

The KeepIt Project

Kultur, eCrystals, EdShare (and NECTAR) - Preserve It!

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Abstract. KeepIt! A JISC project to enable a diverse range of digital content presented by institutional repositories - research papers, science data, arts, teaching materials and theses - to be managed effectively today, tomorrow and beyond. KeepIt is looking at bridging the gap between the preservation community and people responsible for live repositories. The project is focused in two key areas; training about digital preservation and the relation to the repository community and the actual development and implementation of preservation tools in live repositories. In this talk we present an outline of the project, key areas of focus and an overview of some of the tools already available which can be utilised to enable digital preservation in an EPrints repository. We also take a look at the partner repositories which show the diversity of the project in preserving more than just simple text based publications.

Digital preservation is essentially planning and implementing data management requirements for the longer term. Repositories are entrusted by their institutions to manage their digital outputs, so data management is clearly a core activity, but extending that to longer term requirements has not happened yet on a wide scale. The types of outputs being produced across institutions that might be managed in an institutional repository (IR) include research papers, science data, arts, teaching materials and theses. Each presents a different challenge to digital preservation practices if these materials are to be effectively managed for longer-term access and use.

There are various preservation tools and services but little awareness or uptake by repositories, perhaps because these are too complex and potentially costly. These activities have typically been presented to repositories as additional tasks rather than as integral to their current activities. The tools and the documentation have not usually been designed for these repositories. The KeepIt project is about closing that gap between repositories and emerging preservation tools and services. It will do this by enhancing a series of distinctive exemplar repositories, and will involve the managers of each liaising with specialists on the development of preservation strategy, policy and services for repositories. This team approach is essential to foster the emergence of repository preservation culture and services.