

Presenting...

# The SPOT Model

for Risk Assessment

Priscilla Caplan

Totonto, 2 October 2012

# What is SPOT?

## **Preservation threats:**

- Threats to archived digital content
  - E.g. technical issues related to ingest & storage
- Threats to the custodial organization
  - E.g. economic and legal issues

**SPOT: A lightweight framework for addressing threats arising from technical operations associated with preserving objects.**

# Desired qualities in a threat model:

## Conceptual Clarity

- Don't mix causes with results

## Appropriate detail and consistent granularity

- Don't mix very broad with very detailed

## Comprehensiveness

- Within professed scope

## Simplicity

- Fitness for purpose

# SPOT approach

- Agree on the goals of technically successful digital preservation
- Itemize threats that could negatively impact those goals
- Assess your vulnerability to those threats and look at ways to mitigate them

# Goals of digital preservation

- **Availability**
  - Object has been captured and is maintained in repository
- **Identity**
  - Object can be distinguished from other objects, discovered and retrieved
- **Persistence**
  - Bits are intact on media and can be read

# Goals of digital preservation (continued)

- **Renderability**
  - Object can be used in a way that retains significant properties
- **Understandability**
  - Object can be interpreted by its designated community
- **Authenticity**
  - Object is what it purports to be

# Using the SPOT model for risk assessment

- What are property-oriented threats?
- How well do you mitigate them?

E.g. Threats to identity

- Sufficient metadata is not captured or maintained.
- Linkages between metadata and the objects that the metadata describes are not captured or maintained.
- Metadata is captured and maintained but not made available to users.

# Example: Sufficient metadata is not captured/maintained

If you think about causes –

- Organization can't afford good catalogers

- Has good catalogers but one is lazy

- Cataloger went on leave, was hit by bus

If you think about results –

- Quality control step for sufficient metadata



**Sally Vermaaten, Brian Lavoie, Priscilla Caplan**  
**Identifying Threats to Successful Digital  
Preservation: The SPOT model for Risk  
Assessment**

**D-Lib Magazine, Sept/Oct 2012**

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september12/vermaaten/09vermaaten.html>