

# The International Journal of Digital Curation

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### Editorial

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I am very pleased to introduce the second issue of the *International Journal of Digital Curation* (IJDC). The papers in this issue are derived from those given at the second International Digital Curation Conference, held in November 2006 in Glasgow, Scotland. Some have been revised, and all have had a second round of peer review. There is also a range of more general articles, some of which also derive from the conference, and some from other contributions. Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about the third Conference, and we hope that papers from them will also contribute to future editions of this journal (but see also below).

There are two themes that tenuously link several of the papers in this issue: one is policy, the other is practical experience. Policy is interpreted very differently however in different papers. Smith and Moore discuss policies at a quite technical level in trusted repositories. Currall, Johnson and McKinney address how to persuade management to include long-term preservation in their policies, while Jubb reports on a survey of UK Research Funder Policies (manuscript submitted well before the AHRC's change of policy this year).

Two of the remaining papers are practical reports, with Brown on approaches at The National Archives in the UK, while Lambert, Tan et al report on mechanisms using GRID middleware to link to a standards-based repository of occupational information resources. Finally, Kim and Ross report on their developing systems for automatically classifying the genres of documents, as a key stage in extracting metadata from them, while Knight and Hedges examine methods of sharing essential functions and requirements of an OAIS between two or more institutions, outlining the practical considerations of outsourcing.

The general articles (un-refereed) show a similar wide variety. We have a report from a conference (Day) and about a forthcoming conference (Robinson). We have a report on Phase 2 of the Digital Curation Centre (Hockx-Yu), and from Giarretta, Fusco et al on the approach to preservation of CASPAR, a major European project. Schopf and Newhouse report on a survey of user priorities for data, while Pryor reports on a different survey taking a look at disciplinary attitudes to data. Finally Lane and Shipp report a US effort to set up secure environments for controlled access to sensitive data.

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Peer review in a cross-disciplinary journal such as this has turned out to raise some interesting questions. Styles of “research papers” vary between disciplines. Referees from the sciences may be applying quite different standards than referees from the humanities. This has caused some difficulties and we may have to revise our review criteria. However, it goes without saying that this issue would never have been possible without the time and support devoted to all the papers by their reviewers and we would wish to record our thanks to them once again. Likewise for the reader, it may raise some challenges. We hope you will find articles of interest here, but some may be written from a very different point of view.

It is a premise of digital curation that data have long-term value for re-use. Much data is managed through databases, but there has been comparatively little work on the long-term preservation of databases. On March 23, 2007, an International Workshop on Database Preservation (PresDB07)<sup>1</sup> was held in Edinburgh to address this question. This intensive day-long workshop included presentations from several who have produced prototype or pilot approaches to this issue (some of these quite well advanced for particular purposes), and a series of brainstorming presentations on issues affecting the way forward. Some of those present are contemplating how this might be taken forward through research programmes or projects. The report of this workshop has been submitted to *SIGMOD Record*<sup>2</sup>.

It was interesting to attend a couple of workshops earlier this year related to eJournals. These included the E-Journal Archiving and Preservation Workshop<sup>3</sup>, held at the British Library and the ALPSP International Scholarly Communications Conference: The Transformation of Research Communication<sup>4</sup>. In both cases, it appeared that matters relating to “supplementary data” were exercising the minds of the audiences. That is, a number of questions were directed at how data supporting published articles should be made available, and how those data should be preserved in the scholarly information system. Addressed in part by at least one paper and one article in this issue, this looks likely to become an increasingly important issue over the next few years, and is directly pertinent to the questions addressed in digital curation. Perhaps we shall see some more papers about this in future issues.

The 3rd issue of this journal will be published towards the end of 2007. We already have a number of papers and articles in the pipeline, but there are so many developments in this fast-moving field that we would very much welcome more, whether related to supplementary materials for scholarly publishing or otherwise. I should like to remind you that this journal welcomes contributions for both research papers and general articles on aspects of digital curation. Please contact us as early as possible via [ijdc@ukoln.ac.uk](mailto:ijdc@ukoln.ac.uk)

<sup>1</sup> <http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/hmueller/presdb07/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sigmod.org/sigmod/record/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/events/0703ejournalwkshop.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.alpssp.org/ngen\\_public/article.asp?id=&did=47&aid=79&st=&oaid=-1](http://www.alpssp.org/ngen_public/article.asp?id=&did=47&aid=79&st=&oaid=-1)