

# Developing a National Preservation Policy: Experiences in Germany

International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects
15 - 16 September 2005 in Goettingen, Germany

Heike Neuroth
Goettingen State and
University Library (SUB)
neuroth@mail.sub.unigoettingen.de

Stefan Strathmann Goettingen State and University Library (SUB) strathmann@.sub.unigoettingen.de



#### **Outline**

- The nestor Project Background
- The nestor Project Activities
- nestor Activities for a National Preservation Policy
- First Results



#### The nestor Project

- Inestor Network of Expertise in Long-Term Storage of Digital Resources
- nestor is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- **→ The funding amounts to approx. 800,000 EUR**
- **Project duration: June 2003 until May 2006** →



#### The nestor Partners

- ▶ Die Deutsche Bibliothek
- Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (Goettingen State and University Library)
- Computer and Media Services of Humboldt-University, Berlin
- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Bavarian State Library)
- Institut für Museumskunde (Institute for Museum Information)
- Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns (Bavarian State Archive – Head Office)
- ▶ Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archive) (since 2005)



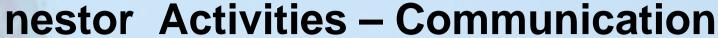
## Tasks of the nestor Project

- make expertise and information available
- facilitate cooperation
- present models
- promote standards
- raise awareness
- establish a durable organization
- ð ...



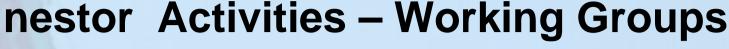
#### nestor Activities - Information

- Subject Gateway
- Who Where What
- News
- Calendar
- Project
- Newsletter





- Mailing Lists
- Workshops
- Workspace
  - WG Repositories
  - **WG** Multimedia
  - ð ...





#### **Active Working Groups:**

- WG Trusted Repositories Certification
- WG Multimedia

#### **Planned Working Groups:**

- National Preservation Policy
- Curation of Scientific Raw Data
- ð ...



#### nestor Activities - Expert Reports

#### **Published Expert Reports:**

- Digital Preservation and Law
- Digitisation and Preservation in the museum sector
- A comparison of archiving systems

#### **Planned Expert Reports:**

- Electronic Journals
- Perspectives of long-term preservation of multimedia objects
- Study about the curation of scientific raw data
- ð ...



nestor wants to strengthen the discussion about a national Preservation Policy by:

- Commissioning an expert report on the development of a description profile for a national Preservation Policy (to be published soon)
- Preparing a report on collecting guidelines and selection criteria (to be published soon)
- Organising Workshops: e.g. Workshop on a national Preservation Strategy (June 2004), iPRES conference (September 2005)
- Setting up a working group on policy and selection issues (soon after the iPRES conference)



# **Preservation Policy**

- Digital Preservation is, on the one hand, a technical issue – on the other hand it is foremost a national and international organisational and political challenge!
- → A Preservation Policy is the declared intention to preserve the digital heritage!



# **National Preservation Policy**

- What is to be preserved?
- Why shall the objects be preserved?
- How shall the objects be accessed in the future?
- Who is responsible for the preservation?
- How long shall the objects be preserved?
- **>** ...



# General Framework set by a National Preservation Policy

- The legal background must be defined!
- The responsibilities must be identified!
- Adequate and durable financing must be provided!

### Legal Background



- Intellectual property rights must be adjusted. Today some preservation workflows can be illegal, because objects are copied and altered during the preservation process.
- It must be legal to bypass Digital Rights Management Systems (DRMS) for preservation purposes.

P ...

## Responsibilities



- ▶ Because of the federal structure of Germany, there is a need for a precise arrangement between the responsibilities of the Federal Government and of the Federal States to achieve a compatible structure.
- Is it possible to adopt the responsibilities from the analog to the digital matters, as it is presumed by many institutions? Or do we face a process of concentration?

**>** ...

# **Financing**



- Digital Preservation is urgent, risky and expensive
- A suitable and durable funding of the digital preservation must be guaranteed
- ➤ The amount of funds needed for preservation depends on the present will and future needs (indexing, access, rendering, ...)



### Expert Report: Development of a Description Profile for a National Preservation Policy

- Contractor: Institute for Science Networking Oldenburg GmbH
- Authors: Eberhard R. Hilf and Thomas Severiens
- Initially intended as a statistical evaluation of a survey, later performed in an inductive, synoptic and argumentative manner
- To be published in fall/winter 2005



## **Expert Report: Recommendations I**

- Digital Preservation has to preserve the functionality and the content of the resources as complete as possible
- Digital Preservation needs national and international redundancy
- Open formats, regular migration, well trained staff and active participation in international developments are essential for long-term readability



#### **Expert Report: Recommendations II**

- Selection must be made on the basis of content and potential impact – independent of distribution and publication channels
- A preservation law is necessary
- Access must be durable, comfortable and open (exception: confidential or sensitive data)



# Expert Report: Structural Recommendations

- Formany needs a distributed and at the same time integrative preservation architecture which is based on division of labour. This architecture should be the result of a broad discussion between all parties involved.
- ▶ Because of the complex distribution of responsibilities between the involved ministries on Federal Government level as well as on Federal States level, the expert report pleads for a federal digital preservation law.



# Thank you very much for your attention! Questions, comments ...?