UNESCO PERSIST

results and challenges for UNESCO's initiative for the preservation of digital documentary heritage

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Archivos, Ciudadanía e Interculturalismo
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ABOUT IFLA

- **Global Voice** of the Library and Information Profession
- **>1400** Members (Associations, Institutions, Individuals), from **142** Countries
  - HQ in the Hague, The Netherlands
- **44** Thematic Sections, **15** Special Interest Groups
- **3** Regional Offices – Argentina, South Africa, Singapore, 4 Language Centres – Senegal, Argentina, Egypt, Russia
- Motivated by the belief that **free and effective access to information** builds **stronger, fairer and more participatory societies**

IFLA'S OBJECTIVES

- Support the profession to improve services and practices
- Advocate for libraries and their users in international fora (copyright, cultural heritage, freedom of access to information, Internet governance)
- Support library associations to maximise effectiveness

- **Current Priority**: develop a Global Vision of a United Library Field

Number of people—7 Billion
Number of fish--??
Number of Internet users—3 Billion
Amount of data--??

"Documentary heritage is an open door to the world's rich cultural heritage and the diversity that surrounds us. But that heritage is fragile, in both tangible and intangible forms. Together we must protect it."
Irina Bokova, Vancouver, 2012

https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/dis/latest-news/newsarticle/title-121923-en.html

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UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PRESERVATION

- Digital documentary heritage is the primary means of knowledge creation and expression;
- We have not yet found sustainable economic solutions to achieve "continuity of content";
- Preservation is a shared responsibility between public and private sectors;
- Main parties are Governments, Memory Institutions and the ICT Industry;
- UNESCO has the convening power to bring these three parties to the table.

Platform to Enhance the Sustainability of the Information Society Transglobally (PERSIST)

http://ow.ly/ywZRt

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Memory of the World

The UNESCO/PERSIST Guidelines for the selection of digital heritage for long-term preservation

By the UNESCO/PERSIST Content Task Force

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Endorsed by: ica, IFLA, ICOM international council of museums

THERE'S PLENTY GOING ON!

- an active international Digital Preservation Research and Development Community
- conferences, forums and workshops
- research and development in institutions, universities, ICT Industry
- diagnostic tools, emulators, data migration tools, virtual machines and technical registries
- digital preservation resources for Archives, Libraries and other memory institutions

RECOMMENDATION ON DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

- adopted at the 38th General Conference, November 2015
- Mandate for Memory of the World programme to coordinate a global response
- a collaborative framework for the world's memory institutions

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WHERE CAN PERSIST ADD VALUE?

Need to avoid duplication

- No desire to re-invent capabilities
- Not a 'competitive' initiative

Value for Practitioners

- Gather requirements of Memory Institutions in the field of digital heritage
- Evaluate and accredit tools and services
- Maintain the availability of legacy software to retain authenticity of digital content

Value for Providers and Enablers

- Strategic direction for the research and development community
- Endorsement and support for research activity
- Partnership opportunities for the Open Source community and ICT Industry

PERSIST OBJECTIVES

mission develop effective policies, strategies, and practices for the preservation and sustained use of digital artefacts

vision the World's Digital Heritage is accessible to future generations, without barriers, such that they will be able to experience and learn from digital artefacts that represent achievements of humanity

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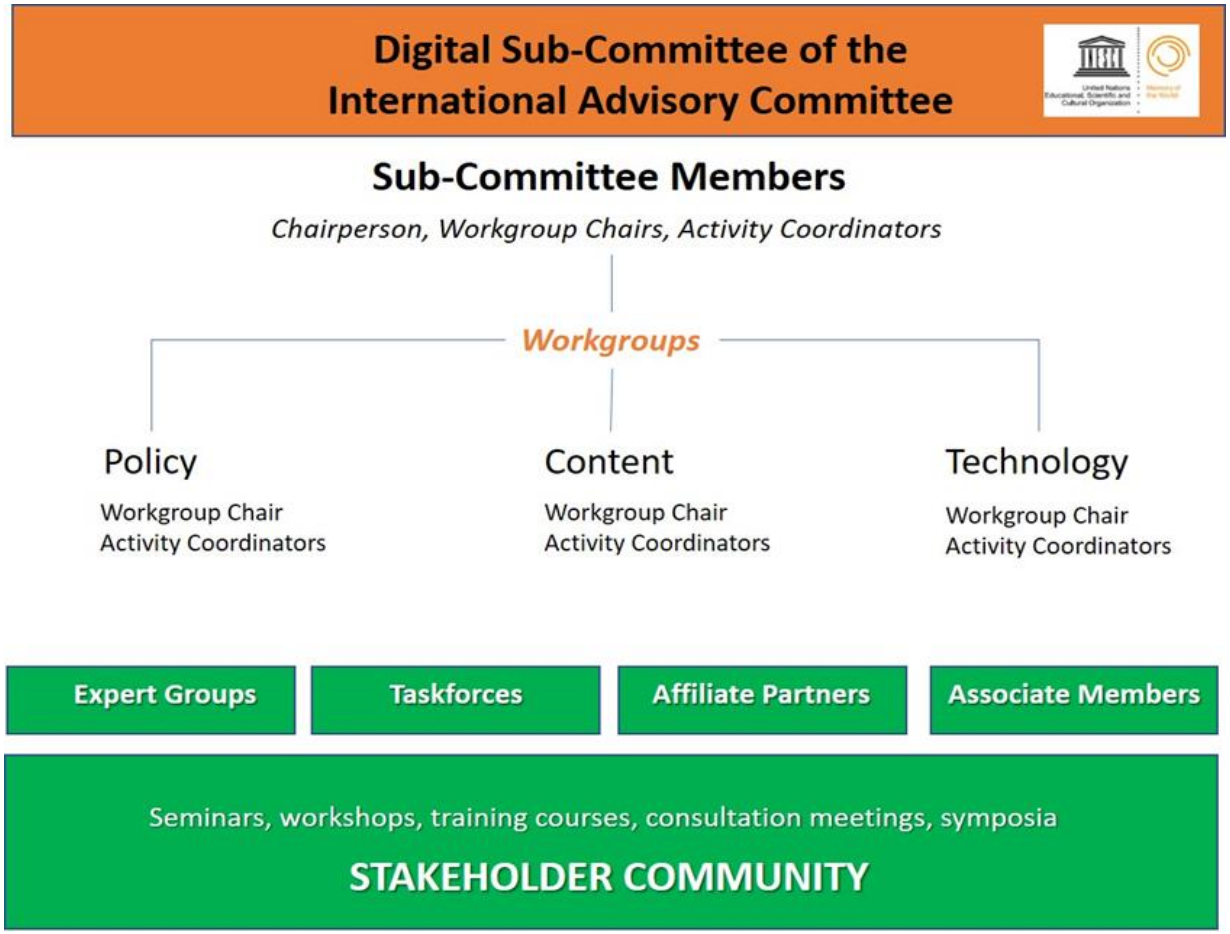
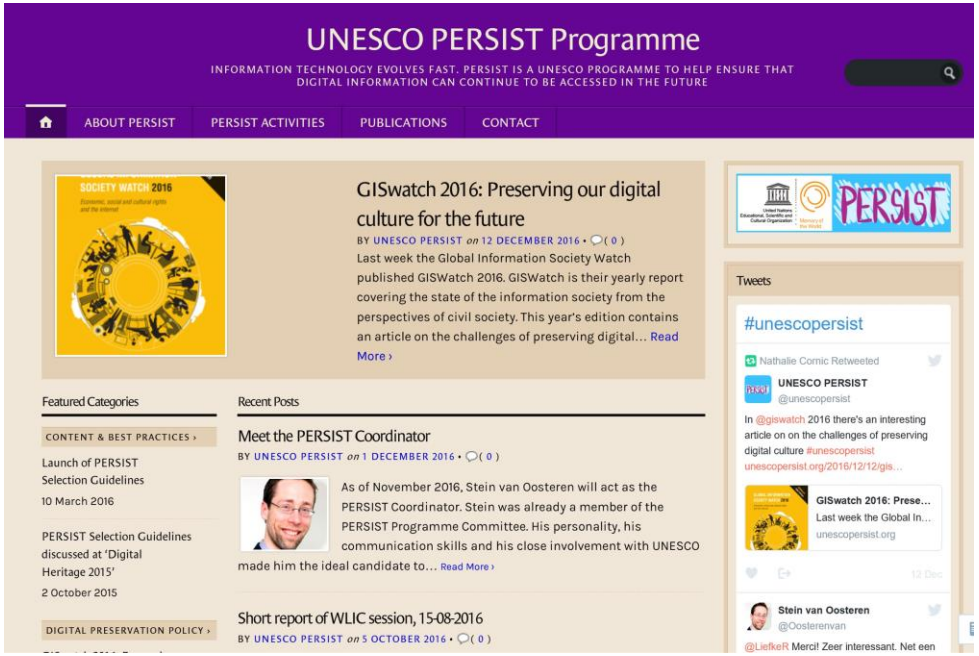
PROPOSED UNESCO GOVERNANCE



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- UNESCOPERSIST.org is the principal information portal
- Working closely with key stakeholders & focal point for initiatives
- Engagement with the Community
- #UNESCOPERSIST



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CHALLENGES

Limited people power

Lack of sustainable funding

ICT Industry must be at the table

Change of mindset is needed

Governance

Relationship to UNESCO

THANK YOU

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