

Preserving digital content over time: four key issues



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New digital technologies

- A gateway with unparalleled access to India's cultural heritage
- IGNCA's key role
- Challenges in preserving digital content over time

Four key issues

- Technological
- Resourcing
- Organisational
- Interconnectedness

Technological

- Focus has been on technological strategies until recently
- e.g. migrating, emulation
- adhering to frameworks such as OAIS, use of preservation metadata
- TRAC checklist

Resourcing

\$ \$ \$

- See work of Cornell University
e.g. www.library.cornell.edu/iris/tutorial/dpm/
- adequate staffing and funding
- Not only for start up costs but ongoing funding.

Organisational

- Commitment through policies and strategies, plans (Cornell)
- e.g. draft policy for IGNCA
- Way of getting commitment from the top
- Involves ~ collaboration – national & international
 - ~ education and training

Interconnectedness – an holistic approach

- Potential weakness internationally - tendency to view digital preservation in isolation - like a 'silo'
- Preservation is interconnected – like a web



Interconnectedness – an holistic approach

- Good preservation management is about understanding dynamics of interconnections
- Ability to make and maximise connections
- Informed by risk management perspective

Interconnectedness – an holistic approach

- e.g. interlinking digitisation with microfilming to provide access & long term preservation
- Links with conserving original manuscripts, or ensuring originals are in stable, low risk environment
- Disaster preparedness – strategic approach – implications for both originals and copies – digitised & microfilm
- A strategic & holistic approach has potential to make these connections and maximise benefits through understanding the 'bigger picture'

Summary

- Common across the world – effective long term digital preservation of Indian & IGNCA's cultural knowledge resources will be shaped by response to these four key issues
- If focus is on one at expense of others – potentially balance will be lost

Summary

- Of the four issues most subtle & profound & least understood is
 - ~ need to understand interconnectedness of all areas of preservation
- To maximise sustainability of cultural knowledge – both digital and non digital over time