Operational Pragmatism in Digital Preservation: establishing context-aware minimum viable baselines

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ABSTRACT
Undertaking active digital preservation, holistically and thoroughly, requires substantial infrastructure and resources. National archives and libraries across the Western world have established, or are working towards maturity in digital preservation (often underpinned by legislative requirements). On the other hand, smaller collectives and companies situated outside of memory institution contexts, as well as organisations in non-Western and developing countries, are struggling with the basics of managing their digital materials. This panel continues the debate within the digital preservation community, critiquing the development of digital preservation practices typically from within positions of privilege. Bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds, the aim is to establish a variety of 'bare minimum' baselines for digital preservation efforts, while tailoring these to local contexts.

KEYWORDS
digital preservation, operational pragmatism, minimum viable, baselines, local contexts, global views

1 BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION
Custodianship of digital materials must ensure preservation is enacted in ways that are documented, repeatable and will enable long-term access to digital objects.

There are mechanisms for doing this, such as complying with standards (e.g. METS [13], PREMIS [14] IASA-TC 04 [11] etc.) and undertaking Trusted Digital Repository (TDR) audits and obtaining certification (e.g. Data Seal of Approval (DSA) [7], TRAC [17] and ISO 16363 [12], the Nestor Seal [16] (based on DIN31644 [9]) and DRAMBORA [8]). Other approaches include meeting the NDSA Levels of Preservation [18] or parsimonious preservation [10].

1.1 Unrepresented Voices
While national memory institutions and top-tier universities consider certification, organisations in developing countries struggle with the very basics of accessing suitable people and technology. [20][21][5]. Digital preservation also suffers from a predominance of first-world 'majority' views, while other minority voices are either too quiet or remain unheard [2]. The needs of non-Western and developing countries must be considered if digital preservation is to reach beyond Western boundaries [1][6]. What principles or best practices can be relied upon to support everyday work in minimally-resourced institutions or non-institutional contexts?

2 APPROACH
2.1 Foundations and Current Activities
Groundwork has been laid for pragmatic, practical and operational digital preservation through the Digital POWRR project [19] and subsequent 'digital preservation on a shoestring' workshops.

Meanwhile, efforts such as recent collaboration on documenting requirements for a Minimum Viable Station for digitising audiovisual materials is taking place [3]. Yet time is critical if we are to enact digital preservation processes without significant data loss [15].

2.2 Program
The panellists come from a wide range of cultural and employment backgrounds. They will address a series of specific provocations including, but not limited to: addressing reported errors from tools, fixity, infrastructure and storage, preconditioning, pre-ingest processes, preservation metadata, scalability (including bi-directional scalability), technical policies and workflows. Audience involvement is encouraged.

The intended outcome is a range of agreed-upon baselines tailored to different cultural, organisational and contextual situations.

3 PANELLISTS
Moderator: Somaya Langley has worked across the arts and culture, broadcast and for collecting institutions as a creative director, digital curation specialist, digital preservation specialist, producer, production manager, sound artist and technical assistant. Organisations she has worked for include the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Australian Music Centre, Design & Art Australia Online, the International Society of Contemporary Music (ISCM) World New Music Days, the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of

New South Wales. She was Co-Director of the 2008 and 2009 Electrofringe festivals, Australia's international festival of electronic arts and culture. She is currently working on a Polonsky Foundation funded project as the Digital Preservation Specialist (Policy and Planning) at Cambridge University Library, UK.

Panellist: Andrea K Byrne has worked with audiovisual archives, research data and government records, and travelled the world to New Zealand and back again. She brought a fresh set of eyes to a nascent, but successful program of born-digital deposits at Archives New Zealand (ANZ) and worked on its first live transfer. She is currently the technology and metadata librarian at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she is in the process of instituting a digital preservation plan.

Panellist: Bertrand Caron graduated from the École nationale des Chartes in Paris in 2010 as Archiviste paléographe. From 2011 to 2014, he worked as a project manager for heritage digitization at the University of Montpellier. Currently he is the metadata specialist at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF). Since 2015, he has been a member of the METS Editorial Board and the PREMIS Editorial Committee.

Panellist: Dr. Dinesh Katre is Associate Director & Head of Department at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). He spearheads the Centre of Excellence for Digital Preservation funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. He has been instrumental in formally introducing the ISO 16363 standard in India and has participated in the audit process of the National Cultural Audiovisual Archive. In 2010, he charted the scope and roadmap for National Digital Preservation Programme (NDPP) for the Government of India. He was a member of the International Experts Consultative Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World that drafted the Recommendation concerning the 'Preservation of, Access to, Documentary Heritage in the Digital Era' (38 C/Resolutions –Annex V), which was passed in 2015.

Panellist: Dr. Jones Lukose Ongalo is currently the Information Management Officer at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He is a Senior Information Management practitioner with over eighteen years of national and international experience in developing and implementing strategies to achieve operational effectiveness and regulatory compliance by leveraging ICT. Key clients and projects include the International Criminal Court (ICC), United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Local & Central Government Uganda, National Water Corporations (Kenya and Uganda), Electrogaz Utilities (Rwanda), Central Bank Uganda, USAID, GTZ and the Government of Jamaica. He holds a BSc in electronic engineering, a MSc in Organisational Development, a PhD in Computer Science and an MBA.

Panellist: Dr. Anthea Seles received her doctorate from University College London (2016) and is currently the Digital Records and Transfer Manager at The National Archives (TNA), UK. Her doctoral thesis examined the applicability of Trusted Digital Repository standards in an East African context, which was the Digital Preservation Coalition Winner 2016 for the most distinguished student research in digital preservation. Dr. Seles has worked as a consultant and archivist internationally. She has extensively presented and spoken about practical digital preservation and digital data integrity for accountability and transparency.

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