

**6th Communia Workshop: Memory Institutions and the Public Domain
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Future demands on memory institutions in the digital world

Abstract:

It seems likely that libraries and other memory institutions will wish, and indeed will be expected, to broaden their preservation responsibilities to include many different types of digitally encoded information, beyond digital documents and images. Some libraries already are beginning to do this. A number of fundamental threats to the preservation of our digital capital, scientific, cultural and social, are being widely recognised and plans are being made to establish infrastructure components to help institutions to share the effort of preservation as well as to gain greater benefit from digital holdings through increasing re-use. Nevertheless it does seem that some of the fundamental differences between documents and scientific data, and the threats to both, are not sufficiently widely understood. For this reason and also to ensure that our intellectual capital is in good hands we need to seek ways to judge whether memory institutions, no matter how well respected they are in their traditional domain, are doing a sufficiently good job in the digital domain.

This presentation will seek to clarify these differences between different types of digitally encoded information and the threats which must be countered. It will be emphasised that artefacts which are created in the process of preservation, for example digital rights associated with a digital object, must themselves be preserved so that they may be used in the proper way in future. The presentation will also describe the ways in which the preservation and re-use effort can be shared and the types of infrastructure components which will facilitate this. Finally the efforts to create an international audit and certification process will be outlined.

The presentation will draw on experiences gain in the CASPAR (www.casparpreserves.eu) and PARSE.Insight (www.parse-insight.eu) European projects and in the standards efforts undertaken to develop OAIS and the Audit and Certification process.