

# Developing Metrics to Evaluate Digital Archives



*Where museums, libraries, and archives intersect*

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# Past as Prologue...

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## ■ Paper

- Costs associated with collecting, storing, providing access to, preserving journals
- Reduced options
- Increasing economic pressures (paper v. electronic)

## ■ Digital

- Increasingly, only publisher option, user desire
- Flat budget and economic exigencies
- Costs associated with collecting, storing, providing access to, preserving *e-journals*

# So What About an IR?

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- Institutional Repositories
  - What “free” software to use?
  - What level of development & support can you afford
    - Now & long-term?
    - Start-up costs & timeframe?
  - What kinds of content can your IR manage?
  - What level of preservation “services” can your IR provide?
  - Will it be sustainable?

# How Can We Evaluate the Options?

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- Understanding digital archiving options
  - Technological infrastructure, technical approach
  - Sustainability
  - Content capabilities
  - Access issues
  - Cost & long-term economic issues
- Goal: Transparency!

Not about finding the *ONLY* solution.  
Key is finding the *best solution(s)* for you!

# Developing Metrics for Evaluation

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- *Trusted Digital Repositories: Attributes & Responsibilities* (2002)
- RLG-NARA Digital Repository Certification TF
  - *An Audit Checklist for the Certification of Trusted Digital Repositories*, Public Draft (August 2005)
  - Broad-based checklist to support audit of all kinds of digital repositories & archives
- Center for Research Libraries project
  - Long-term access to scholarly resources (e-journals, newspapers, born digital resources)

# CRL Auditing & Certification of Digital Archives Project (1 of 3)

- Mellon-funded, began 1 May 2005
- Focuses on digital resources not necessarily owned by community
  - Electronic journals, news, other scholarly content
- Leverages work of RLG-NARA Digital Repository Certification TF
- Developing processes and activities required to audit and certify digital archives.

# CRL Project (2 of 3)

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- Components

1. Design audit process and documentation of metrics and terminology to be used
2. Model audit process through test audits of 3 digital archives; 1 archiving system
3. Develop the profile and business model for audit & certification

- Target digital archives

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Ithaka's Portico, and the Inter-university Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
- LOCKSS distributed archiving system

# CRL Project (3 of 3)

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- Refining & adding criteria
  - Advisory committee
  - “Non-cooperative” audits of Newsbank & Lexis-Nexis
  - Community comments on original RLG-NARA checklist (public draft)
  - Meeting with ARL library directors
  - Incentives & drivers



# What are the Questions?

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- **Why** should my library invest?
- What is the **content coverage**?
- What type of **access** will we have/receive?
- How **sustainable** is the service/archive?
- What is the **technical approach** and underlying infrastructure?
- Is **preservation planning** built into the service/archive?

# Metrics & Audit = Transparency

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- CRL project developments
  - Information output desired is far different than completed checklist
    - Tiered report; increasing levels of detail
    - Business model to support objective evaluation, audit
- Frameworks for analysis
- Understanding mission, capabilities, services, & options enable educated discussions, informed decisions

Questions?

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Thank you.

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