Experiences with Personal Digital Archives







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Summary of today's talk

- Comparing analogue with digital
- Case study traditional archival deposit including digital archives
- Case study working with contemporary creators and digital materials
- Processing hybrid personal archives
- Next steps

PARADIGM

- Funded for 2 years by the JISC, ended Feb. 2007
- Collaboration between Oxford University Library Services (lead) & John Rylands
 University Library, Manchester
- 1.5 fte archival, 1 fte developer plus input from Oxford Digital Library and Special Collections departments
- Explored digital preservation from 'personal' and 'collecting' perspectives in the context of a 'hybrid archive'
- To gain hands-on experience of:
 - an early-intervention approach to developing hybrid archive collections
 - soft issues by working with politicians and their materials (selection and acquisition, creator attitudes, legal issues, etc.)
 - relevant technical issues, metadata, tools and digital repository software
- Harmonise archival principles and workflows with digital curation standards
- Develop prototype digital archive repository
- Share lessons in an online Workbook http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook

Comparing analogue with digital

Intellectual <u>manifestation</u>	Draft speech (Object A)	Recording of speech (Object B)	Draft speech (Object C)	Personal website (Object D)	<u>Risks</u>
Physical manifestation	Paper and ink	Audiotape	3" Amsoft disk	CD	SecurityDegradationDisaster
Hardware <u>stack</u>	X	√	√	√	 Obsolescence of 1+ components in the stack
Software <u>stack</u>	×	×	√	√	 Obsolescence of 1+ components in the stack
Representation	X	×	1 locoscript file	1 css file 5 html files 6 jpg files 1 pdf file 1 javascript file	 Relationships between component files broken

Case Study: Posthumous Digital Deposit

Problem

- Two older PCs (Apricot / Windows 95 and Opus Technology / poss. Windows 3.?)
- Several 3" disks



Decision

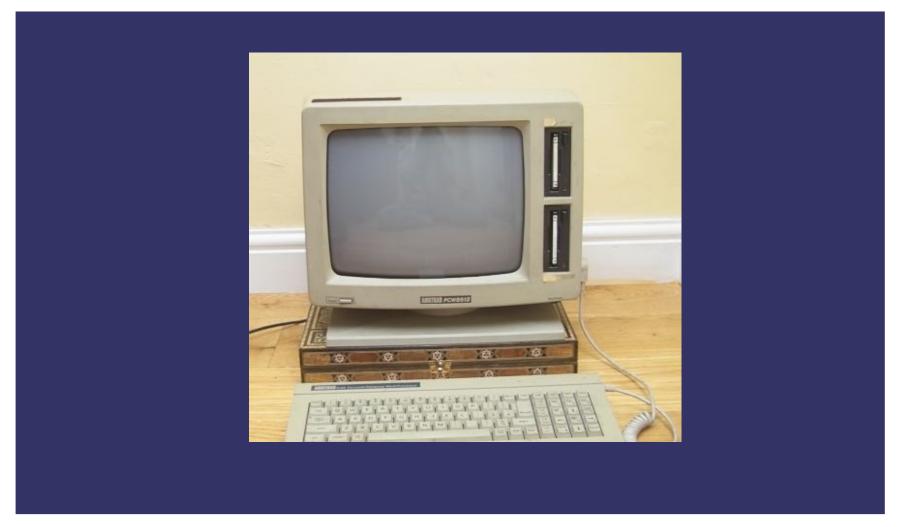
Explore potential of developing in-house expertise to work with older material

- Expect to get much more of this material in future
- Uncomfortable with sending third-party data to another third-party
- Wish to trust and understand processes involved
- Wish to document process for future scenarios

<u>Progress</u>

- Material on hard disk extracted using 'forensic PC' running Guidance Encase & AccessData Forensic Toolkit at BL
- Sources of knowledge, hardware and software for data recovery from 3" disks, and migraton pathway from Locoscript format identified
- Useful acquisitions made via eBay!

Useful acquisition 1 Amstrad PCW 8512



...and it works!



Useful acquisition 2 Locolink – PCW to PC



Digital Archaeology Lessons

- Data recovery for older material is more difficult
- Little chance of knowing whether the effort is worth it beforehand
- Need to be able to do it, but best avoided if possible
- Relative merits of commercial and open source forensic tools
- Pooling expertise and resources across institutions is helpful, especially while services are immature
- Documentation for hardware and software is often difficult to locate or of poor quality, but there is much useful information on the web (that needs archiving – quickly!)
- The tacit knowledge, hardware and software to support a particular generation of computing is fragile
- Drivers, connections & file systems are tricky when attempting to extract a disk image from an older system to a newer one

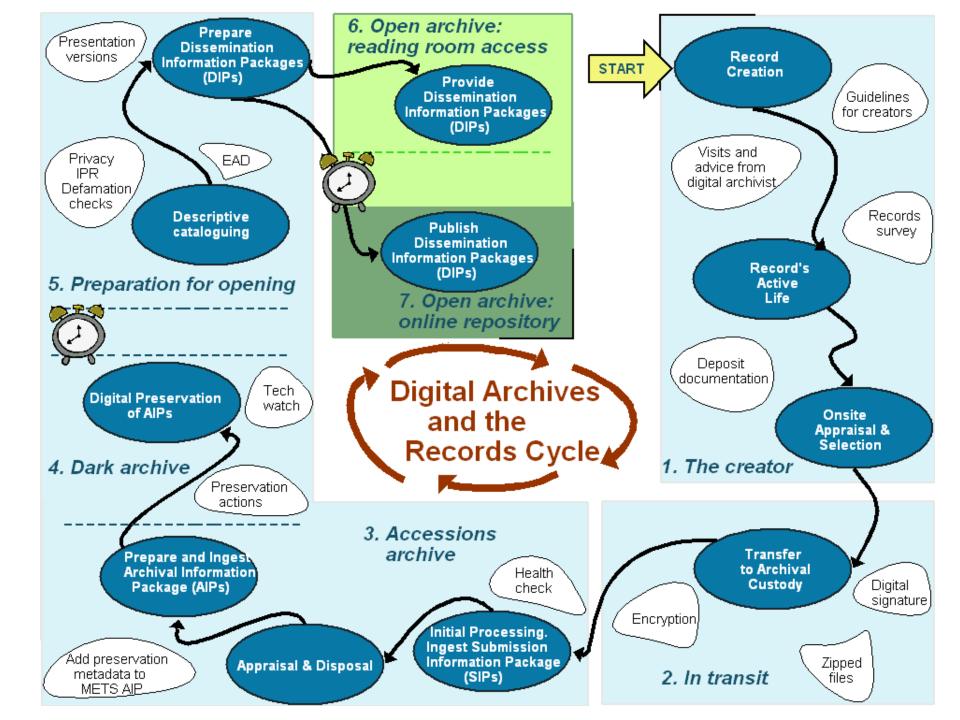
Evolving connectors



http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/

Lifecycle management for personal archives?

- Archives traditionally reach a repository once an individual has retired or passed away – potentially a long time after creation
 - Physical survival of paper and parchment straightforward, but bit-level survival uncertain for digital objects of this age
 - If objects survive at bit level, digital archaeology may be required to liberate them
 - Hardware and software obsolescence may render archives inaccessible
 - What does an archive created with a lifetime of technologies look like?
- Individuals have limited support from Information and Information Technology professionals, but must 'curate' their own digital archives
- Usage of third party storage solutions growing, so likelihood of capturing entire archive without active engagement reduces
- Reduce risk of loss and uncertainty of digital archaeology by bringing digital archives into a managed environment and/or providing advice while records still active



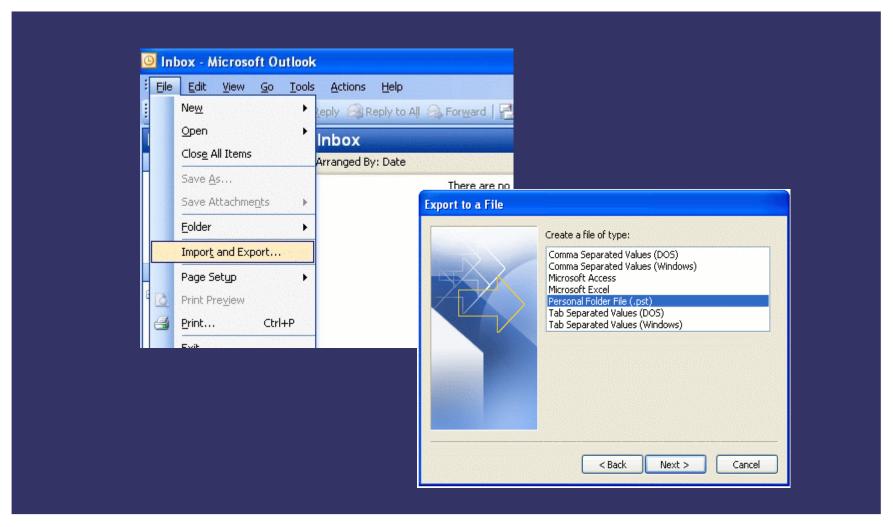
Selection and Surveying

- Invited a range of politicians to participate in piloting early-intervention approach to collection development
 - Three political parties
 - MPs, MEP, Peers
 - Local, national and international portfolios
- Thoughts on selection http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/appraisal/index.html
- Developed a records survey to identify:
 - Functions and roles
 - Technical environment
 - Working practices
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Record series of historical interest and if and when they could be accessioned
- See http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/record-creators/index.html and http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/introduction/structure.html

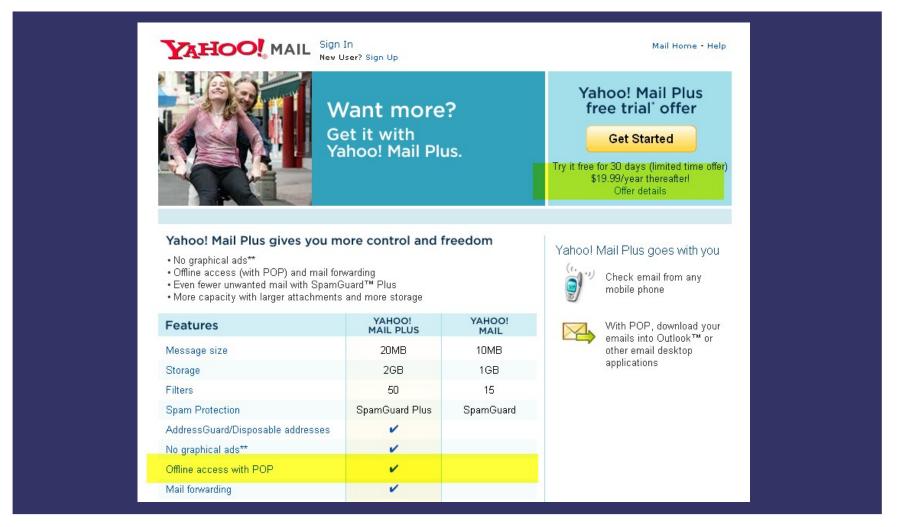
Archive extraction

- Digital files are simple to extract
 - selective copy and paste
 - use digital forensics tools to capture logical grouping of files
- Other digital archives more complex
 - email
 - diaries
 - websites
 - content stored by online services
 - personal digital assistants
- Archivists need to learn how to extract typical personal digital archives from popular desktop software and web services
- For material stored on a the computer, digital forensics tools can be used to create a bit-for-bit image of the computer's hard disk

Extracting email from clients



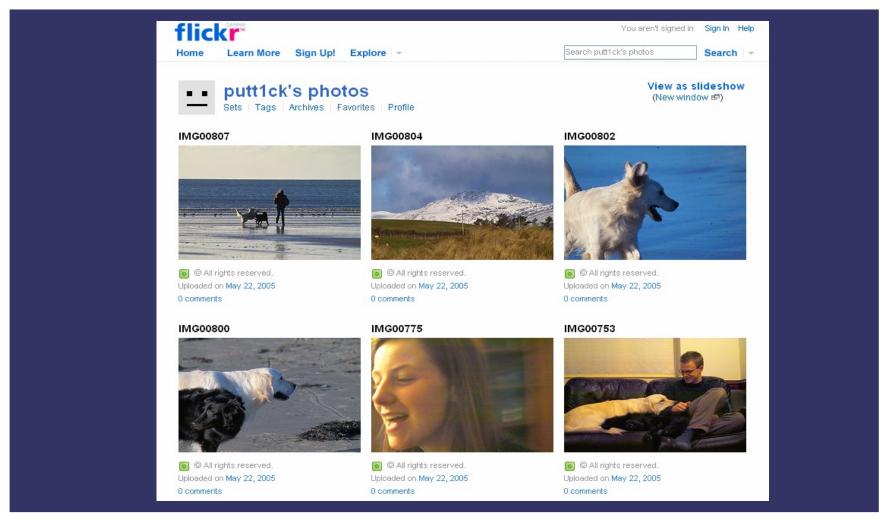
Extracting email from webmail services



Extracting personal movie collections



Extracting personal photo collections



Acquisition

- Need to develop transfer procedure and toolkit for secure an authentic transfer
 - Ideal process use biometric protected USB-powered external hard-disk with forensic software



- Captures material as structured by creator
- Records checksums for each item acquired, which can be used to validate the continuing authenticity of items in the accession
- Ideal process not always possible. Depends on the hardware and software in place
- Digital archiving allows exact copies to be taken. The creator can therefore retain the material

Developing Deposit Agreements for personal archives with digital bits

- Explicit permission to undertake preservation actions on digital material, from simple backup to migrating to new formats
 - only covers materials in which donor holds rights
 - recommendation of the Gowers review may render this unnecessary in future
- Seek permission for third parties to process/store archives if needed
- Seek rights to hold the sole research copy of the archive
- Seek permission to appraise and securely return/dispose of material
- Explicitly document terms of agreement in relation to closure periods
- http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/accessioning/documentation/index.html
- Thoughts on legal issues
 http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/legal-issues/index.html

Guidance for Creators 1

- Reactive advice responses to direct questions arising from the work
- Proactive advice drafting basic advice leaflet for creators
- Advice sought on
 - Safeguarding longevity and future accessibility of material, e.g. backup, filing and naming conventions, basic system administration
 - Identifying historically significant materials
- Flexible and general rather than prescriptive users to pick and choose the advice they follow
- Hardware/software neutral
- Designed to facilitate not burden
- Enable creators to make informed decisions about using services, hardware, software and formats
- Enable creators to make informed decisions about archiving
 - Hidden material
 - Data mining

Guidance for Creators 2

- Paradigm has produced generic guidance for creators which covers:
 - Backup
 - Caring for hardware and media
 - Administering your system
 - Selecting file formats
 - Filing and naming
 - Passwords and encryption
 - Keeping up-to-date
 - Managing emails
 - Handling legacy material
 - Ask digital curators for advice
 - Rights
- Would be useful to supplement this with domain-specific guides
- Best-supplemented by guidance tailored to an individual's needs
- Archivists supporting creators must be familiar with these issues and find way to communicate such guidance

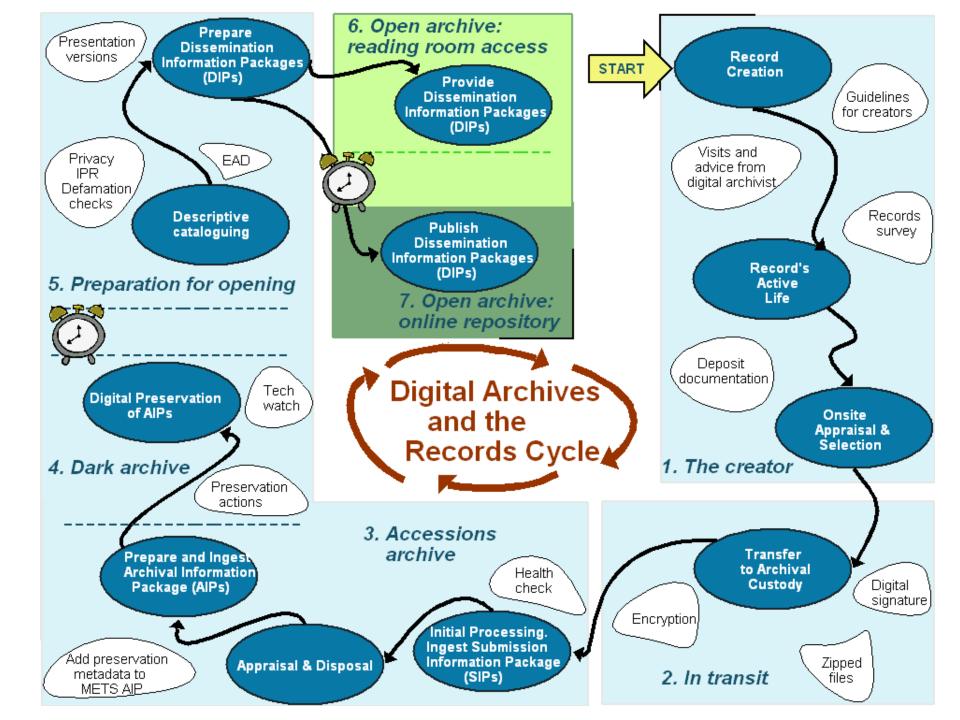
Early-intervention pilot: Lessons

- Digital increasingly used as 'master', but poorly managed
- Poor understanding of archiving for historical purposes
- Privacy and security concerns own and third party increased by recent date of material. Reluctance to deposit some material now, or at all
- Repository must manage material with legal protections for longer
- Finding time for history in the present
- Authority to act
- Variety: individual concerns; technical set-up; organisational set-up; IT literacy or support
- Frequency and scope of accessions; dealing with duplication
- Can accession a copy of the archive
- What about the paper, audio, video, photographs, etc.?
- Opportunity to acquire valuable contextual information
- · Contemporary formats are easier to access and normalise

Early-intervention: Conclusions

- A worthwhile approach
 - Individuals have lost material!
 - Can obtain excellent context
- But relies on
 - Headhunting individuals
 - Good will and trust of individuals
 - Sustaining relationships over long periods of time
 - May produce different collections
 - May not work so well in instances where archives are to be purchased
- Digital archaeology inescapable
- Need to repeat with other groups
- Not the only way. See 'Approaches to Collection Development' section in Paradigm Workbook

http://www.paradigm.ac.uk/workbook/collection-development/index.html



Processing New Accessions Reception

- Usual processes occur alongside traditional archives
 - Record in accessions register
 - Create file for correspondence/agreement, etc.
- Digital material transferred to Digital Archive
- Compile basic inventory of carrier media/hardware
- Extract data from carriers to backed up environment ASAP
- Use fireproof data safe for unprocessed materials

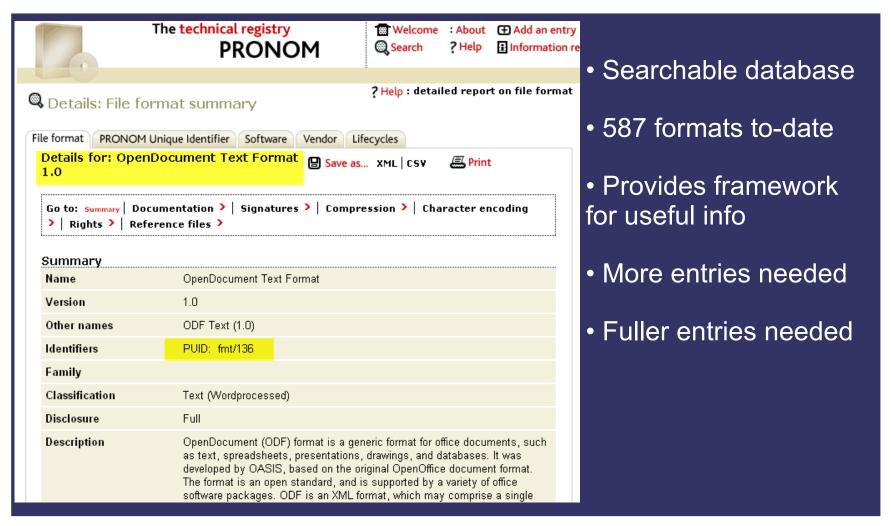
Processing New Accessions What do we have?

- Assessment
 - what media and formats do we have?
 - what hardware and software do we need?
 - What knowledge do we need?
 - Is material historically valuable?
 - Is material in good condition?
- Processes will improve through documentation of past scenarios for future reference – how-to guides

Processing New Accessions Post extraction

- New accessions are copied to a stand-alone quarantined staging area
 - Authenticity of transfer can be validated using checksums generated at creator's premises
 - Material is virus checked
 - Material may be appraised to identify archival files and dispose of others
 - The file formats in the accession are identified and validated using various tools - DROID/PRONOM, misc registries, and JHOVE
- Must ensure that incidental copies of archives are securely deleted
- Delete duplicate files, system and software files
- Add information on new formats encountered to PRONOM, etc.
- Assemble preservation metadata to submit with digital objects to the digital archive repository

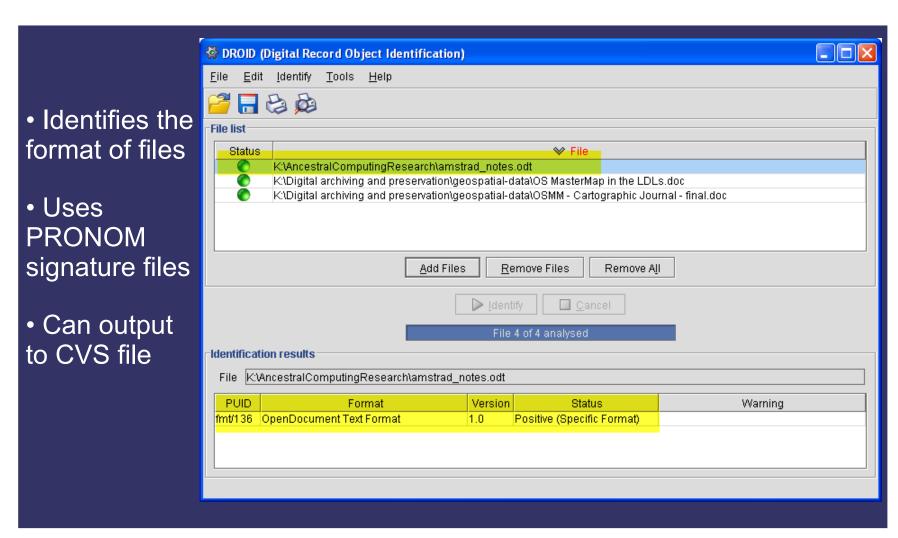
Format registry – PRONOM



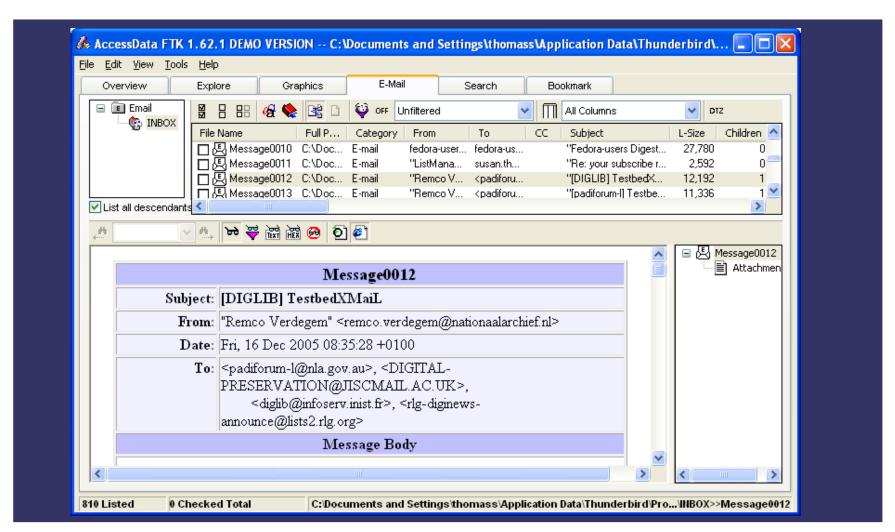
Some formats listed in PRONOM

PUID	Format Name	Format Version	Extension	1
fmt/136	OpenDocument Text Format	1	odt,ott,	Г
fmt/137	OpenDocument Spreadsheet Format	1	ods,ots,	i
fmt/138	OpenDocument Presentation Format	1	odp,otp,	1
fmt/139	OpenDocument Drawing Format	1	odg,otg,	
fmt/14	Portable Document Format	1	pdf,	1
fmt/140	OpenDocument Database Format	1	odb,	B
fmt/141	Waveform Audio (PCMWAVEFORMAT)		wav,wave,	1
fmt/142	Waveform Audio (WAVEFORMATEX)		wav,wave,	
fmt/143	Waveform Audio (WAVEFORMATEXTENSIBLE)		wav,wave,	1
fmt/144	PDF/X-1:1999		pdf,	1
fmt/145	PDF/X-1:2001		pdf,	1
fmt/146	PDF/X-1a: 2003		pdf,	I
fmt/147	PDF/X-2: 2003		pdf,	7
fmt/148	PDF/X-3: 2003		pdf,	4
fmt/15	Portable Document Format	1.1	pdf,	H
fmt/150	JPEG-LS		.jls,	d
fmt/151	JPX (JPEG 2000 Extended)		.jpx,.jpf,	
fmt/153	Tagged Image File Format for Image Technology (TIFF/IT)		tif,tiff,	
fmt/154	Tagged Image File Format for Electronic Still Picture Imaging (TIFF/EP)		tif,tiff,	1
fmt/156	Tagged Image File Format for Internet Fax (TIFF-FX)		tif,tiff,	1
fmt/17	Portable Document Format	1.3	pdf,	
fmt/18	Portable Document Format	1.4	pdf,	3
fmt/19	Portable Document Format	1.5	pdf,	7
fmt/2	Broadcast WAVE	1	wav,	1
fmt/20	Portable Document Format	1.6	pdf,	1
fmt/3	Graphics Interchange Format	1987a	gif,	
fmt/4	Graphics Interchange Format	1989a	gif,	В
fmt/40	Microsoft Word for Windows Document	97-2003	doc,	1
fmt/41	Raw JPEG Stream		jpe jpg jpeg,	
fmt/42	JPEG File Interchange Format	1	jpeg jpe jpg,	
fmt/43	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.01	jpg jpe jpeg,	
fmt/44	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	jpg jpe jpeg,	ď
fmt/45	Rich Text Format	1	rtf,	
fmt/46	Rich Text Format	1.1	rtf,	
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Format identifier – DROID v. 1.1



Access Data Forensic ToolKit



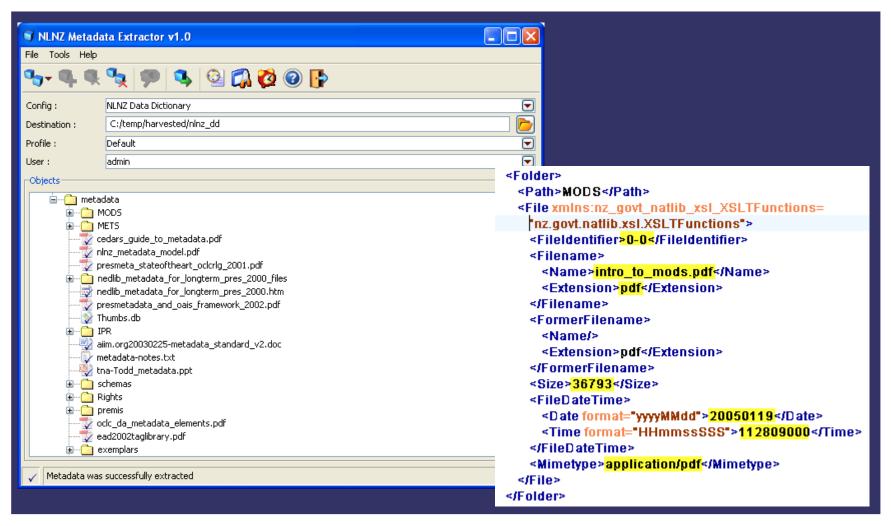
Processing New Accessions Preservation Metadata - Generic

- Digital archives need <u>lots</u> of metadata!
- PREMIS a preservation metadata standard devised to cover all the things a preservation repository needs to know to support and document the digital preservation process:
 - Provenance: Who has had custody/ownership of the digital object?
 - Authenticity: Is the digital object what it purports to be?
 - Preservation Activity: What has been done to preserve the digital object?
 - Technical Environment: What is needed to render and use the digital object?
 - Rights Management: What intellectual property rights must be observed?
- Aim to make digital object self-documenting over time
- See http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/

Preservation metadata - Specific

- Repositories also need to record metadata specific to different object types
- Different object types have different characteristics
- Example metadata standards
 - MIX for images http://www.loc.gov/standards/mix/
 - TextMD for text http://dlib.nyu.edu/METS/textmd.xsd
 - VideoMD for moving images http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/avprot/DD_VMD.html
- Tools to extract some metadata required by PREMIS and these standards exist, but there are some problems:
 - Duplication between tools
 - Tools use their own metadata schemas
 - No mapping between tool output schemas and standard schemas
 - Requires co-ordinated use of multiple tools and assembly of their output
 - Some tools not very user-friendly
 - Sustainability of tools and the schema of their output uncertain

Metadata extract – NLNZ tool v. 1



METS – wrapping it all up in an AIP

- METS & OAIS Information Packages
- Unites metadata in one XML file
- Not the only way of creating an AIP



By J. McPherson, 2006

Advantages

- Flexible can accommodate all the metadata required by a digital archive in one file
- Increasing user-community
- Several institutions are now developing METS templates for preservation
- Maintained by LoC

Disadvantages

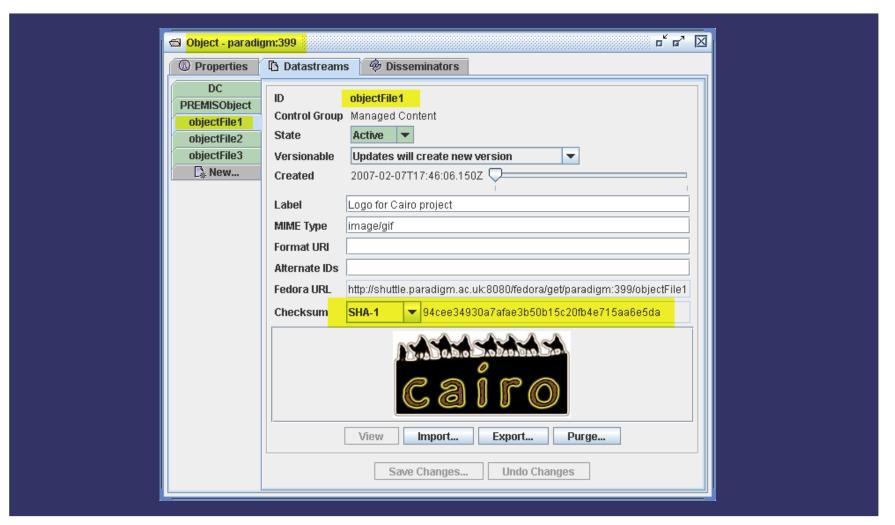
- Flexible requires strong implementation guidelines
- Existing profiles and tools geared towards dissemination rather than preservation
- Need to learn how to use it!

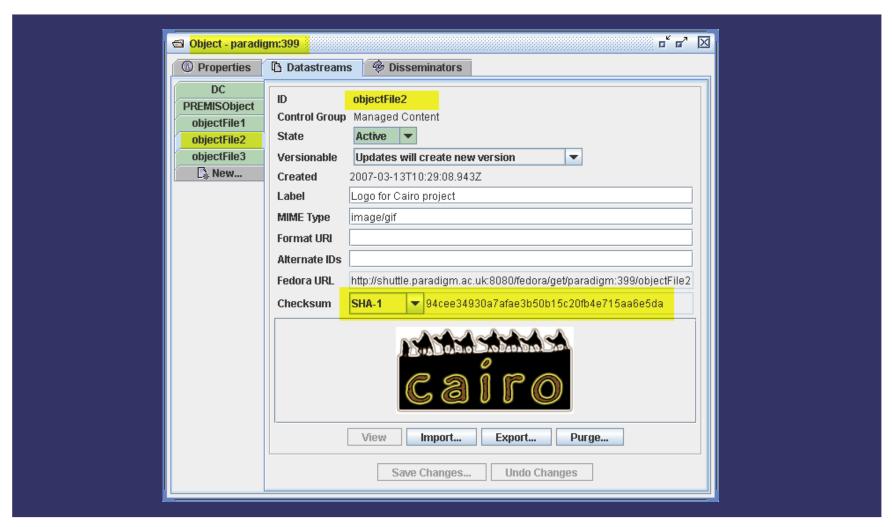
http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/ http://public.ccsds.org/publications/archive/650x0b1.pdf

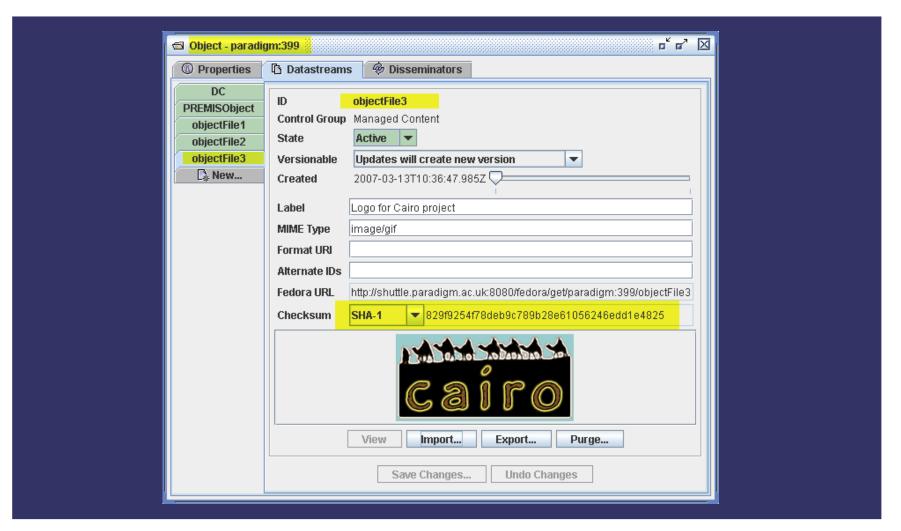


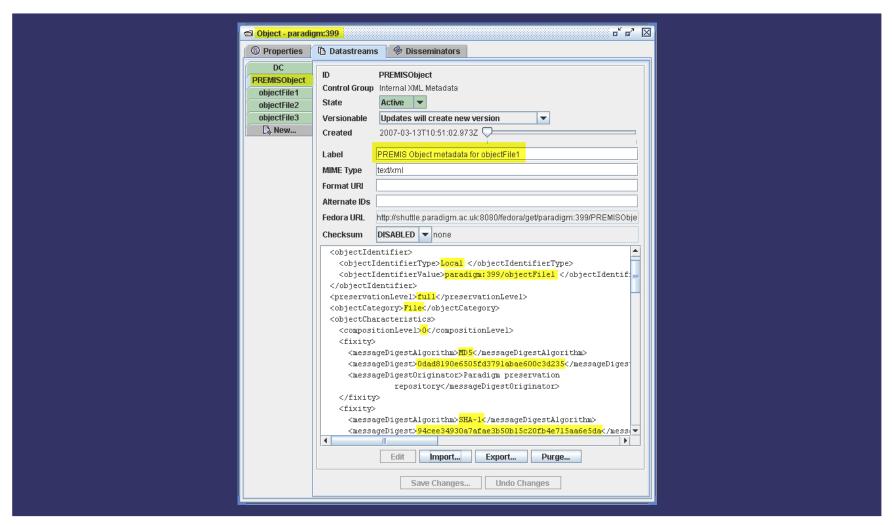
A Managed Environment for Storing Digital Files & Metadata

- Paradigm uses the open-source Fedora digital repository software.
 Developed at Cornell and Virginia. See http://www.fedora.info/
- Fedora associates a digital object with any kind of valid XML metadata the user wants to add. Wraps this in its METS-like FOXML, but can import and export METS files
- It can store digital objects and metadata, or just metadata about digital objects which refers to content held externally
- Fedora supports relationships between objects
- Fedora maintains an audit trail of actions performed on an object
- Fedora is very flexible requires business rules and development work to act as a trusted repository for preserving digital archives









Storage questions

Should storage be networked, stand-alone or offline?

- Security preventing unauthorised access and misuse
- Automated integrity checking guard against corruption
- Backup routines
- Fit with existing system administration?
- Searchability dealing with enquiries and FOI requests
- Preservation monitoring can be done via metadata
- Scalability

Preservation Strategy 1: Possibilities

- Most digital archives will undertake to preserve digital objects at bit-level; i.e. to preserve the digital object in the form it was deposited
- Digital preservation should also seek to preserve access to the digital objects

Possible preservation strategies

- Migrate recreate the object
 - To preferred formats on ingest
 - To single format on ingest (XML)
 - To preferred formats on obsolescence
 - To preferred formats on request
- Emulate recreate the environment
 - Recreate the environment not the object
- Preserve the Technology
 - Maintain all of the software and hardware stack needed to access objects

Preservation Strategy 2: Recommendations

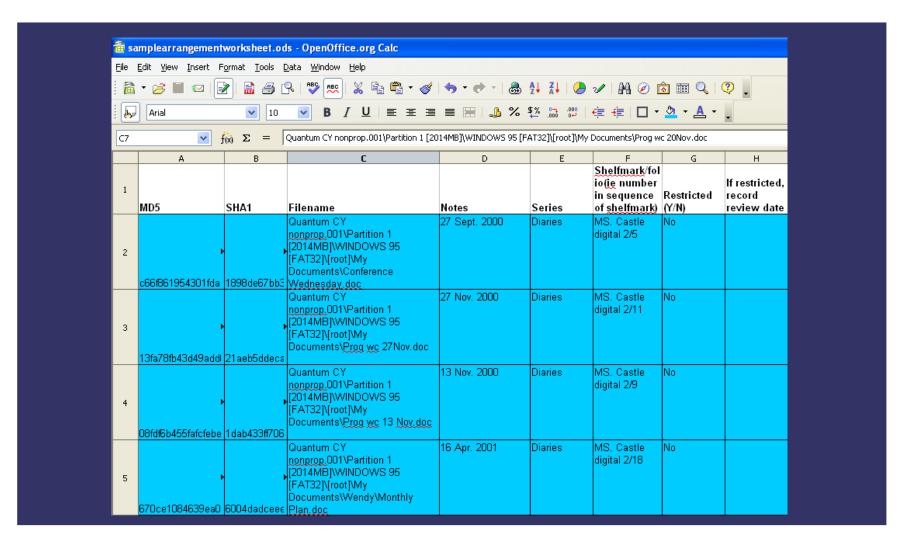
Recommend that preservation strategies be developed

- In-line with community practice
 - Need for shared knowledge base
 - Dependence on community for some tools
- Metadata should support multiple strategies (PREMIS)
 - Don't know what tools will be available in future
 - Strategies may change
- Technology Watch should be:
 - Local (knowledge of collection profile)
 - Distributed (sum of parts greater than the whole)
- Timing of preservation interventions dependent on format risk assessment
 - Normalisation on ingest for high risk (older, obscure, opaque) formats
 - Delay intervention for low risk (open, well-supported) formats until 'at risk'

Arrangement and Description

- Digital Archivist supplies Cataloguer with
 - Files in accessible formats
 - Digital provenance information
 - Background information about computing environment(s)
 - An inventory of files in spreadsheet form
- Cataloguer uses this to:
 - Appraise marks items for disposal
 - Arrange material in series with traditional materials
 - Mark items for closure, with review dates
 - Allocate reference numbers for researcher access (shelfmarks)
- Hybrid cataloguing
 - Should represent the balance of materials in the archive
 - Simplest when paper and electronic materials clearly belong in separate series (provenance)
 - split monitors useful for cataloguing digital materials

Sample Arrangement Worksheet



Some of the Challenges Ahead

- Simplify ingest for archivists
- Develop formal content models for our objects



http://cairo.paradigm.ac.uk

- Bring preservation monitoring/actions to the repository
- Work with other kinds of creator and their archives
- Integrate digital archives into existing policies for archives
- Provide controlled reading room access
- Create and enhance directories of conversion tools, etc.

Questions?

- Ask me now
- Or later:

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