Advocacy paper – Final version of the Roadmap
Based on the Handbook

Target: cultural institutions

Digital preservation is a main stake for DCH institutions: they produce a large volume of data which needs to be safely stored, permanently accessed and easily re-used over time by different end users.

However, even if it has been identified as a key issue for DCH, there is a lack of best practices and common approaches. Member states are developing and implementing national preservation strategies, but there are many commonalities which could be addressed at European level.

Indeed, the DCH-RP project was designed to answer these needs, and to develop a roadmap to implement a federated preservation infrastructure for DCH, dedicated to support the application of open science in the arts and the humanities

Stakes:
- To make digital cultural heritage accessible and usable long term
- To contribute to the research capacities development of the DCH sector

A first European Roadmap for digital preservation

Roadmaps are useful instruments to present the scope and coverage of an e-infrastructure. They are also frequently used within projects and institutions in the digital preservation domain. There is no roadmap on digital cultural heritage preservation.

The DCH-RP project Roadmap aim is to provide a practical instrument to decision makers from all DCH community – policy makers, cultural institutions, e-Infrastructure providers.

It offers:
-   An unique European overview of the challenges, the main obstacles, the needs regarding digital preservation
-   Examples of existing solutions
-   Recommendations for each target group

It provides a Roadmap with short term to long-term perspectives based on major and connected steps.

What are the main components of the Roadmap?

A need of agreement on shared basic consideration
The first step for the development and the sustainability of the Roadmap is the agreement / shared conviction of all stakeholders on 3 basic points:

- A vision of distributed digital preservation architecture
- Challenges to target
- The need of an explorative approach

Four Major areas to concentrate on

In order to provide a useful instrument both to policy makers and cultural institutions, 4 majors areas have been identified as priorities:

- Harmonisation of data storage and preservation
- Improved interoperability
- Establishment of conditions for cross-sector integration
- Governance models for infrastructure integration

Need for innovation of the internal workflow of DCH organisations

- Re-organise roles to embed digital preservation as a mandatory step for building digital resources
- Create new skills and competences: digital preservation has specific characteristics, different from the traditional way to preserve cultural artefacts
- Take decisions on services related to storage and computing resources, taking into account preservation requirements
- Advocate the need of digital preservation

Benefits for DCH sector to use e-infrastructure

- Common procedures and workflows reduce the costs (time and money), and contribute to general interoperability and openness of DCH scientific data
- Using e-infrastructure for preservation enables to deal with the following issues faced by DCH:
  - o Limited practical experience in preserving complex digital objects over time
  - o Access considerations
  - o Rights management
  - o Security
  - o Quality control

Recommendations for DCH institutions

- To build a trust in the e-infrastructures as providers of safe and secure services
- Thus, to renounce to the full control of where the data are stored
- Preservation and access components should be included in DCH institutions digitisation programmes
- Selection criteria are necessary to be agreed to identify priority areas of data that need to be preserved

- Training of the staff involved in digitisation, access and preservation projects is crucial for their success.

The Roadmap perspectives

The Roadmap perspective is based on strategic and operational steps, with a time frame with short-term (2014-2015) to medium and long-term perspectives (2016-2018 +) in order to be adaptable to all institutions

Short term 2014-2015

Step 1: agreement on shared basic consideration by stakeholders: on a vision, challenges to target, on the need of exploration
Step 2: actions on the 4 main areas of the Roadmap
Step 3: choose services to address according to functional areas, services types and objects, type of architecture, level of maturity, license conditions

Mid term (2016-2017)

Step 1: summarize priorities decisions and considerations taken during the short time period into a *Preservation as a Service (Praas)*
Step 2: take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap
Step 3: plan for work during the long-term stage

Long term (2018 and beyond)

Take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap

Want to know more?

- On line:
  • DCH-RP website: www.dch-rp.eu
  • Showcase on Digitalmeetsculture.net : www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp
  • Handbook "A ROADMAP FOR PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONTENT": www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/dch-rp-roadmap-for-preservation

- Events :
  • 2nd of October 2014: The Hague (The Netherlands): SUCCEED technical workshop on interoperability of digitisation platforms;
  • 6th-10th of October 2014: Frankfurt (Germany) : Frankfurt Book Fair 2014;
  • 10th-12th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : e-IRG workshop (10/11/2014) and delegates meeting (11/11/2014) ;
  • 13th-14th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : Event of the Italian EU Presidency;

- 17th-18th of November 2014: London (UK) : DPC and 4C conference 'Investing in Opportunity: Policy Practice and Planning for a Sustainable Digital Future';
- 16th-21st of November 2014: New Orleans (USA) : Supercompunting Conference 2014;
- 28th of November 2014: Paris (France) : SUCCEED Final Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Rome (Italy) : National Aggregators' Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Muscat (Oman) : 4th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE 2014; 17th of December 2014: Guwahati (India) : CHAIN-REDS Workshop at the NKN Conference.