essential requirement in the day-to-day work of digital humanities, sciences and the scholarly community as a whole.

Universities invest considerably into their digital assets in order to maintain sustainable sciences with highest quality standards. Both publications, research data and -records such as lab notebooks, as well as abandoned project websites are intended for perpetual usage. Administrative records and other digitized materials can become subject to certain retention periods. It is a vital requirement to preserve, display and give access to these assets available in the light of ongoing technological change.

For the last few years, hbz has put great efforts into providing an integrated solution for potentially all these materials. Available as hbz's centralized service, as well as operational model on the side of respective universities, we are putting digital preservation and long term availability into practice where it is needed – which is essentially every university in North Rhine- Westphalia, Germany's most populous federal state with more than 17 million inhabitants.





Name: Matthias Groß

Role: Head of Bavarian Virtual Library

Institution: Bavarian State Library, Munich

The Bavarian Library Network (BVB) consists of over 150 universal and specialized scientific libraries with the Bavarian State Library, the university libraries and libraries of universities of applied sciences in Bavaria at its core. A Head Office provides its member libraries with powerful IT solutions, amongst them Rosetta by Ex Libris, piloted with the Bavarian State Library in collaboration with the Leibniz Supercomputing Center focusing right from the beginning on scalability. In the last years, a working group has outlined a collaborative model for making use of a centrally run system with strong local components. Its prototypical establishment based on existing components is currently being worked on in a project funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts starting on November 1st, 2019.

The analysis of our working group has shown that each institution typically has unique digital content it is responsible for, comprising

- digitized objects where the goal is to safeguard the investments for digitization and the added value of the digital representations,
- digitally born publications in the organizational context including (legal) deposit, dissertations and open access publications,
- digitally born material relevant for current or future research like web archives and research data.

We are convinced that the effort for running a specific infrastructure for long-term accessibility would be too demanding for a typical single institution, but also that a strongly centralized approach might be too far away from the local workflows where data is produced and processed to be effective. So we aim to build up a collaborative system of local data curators being enabled by central support to determine their workflows, transform their material in an ingestible form and work on the specific problems and risks which will show up. By raising the awareness for existing standards at an early stage in the life cycles of the objects we hope to minimize the actual future migration need to a manageable amount.





Name: Dave Allen

Role: Business Enterprise Architect

Institution: State Library of Queensland

The State Library of Queensland (SLQ) is covered by the Queensland Libraries Act of 1988 and one of the guiding principles outlined in the act is *'content relevant to Queensland to be collected, preserved, promoted and made accessible'*.

For many years SLQ has been undertaking digitisation projects to convert its many analogue collections to digital format so as to meet its 'access' obligations. This process involved creating a digital master and digital access copies while retaining the original analogue masters.

However, SLQ is collecting more and more 'born digital' material. This has added a new layer of complexity to SLQ's preservation and accessibility requirements.

Previously, if there was a problem with a turned digital file we could always refer back to the original analogue masters and re-digitise. This is no longer an option with 'born' digital material. We are finding it more and more difficult to refer back to the original digital masters. This has become more prevalent with subscription-based software such as Microsoft Office 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud. SLQ has already encountered Microsoft files that are no longer accessible using Microsoft Office 365. As result it has become apparent that we need to stay in front of the technology wave ensuring that we can

1. Undertake format shifts to the latest file format
2. Record changes so that future researchers are confident that the digital copy that they are viewing is the same representation as the original digital file

While we would not leave a traditional material untouched / unchecked for 100 years, without checking the state of the material and undertaking any conservation activities, the same thinking is now being applied to digital files. The major difference is that we are applying the '1 is to 7 year' rule. That is 1-year life of a digital material is equivalent to 7-year life span for traditional material. This means we need to be checking digital assets more frequently and this has resulted in an increase in workloads. To cope with this increase in workloads, SLQ has purchased the Rosetta Digital Preservation System.





Name: Kirsty Smith

Role: Test & Assurance Manager

Institution: National Library of New Zealand

The National Library of New Zealand (Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa) has had a digital preservation programme in place since 2004. The goal of this programme is to enable us to meet our mandate to collect, make accessible and preserve in perpetuity New Zealand's digital heritage, as defined in the Library's collection policy.

The Library collects a wide range of digitally born content, including: websites, digital publications, eBooks, photographs, music, videos, oral histories, cartoons, emails, and personal documents. The Library also has its own digitisation programmes, the focus of these are the newspaper, audio and image collections.

All born digital and digitised items created or collected by the Library are preserved within the Library's National Digital Heritage Archive (NDHA), and subject to the Library's digital preservation programme. Digital preservation is critical to ensuring current and future generations have access to this taonga.





Name: Kris Dekeyser

Role: Software Architect

Institution: The LIBISnet Library Network in Belgium

As the University of Leuven started in 1425 – almost 600 years ago – it carries a significant history and heritage with it. Witnesses the Maurits Sabbe Library with a rich and internationally renowned collection of about 200,000 volumes of rare books (dating from before 1800). The collection includes 1200 manuscripts, 702 incunabula, about 2,000 post-incunabula, 7,500 books from the later 16th century, ca 60,000 volumes from the 17th century and about 115,000 tomes from the 18th century. The university archive contains a valuable collection of lecture notes and courses from students from the 19th and 20th century, allowing a stunning overview of student life in Leuven over the past 150 years.

Although the two World Wars in the first half of the 20th century proved to be catastrophic for some of the university's rich collections, it made the university more aware of its value and increased the eagerness to preserve its heritage. With the help of the library's digitization lab and collaboration of the various university archives Long Term Preservation is more important for the university community than ever.

The Rosetta based Teneo service of LIBIS provides this preservation service for the University and currently preserves 7 million documents worth 70TB storage of both digitized and digital born objects.



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