

Preservation metadata as an evidence base for risk assessment

Brian Lavoie explained how mapping SPOT to PREMIS might lead to identifying preservation metadata that supports evidence-based risk assessment. The mapping exercise would lead to a protocol, ideally a standardized and widely-applicable protocol for threat-control, addressing both types of threats: those that have already happened and those that can potentially happen. The focus of the mapping will be on actionable intelligence and automated analysis. Brian gave some practical examples and concluded that the mapping exercise could highlight gaps and inform repositories (the gap between necessary metadata and metadata actually recorded) and advance the further development of threat models and of the PREMIS Data Dictionary.

Plenary Discussion

The presentations led to practical questions and several more elaborate discussion threads.

The relationship with other threat models: TRAC and DRAMBORA are pretty high-level and they are not linked to evidence information that is maintained in the repository. The community needs regular assessments and the potential for automating these and making it a routine. The PHC-pilot is an appealing project because it is trying to do this. It would be useful to position the PHC-exercise in the bigger picture of risk assessment and certification.

The impact question: it would be interesting to understand how the PHC-results would impact our organisation and operations. How would this inform preservation managers in terms of preservation strategies or facilitate the process of becoming a trusted repository? Will the pilot provide input to justify the development of health check tools? How would these fit in existing tools and workflows? Where in the metadata cycle would this health check take place?

The relationship with preservation policies: repository mission and policies are essential for establishing context for risk-assessment. What is the relationship between policies, preservation metadata and risk factors? How will the SPOT-PREMIS mapping take policies into account?

Digital lifecycle and control over metadata: repository managers do not necessarily have full-control over the preservation metadata they maintain. Metadata might be produced by other stakeholders in the digital lifecycle. The PHC-pilot might need to take the digital life-cycle into account when mapping the metadata and the threats.

Wrap-Up

Titia wrapped up the session by thanking the participants for their active and useful contributions. She stressed the fact that the PHC-pilot was only in its very early stages of defining the research methodology and identifying pilot sites. She encouraged those interested in participating to contact Bram or herself. The community will be able to follow progress via the various communication channels of OCLC Research and OPF.