Preservation & Access to Information vis-à-vis IGNCA cultural Knowledge Resources

Usha Mujoo Munshi
IIPA, New Delhi

Seminar on
"Digital preservation & Access to Indian Cultural Heritage with special reference to IGNCA Cultural Knowledge Resources"

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts
January 31st -February 1st, 2009

- Preservation
- Access
- IGNCA's Cultural Knowledge Resources

Building the Case :
Building Arguments and Prompting Discussion:

Two points of View

PREservation   PRESS ?   for Action
acceSS

PREservation

acceSS

u14463835 mail.google.com

www.shutterstock.com · 15951619

For Facilitating Access; preservation is Primary key
(Nobody argues)

But
PREservation is NOT the END
It is beginning of a road that leads to a route which shows a glorious past in terms of our cultural heritage comprising both tangible & intangible resources

The Destination of course lies in Facilitating ACCESS
That too Open Access

Berlin Declaration - OA defined

- **Definition of an Open Access Contribution**

  Establishing open access as a worthwhile procedure ideally requires the active **commitment** of each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge and **holder of cultural heritage**. Open access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of **pictorial** and graphical materials and scholarly **multimedia** material.

Preservation remains an ill-defined concept when applied to the development of digital library projects and collections.

When We talk of Relevance of Preservation in Digital World, the Preservation presumes some action (access)

Transforming the Purpose of Preservation

The term "preservation" is an umbrella under which most librarians and archivists cluster all of the **policies** and options for action to assemble and organize documentation of human activity in places where it can be protected and used

Preservation is concerned largely with the evidence embedded in a nearly endless variety of forms and formats.

Things are preserved so that they can be used for all kinds of purposes, scholarly and otherwise.

Transformation ?

➡ **Protect Originals**   (photographs/special materials)
➡ Represent Originals. (replica in content)
➡ Transcend Originals (In a very small number of applications, digital imaging promises to generate a product that can be used for purposes that are impossible to achieve with the original sources.)

Five core principles of traditional preservation practice:
✓ longevity,
✓ choice,
✓ quality,
✓ integrity, and
✓ ACCESS
While using these principles in the new transforming environment, we observe the following phenomenon critical for its success

Leadership in Transforming Preservation
If libraries, archives, and museums expect to adopt digital imaging technology for purposes of transforming –
■a deep and long-standing institutional commitment to preservation,
■the full integration of the technology into information management procedures and ~~ns and~~
~~standards for digital preservation.~~

The Transformation of Longevity
The central concern in traditional preservation practice is the media upon which information is stored.

The Transformation of Choice
Preservation adds value through selection.

The Transformation of Quality
Maximizing the quality of all work performed is such an important maxim in the preservation field that few people state this fundamental principle directly. Instead, the preservation literature dictates high quality outcomes

The Transformation of Integrity
The concept of integrity has two dimensions in the traditional preservation context-- **physical** and **intellectual** — both of which concern the nature of the evidence

The Transformation of Access
Traditional practice

Increased access is largely a coincidental byproduct of traditional preservation practice, not its central focus.

"While preservation is a primary goal or responsibility, an equally compelling mandate — access and use — sets up a classic conflict that must be arbitrated by the custodians and caretakers of archival records,"

Access mechanism :to a preserved item or collection is a bibliographic record located in local online catalogs or national bibliographic databases.

provide a notice of availability and are not an integral part of the object.

Tables Turned

Digital world, access is transformed from a convenient byproduct of the preservation process to its central motif.

Control over the access requirements of digital preservation, especially, the capability to migrate digital image files to **future generations of the technology,** can be exercised in part through prudent purchases of only **non-proprietary** hardware and software components.

Building Argument * Seeking Solutions

The Transformation of Preservation AND Access

Preservation OR Access:

Preservation AND Access: mutually reinforcing ideas.
Preservation IS Access: two concepts as interchangeable nouns.
                          The act of preserving makes access possible.
                          Access is the engine of preservation
Preservation OF Access: (In the digital world), preservation is the action and
                          access is the thing   — the act of preserving access.
                          Where the content, structure, and integrity of the
                          information object assume center stage — and the
                          ability of a machine to transport and display
                          this information object becomes an assumed end result
                          of the preservation action rather than its primary goal

http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/6Reformatting/04RelevanceOfPreservation.php

International Digital Preservation programmes & Projects :

❑*Pandora* Archive - Preserving and Accessing Networked Documentary Archives http://pandora.nla.gov.au/**...**digital archive dedicated to the preservation of and long term access to Australian online electronic publications of national significance.

❑PADI-Preserving Access to Digital Information
(http://wwww.nla.gov.au/padi/
Gateway to international digital preservation resources and to ICADS (IFLA-CDNL for digital strategies)
Topics
Dig – Archiving, Preservation, resource discovery, DRM, Digitization, Web archiving

❑LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe)
http://www.lockss.org/lockss/

■International community initiative that provides libraries with digital preservation tools and support
■an open source, peer-to-peer, decentralized digital preservation infrastructure.
■preserves all formats and genres of web-published content.
■is OAIS-compliant; the software migrates content forward in time;

❑Digital Preservation - http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/

UC Libraries Digital Preservation Program
Preserving UC's Research, Teaching, and Learning

Digital Preservation and Records Management Programme : JISC
Supporting institutions in long-term digital asset management and preservation forms a central theme of JISC's Digital Preservation and Records Management
www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/preservation.

Europeana - Connecting Cultural Heritage
Europeana – the European digital library, museum and archive – is a 2-year project that began in July 2007. It will produce a prototype website giving users access to Archives, audio-visual collections, museums, libraries are working together to connect 2000 years of European images, objects, text, sound and vision .
Europeana is the common access point to the collections of European libraries, archives and museums from all around Europe

UNESCO-WebWorld-Memory of the World
http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/en/index_mdm.html

❑India Digital Heritage project
http://www.livemint.com/2008/10/01153226/India-Digital-Heritage-project.html?d=1

The research project is aimed to explore the synergetic use of multiple forms of media such as photographs, video and voice for the public," The project seeks to advance research in technologies to preserve cultural heritage and monuments of the country.

As a pilot study, a seven member team conducted a study on the Sri Andal Temple in Srivilluputtur which has been created using the new software Photosynth and including photographs, video and voice. "The Government is looking to create platforms for Indian scientists and collaborate and innovate.

World wide mega Preservation initiatives built in strong collections for PREservation with ultimate pupose to PRESERVE FOR
"Use by current users and for posterity"

Case I, Phase I, Movement I:

Late 1990s :
PM -National Task Force on IT and Software Development -May 22, 1998, Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission.

108 recommendations

Result?   Whether result of this initiative or not but some
                sensitization effect observed
No. of initiatives for Preservation (some sporadic efforts also)
- Digital library initiatives
- e-journal portals
- Intangible Heritage
- Manuscript Mission
- Preserving Rare and Old materials
- Others

EVERYBODY spoke the same Language
DIGITIZATION FOR PRESERVATION
[standards ?]

What followed was
Identification for Resources for DIGITization

Again Two Schools of Thought

1.DIGItise ALL   2.Identify Resources for DIGITisation

Whichever School of Thought Tickles You
Identification in certain cases is must for DIGITization

For Instance: Manuscript Mission
Need to identify & take a stock of -
what is available
Where is available
What condition
Etc…………
Substantial effort involved but Doable
(MINDSET and CONSENSUS is the Mantra)
Some DIGITization activities initiatives led to creation of digital resources - public domain

Case 2, Phase 2, Movement 2:
The New mantra - 2000s - comparatively recent phenomenon
(2002 can be thought beginning - BOAI)
Focus - Access that too OA

Worldwide statements and declarations in favour of OA Advocacy
& promotion

Arguments Being build - Strong and Loud
Realizing Importance
Visibility
Impact
One Stop Shop for national resources
Projecting national resource base in the international community

Worldwide wave and Initiatives for promoting/supporting/facilitating
OA to resources both tangible/ intangible   by creating repositories
with millions of OAI compliant records out there for public
consumption.
India,s participation there, but still SLOW....

■Even Publishers are changing colours (Who have a pure business inerest)

■As they realised the strength of the movement and felt that there is no way out but to support in some forms and flavours , hence various colors (like Green, Blue , White etc.)

The BIG Question?
If Corporate bodies with pure commercial interest have scrummed to the pressures bounced by the OA movement

WHY aren't public/Govt funded orgn. acting and acting FAST
What Apprehensions do they have to embrace OA or something close to that

Culture of Openness

- Commitment to "generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges."
- Mission directly related to widest dissemination
- Expressions of this culture
    - OpenCourseWare
    - Other knowledge resources –both tangible and intangible
    - Free Software Movement

Key Changes In How We Describe Mission

- **Creating and sustaining a trusted information environment**
- **Developing strategies and systems that**
  - **promote discovery**
  - **facilitate worldwide scholarly communication**
- Consistent with OA world

Let us take example of IGNCA

Volum. of digitized data

■Does Digitization mean - Transformation has taken care of Int. Stds & protocols

■Are these resources available Online No
■If YES (what is the status)
  ■Full text
  ■Metadata Level
  ■Some Listing
  ■INTRANET
■If answer is NO
■Where are we then? What are we doing about these?
■An extremely useful resource base is out of reach
■National Resource base needs to be strengthened to showcase at the international level
■"information For ALL"
■Barrier to information Access needs to be removed
■we are unable to project our glorious legacy EVEN facilitate POINTERS to that
 Example: Europeana /Gallica Projects   : images/ mauscripts etc.

Create and Sustain Trusted Information Environment

- Define, evaluate, invest in qualified archiving solutions
  – Concept of Trusted Archive
  – Portico, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS
  – IRs
- Create, Identify, Store metadata on trusted archive for digital content
  – title or even article level

What Needs to be done:
Several Organisations are deliberating
INSA, NKC - Mandating (Proposed)
Bangalore Statement on OA

Can IGNCA –

→ Policy guidelines for Preservation
→ Broadly workout a Framework to facilitate access to the intangible resources (at least to Metadata Level)
→ Can we come out with some recommendations in this direction
  → The technology is in Place
  → the techniques are in place
  → the material objects are in Place
  → Can we expect this valuable resource base being available and accessible in public domain

  → Collaboration is key to success
     Local Level : IT Dept, Library and management
     AT Regional
     National and
     Internationals Levels

➡A policy document or a White Paper for PRESERVATION AND mandating ACCESS

➡ADDRESS : Critical elements : how digital material – created, selected transferred described and managed

➡**Policy and Practice statement**

➡Digital Preservation Policy

    ➡Purpose &Objectives

    ➡Nature of the digital collections

    ➡Challenges of keeping Dig Information resources accessible

    ➡Broad Directions for preserving DC

        ➡Pointers for action

        ➡Scope

        ➡Preserving Accessibility

        ➡Models

    ➡Implementation Principles.

    ➡preservation Directions Statement

    ➡Tools, procedures and infrastructure

    ➡Collaboration - (Preserving & Fostering nation's dig. Res)

Policy and Practice statement

1.Policy of Cooperation
1.1. Cooperating with other Indian collecting and data creating agencies   - huge volume and cost
1.2 **Cooperating with overseas collecting agencies :**
International Internet Preservation Consortium
(http://netpreserve.org/about/index.php).
2.Infrastructure
3.Collecting policy
variety of approaches to selecting and archiving
4.Selection guidelines - value of the content - dominant factor influencing a selection decision

5. Access :

- a number of ways to obtain access to the contents of the Archive
- Resources (some)restricted for commercial reasons
- Free on Intranet
- Freely available to anyone with an internet connection (Preferred)

6.Cataloguing Cataloguing of online resources carried out in accordance with the some Archive Electronic Cataloguing Manual . MARC Format

7. **Persistent Identifiers**
 Implemented a system of persistent identification and resolution for all titles archived

8. **Archiving**
Should have some kind of manuals to follow , ensuring that only resources for which permission has been received are added to the Archive, and that gathering filters and quality checking processes are used effectively to this end.

9. Permission to archive
Archiving to be carried out in accordance with applicable

legislation, government directives and arrangements with publishers.

 - legal deposit provisions to online resources.

10.Quality of archived titles
11. Preservation
Purpose of Archive is to provide long-term access to
heritage published on the Web.   The contents of the Archive will be
preserved according to the Digital Preservation Policy.

As hardware and software changes and the need arises for
preservation action to be taken on files
12. Staff training and development
require specific skills, an aptitude for the work, and a commitment to
continual self-learning.
Provide a suite of manuals detailing archiving procedures and the use
of the software

Thank You