

Advocacy paper – Final version of the Roadmap *Based on the Handbook*

Target: e-infrastructures

Digital preservation is a main stake for DCH institutions: they produce a large volume of data which needs to be safely stored, permanently accessed and easily re-used over time by different end users.

However, even if it has been identified as a key issue for DCH, there is a lack of best practices and common approaches. Member states are developing and implementing national preservation strategies, but there are many commonalities which could be addressed at European level.

Indeed, the DCH-RP project was designed to answer these needs, and to develop a roadmap to implement a federated preservation infrastructure for DCH, dedicated to support the application of open science in the arts and the humanities.

Collaborations between e-infrastructures and “hard science” are demonstrating that high-speed connections, shared computing and storage research resources, sophisticated authentication and authorisation mechanisms can advance the research capabilities. The DCH sector represents a strong area of investment for e-infrastructures, as other scientific domains already are.

Stakes:

- To make digital cultural heritage accessible and usable long term
- To contribute to the research capacities development of the DCH sector

A first European Roadmap for digital preservation

Roadmaps are useful instruments to present the scope and coverage of an e-infrastructure. They are also frequently used within projects and institutions in the digital preservation domain. There is no roadmap on digital cultural heritage preservation.

The DCH-RP project Roadmap aim is to provide a practical instrument to decision makers from all DCH community – policy makers, cultural institutions, e-Infrastructure providers.

It offers:

- An unique European overview of the challenges, the main obstacles, the needs regarding digital preservation
- Examples of existing solutions
- Recommendations for each target group

It provides a Roadmap with short term to long-term perspectives based on major and connected steps.

What are the main components of the Roadmap?

A need of agreement on shared basic consideration

The first step for the development and the sustainability of the Roadmap is the agreement / shared conviction of all stakeholders on 3 basic points:

- A vision of distributed digital preservation architecture
- Challenges to target
- The need of an explorative approach

Four Major areas to concentrate on

In order to provide a useful instrument both to all stakeholders, 4 majors areas have been identified as priorities:

- Harmonisation of data storage and preservation
- Improved interoperability
- Establishment of conditions for cross-sector integration
- Governance models for infrastructure integration

Benefits of using e-infrastructures for preservation

- Existing e-infrastructures for research and academia (NREN, NGI and other data infrastructures) could be efficient channels for the delivery of advanced services to be used by the DCH sector in the field of digital preservation. Therefore, alliances, closer collaborations and synergies should be established or strengthened between DCH and the e-infrastructures.
- Common policies, processes and protocols can be established to allow DCH to access e-infrastructures. However, the services have to be customised, and the market for distributed digital preservation is still in its infancy

Establish a win-win cooperation between DCH and e-infrastructures actors

- By generating larger and larger amount of data, DCH sector is facing similar problems and challenges than “hard sciences”: solutions developed in other areas should be also exploited for DCH.
- By working with the DCH sector, e-infrastructure providers could enlarge their scope of action, serving another large community of users, reinforcing their social relevance and advocating for political and financial support

Services to address

6 main services to be provided by e-infrastructure for DCH preservation have been identified:

- Ingestion
- Storage
- Active digital preservation
- Access
- Organisational issues

- Service architecture

Recommendations for e-infrastructure providers

- Need for a service-oriented approach: the DCH sector has low technical skills and needs to be supported in the understanding of how to use infrastructure facilities
- DCH Sector standards need to be known by e-infrastructure providers
- Access is key: it should be open but also controlled to guarantee the safety and protection of cultural data

The Roadmap perspectives

The Roadmap perspective is based on strategic and operational steps , with a time frame with short-term (2014-2015) to medium and long term perspectives (2016-2018 +) in order to be adaptable to all institutions

Short term 2014-2015

- Step 1: agreement on shared basic consideration by stakeholders : on a vision, challenges to target, on the need of exploration
- Step 2: actions on the 4 main areas of the Roadmap
- Step 3: choose services to address according to functional areas, services types and objects, type of architecture, level of maturity, license conditions

Mid term (2016-2017)

- Step 1: summarize priorities decisions and considerations taken during the short time period into a *Preservation as a Service (Praas)*
- Step 2: take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap
- Step 3: plan for work during the long-term stage

Long term (2018 and beyond)

Take further actions in the identified 4 major areas of the Roadmap

Want to know more?

- On line:

- DCH-RP website: www.dch-rp.eu
- Showcase on Digitalmeetsculture.net : www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp
- Handbook "A ROADMAP FOR PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONTENT": www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/dch-rp/dch-rp-roadmap-for-preservation

- Events :

- 2nd of October 2014: The Hague (The Netherlands): SUCCEED technical workshop on interoperability of digitisation platforms;
- 6th-10th of October 2014: Frankfurt (Germany) : Frankfurt Book Fair 2014;
- 10th-12th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : e-IRG workshop (10/11/2014) and delegates meeting (11/11/2014) ;
- 13th-14th of November 2014: Rome (Italy) : Event of the Italian EU Presidency;
- 17th-18th of November 2014: London (UK) : DPC and 4C conference 'Investing in Opportunity: Policy Practice and Planning for a Sustainable Digital Future';
- 16th-21st of November 2014: New Orleans (USA) : Supercomputing Conference 2014;
- 28th of November 2014: Paris (France) : SUCCEED Final Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Rome (Italy) : National Aggregators' Conference;
- 10th-11th of December 2014: Muscat (Oman) : 4th International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE 2014;
- 17th of December 2014: Guwahati (India) : CHAIN-REDS Workshop at the NKN Conference.