

Sustainability
Symposium

London

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Perspectives on the Washington DC Symposium

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Purpose:

React to and discuss Task Force Final report

Hear from domain experts/practitioners

Move conversation to broader community

Program



Introduction:	Fran Berman (RPI), Brian Lavoie (OCLC)
Keynote Address:	Thomas Kalil, Deputy Director for Policy, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Research Data:	Dan Atkins (U. of Michigan), Wayne Clough (Smithsonian), Chris Rusbridge (DCC)
Scholarly Discourse:	Derek Law (JISC Advance), Brian Schottlaender (UCSD), Lee Dirks (Microsoft)
Collectively-Produced Web Content:	Timo Hannay (Nature), George Oates (Internet Archive), Anne Van Camp (Smithsonian)
Commercially-Owned Cultural Content:	Chris Lacinak (Audiovisual Preservation Solutions), Jon Landau (Lightstorm Entertainment), Abby Smith Rumsey (Consultant)
Economics of Digital Information:	William Bowen (Mellon Foundation), Hal Varian (Google) , Dan Rubinfeld (UC Berkeley), Paul Courant (U. of Michigan)
Summary Remarks:	Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, CNI

- **Expected benefits; return on preservation investments**
- **Research Data:**
 - Make preservation of research data “first class” research enterprise
- **Collectively-produced Web content:**
 - Preservation not a priority for contributors
 - Integrate preservation into creation to make output more “archivable”
- **Commercially-owned cultural content:**
 - Often no “culture of preservation”: priority is creation
 - Education : mutual understanding between creators & preservationists

- **Motivation to act (incentives); obstacles to action (disincentives)**
- **Diffuse “right to preserve” to encourage third-party archiving:**
 - Use creative commons licenses
 - Better documentation of transfers of copyright
- **Fear can be an important incentive**
 - Utility of “good disaster” to concentrate attention
 - More use of mandates, particularly at individual scholar level
- **Economics: Need to turn “free riders” into “paid users”:** bundle access with preservation, versioning strategies, shame/envy

- **Organization & management: Who benefits? Preserves? Pays?**
- **Role of research library in preserving digital information**
 - Research libraries could /should have key role
 - Recalibrate resource allocations: access v. preservation; print v. digital
 - New kinds of on-staff expertise
- **Public/private partnerships**
 - Transfer of preservation responsibilities
 - Division of labor: bit preservation (scale, commercial data centers); domain-focused curation services
- **Many potential solutions point toward collective action**

- How to engage attention of high-level policy-makers: Be realistic; resources are limited; no “preservation czar”; impetus for action is in the community; make targeted requests for specific actions
- Increasing importance of archiving “process” of creation, not just output (culture, research)
- Critiques of report:
 - Some recommendations too timid
 - Discussion/consensus recommended when action required; in “Web world” someone just steps forward and takes action
- Make room for people with a passion for preservation; not just about economics and formal institutions

Information on symposium:

<http://brtf.sdsc.edu/symposium.html>

Recording:

<http://brtf.vidizmo.com/>