

# Collaboration in Training Provision

Joy Davidson  
Digital Curation Centre  
[british.editor@erpanet.org](mailto:british.editor@erpanet.org)

## Why should we collaborate?

- Most projects have a mandate to disseminate their findings and/or to provide dedicated training
- Resources to disseminate findings and develop training programmes are limited and need to be used wisely
- Increasing number of events being offered can cause confusion amongst participants (i.e., which events should they be attending?)
- Collaboration will help to raise awareness of aims and objectives between projects and to highlight areas where synergies are possible

What do we mean by collaboration?

Can mean anything from simply sharing information about our training activity to more formal collaboration and the delivery of joint events.

- Sharing plans for training topics, intended audiences, and timeframes
- Cooperation on the creation of training materials
- Cooperation in the delivery of training events
- Providing advice on venues, promotional channels, possible lecturers
- Provision of venue space or other resources for the delivery of events

What's in it for training providers?

Short-term benefits:

- minimise duplication of effort
- maximise various training resources and dissemination channels
- increase awareness of outputs from a number of related research and development activities
- maximise inter-disciplinary training opportunities

Longer-term benefits:

- shared awareness of a range of user community needs
- increased credibility amongst our user communities
- eventually hope to develop a shared digital preservation training infrastructure to enable reuse of training materials

## What's in it for participants?

- reduced confusion over which events they should attend
- confidence that the events they are attending are considered to be of value
- increased awareness of a number of research and development tools and resources available to assist them in their day to day work
- access to multi-disciplinary perspectives on key preservation issues

## **Joint Workshop: Developing and International Curation and Preservation Training Roadmap**

**29-30 March 2007**

**Nice, France**

The aim for this joint meeting was to bring together a range of digital curation and preservation training providers to examine how we might best work together to reduce duplication of effort and to maximise our limited resources to provide the best possible training programmes for our user communities. This meeting is the first in what we hope will be a series of regular meetings to move the concepts we discussed forward into practice.

Participants the following initiatives were represented at the meeting:

- Statsbiblioteket (SB)
- Preservation and Long-term Access through NETworked Services (PLANETS)
- Metaware
- Artistic and Scientific knowledge for Preservation, Access and Retrieval (CASPAR)
- Digital Curation Centre (DCC)
- Nationaal Archief van Nederland
- DigitalPreservationEurope (DPE)
- Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)
- Arts and Humanities Data Service – Performing Arts (AHDS-PA)
- UKOLN
- JISC Repositories Support Project (RSP)
- European Research Consortium for Informatics & Mathematics (ERCIM)
- DELOS Network of Excellence
- Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII)
- Goettingen State and University Library
- nestor

Other initiatives that expressed interest in the outcomes of this meeting include BBC Information & Archives, PrestoSpace, University of Illinois-Champagne, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NeSC, and NERC.

## Target audiences identified:

- Senior Managers
- Repository managers
- Scientists
- Researchers – private and public institutions
- Information Scientists
- IT professionals
- Developers
- Vendors
- Training professionals
- Cultural heritage professionals (archivists, records managers, curators, performing arts)
- Higher and further education professionals



## Training Options:

**Advocacy and awareness raising events** for senior management decision makers and to introduce curation and preservation themes

**Practical training** for content creators, repository managers and practitioners as well as for developers/vendors

**Hands-on training** on how to install and use specific tools and resources for IT professionals

**Formal education** in curation and preservation at the post-graduate level

Possibly **End user training** to educate people on how to interact with project tools and resources for the end-user perspective

## **Additional Questions that still were discussed:**

How can we start to interface with formal education so that we can influence the students before they become professionals?

Can we accredit participation in our training events that could be used towards credits in a post-graduate degree?

How can we move towards a more coherent approach to training provision?

How can we begin to bridge the gap between theory and practice?

## Topics/Themes

While most participants were developing specific training on using tools and resources, all agreed that there were generic themes that could be addressed in the meantime.

These include:

- digital repositories
- OAIS as key approach
- continuum thinking in records and archives management
- awareness raising events
- access issues
- cost/business models
- legal issues
- best practice models
- preservation planning
- standards
- authenticity/provenance
- basic training on using current software packages (e.g., MS Word)
- philosophical, ethical, social aspects

## Training Methods

Most participants at the meeting utilise the following training methods:

- face-to-face training in the form of workshops and seminars
- on-line learning resources in the form of manuals, handbooks, forums, fact sheets, and briefing papers
- on-line tutorials with or without accreditation

We also acknowledged that the following training options need to be considered:

- self-directed learning using multiple resources
- on-the-job training, exchanges and internships
- higher and further education

## Business models

Most participants used a cost recovery model to cover the costs for the venue hire, catering and speakers' travel and expenses.

However, most acknowledged that there is generally an overall financial loss to the project/institution for the delivery of events as they strive to keep the costs of participation to a minimum.

For sustainability, we may need to need to consider raising the fees for participants.

## Promotion

Better promotion of our events and the potential benefits from participation is needed.

Could possibly disseminate information about our events through our usual channels and also agree to submit information to DigitalPreservationEurope as a coordinating action. However, we would likely still want to promote our events individually as well.

Might benefit from a shared identity and web space. This could in time grow to become a one-stop shop for digital preservation training by providing access to details on courses, events, venues, and trainers as well as to reusable training materials.

We may also wish to investigate the possibility of offering the content of the shared website in additional EU languages.

## Branding

Branding of jointly run events can be tricky. The group identified the following scenarios that we might encounter and have to deal with:

- Event led by a single project/institution requiring no additional organisational, financial, or promotional support or content from consortium partners;
- Event led by a single project/institution requiring some organisational, financial, or promotional support or content from consortium partners;
- Event led by two or more consortium partners with equal contributions in the form of organisational, financial, or promotional support or content;
- Event led by two or more consortium partners with varying contributions in the form of organisational, financial, or promotional support or content;

## Ongoing Challenges

-all agreed that collaboration is extremely important, but there is a serious lack of time available to participants to dedicate to this endeavour.

-follow-up meetings and activities must be carefully scheduled to maximise the potential benefits while minimising the time required to participate and plan joint events.

-first DPE/PLANETS/CASPAR collaborative training event is being held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 1-5 October 2007. For more information, please visit the WePreserve website ([www.wepreserve.eu](http://www.wepreserve.eu)).



If you want to find out more about our ongoing efforts or want to get involved, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks.

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