



Electronic Resources Management and long term preservation *Is the Library a Growing Organism?*

Tommaso Giordano

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Main issues

- ✓ Perception of the preservation issues
- ✓ Library practices
- ✓ Traditional approach vs the emerging model

Sources:

- ✓ Surveys on digital preservation in university and research libraries (USA and Europe)
- ✓ Recommendations and best practices codes



Ownership vs Licence

Print publications (Ownership)

- ✓ Purchased print material belong to the library in perpetuity (archival right included)
- ✓ Use of book governed by copyright law (and fair use)

Digital publications (License)

- ✓ The library has access to licensed content as long as it pays the subscription (similar to renting) : failure to pay result in loss of both current and previous years
- ✓ Governed by contract with terms and limits (permitted/ not permitted use)
- ✓ Archival rights to be negotiate as license clauses



e- journals license models

Models

- Print + electronic model
- E-only model
- Selection vs big deal (bundle)

Data

- Access to the current year
- Access to the previous years
- Perpetual access
- Archival copy, in standard or proprietary format



Trends in academic libraries (USA and Europe)

- » **1400% increase** of libraries expenditures for e-licenses from 1996 to 2006
- » **70%** of licensed resources are subscribed only in digital format, i.e. no print equivalent (2005)
- » **85%** of libraries are ready to cancel the print version when the e-only solution is available (2005)



Library's attitudes on preservation issues

Surveys considered:

- Boston Libraries - 2001
- JISC - 2003
- Watson - 2005
- Farb -2005
- Innsbruck University - 2005
- ARL 2006
- Giordano / ICOLC - 2006



Findings

- Increase of conceptual perception of long term preservation issues
- Gap between perception, policy and practices
- Preservation as low level priority in licence policy
- Most of the licenses (50-60 %) agreed by libraries doesn't include archival clauses
- Few libraries receive an archival copy, and very few utilise it for archival purpose
- In most of the cases archival data from publishers are not delivered in standard format
- Lack of resources for preservation programmes
- Digital preservation considered “not my library’s business”, but a task for other organisations, such:
 - a) libraries with specific mission (national libraries),
 - b) third party trusted repositories
 - c) publishers
- Access is the most important priority, according to the users preference



Preservation in pre-digital context

Survey conducted by J. Feathers et al. in 1993 on 488 **UK libraries**

- Long term preservation as a very minor concern
- Collection development: aimed at insuring the availability of library material in sufficient quantities for current needs (“just in case” model)
- Stock retention governed by use
- Library practices based on “preservation by inertia” approach
- Long term preservation as a “task for other libraries
- Increasing perceptions / lack of achievements
- Assumption that collections redundancy and multiplicity of the libraries insure the long term preservation of cultural heritage

This system - generally followed in the library world - has worked well, permitting to find a document wherever is located, and preserving the cultural heritage as well.

Unfortunately... is not transferable in the digital context!



	PAPER	DIGITAL
Mission	Maximise the availability of documents for current needs ("just in case")	Focus on information access for current needs
Preservation Policy	<i>De facto</i> , not explicitly declared	Explicit and declared (related to the licensing policy)
<u>Selection</u>	On the assumption that the item will be kept in the library forever	Include decision on long term preservation (archival clause)
Acquisition	Based on ownership, perpetual use (archival right included) based on copyright law	Based on the license for temporary use of the resource, codified by a contract
<u>Format</u>	Stability and capacity of self preservation	Not directly readable by humans, unstable and not self-perpetuating
Organisa-tion	Preservation not identified as a function in itself	Preservation as specific function
<u>Infrastructu-res</u>	Normal infrastructure may be sufficient	<i>Ad hoc</i> infrastructures and investments are necessary
<u>Collection care</u>	Discontinuity is tolerated	Permanent care needed; discontinuity is not permitted
<u>Decision making</u>	Implicit, "by inertia", decisions may be postponed	Structured, proactive, <i>ex ante</i> approach, procrastination not admitted



CONCLUSIONS

Coincidences

Surprisingly the general attitudes of librarians on preservation issues has not changed significantly in the last 15 years, despite the great change occurred in the knowledge management and the cultural communication systems.

On the other hand the increasing awareness of the problem has not reduced the gap between conceptual perception and practice.

Differences

Important change are occurring in library organisation and management: information resources management require a new work flow and a proactive/structured decision making approach

Mutation

There is radical shift from an economic model based on the capitalisation of the resources acquired to a model based on renting resources for temporary use, with no accumulation and no guarantees for the future: **it is not a change, is a genetic mutation of the libraries.**



RANGHANATHAN 5th LAW

“Library is a growing organism”

**The sustainability of this principle is now
an open question**



THE END