Identifying Web Resource Preservation Issues

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What's on your web?

- Current information about institution
- Outputs of activities:
  - Administrative
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Projects
- Library and information resources (catalogues and full text, e.g. IRs)
- Teaching and study resources (usually in VLE)
- Assessment/examination systems
- Intranet systems: accounts, staff and students
- Blogs
- Wikis
Are they only on the web?

- Resources created directly through web interface (CMS, blog, wiki) where the web representation is the only significant presentation of it, and usually the only ready way to access it.

- Resources that exist elsewhere and the web delivers one view of it.

- Interactive web resources, from course-booking to blog-commenting.
Things we need to know

- Who owns it?
- What is it for?
- Where is it?
Some issues: General

- The **sheer quantity and variety** of resources on the web potentially needing preservation.

- The **frequency of change**, because of the ease with which web sites and pages can be updated.

- The **scale of change** possible *at a stroke*, for example in an institution-wide website redesign.
Some issues: Technological

- Shifting resources: changing URLs within a site
- Vanishing domains and subdomains
- Database-driven and "deep" websites
- Streaming and multimedia resources
- Third-party hosting
- Personalisation
- How to provide access to "archived" resources?
Some issues: Organisational

• Ownership and responsibility for web resources
• Ensuring integrity and quality of resources
• Selecting resources for preservation
• Resourcing preservation activities
Some issues: Content Management Systems (CMS)

- Editing: centralised or devolved?
- Version control and change logging?
- Rollback/reversion?
- Link format
- Application lifespan: are there migration/export options?
Some issues: Web 2.0

1. Third-party services
2. Collaborative and social
3. Aggregation and personalisation
4. Google
Is that it?

Please continue help us identify and fill in the gaps…

Advice on how to approach these issues follows after the break.