RLG DigiNews

Recent issues of the Research Libraries Group's electronic publication "RLG DigiNews" contain articles about various aspects of digital conversion.


All these articles are available at http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews/.

IFLA survey on digitization

The Core Programmes for Preservation and Conservation (PAC) and Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), have completed a survey on digitization and preservation for UNESCO's Memory of the World Program (MOW).

In 1998, IFLA distributed questionnaires to numerous national libraries to identify their digitized collections. The results of the survey and analysis of the responses are now available in a print-on-paper report titled "IFLA/UNESCO Survey on Digitization and Preservation." The ultimate goal is the creation of a digital database located on the UNESCO Web site, which would include citations and links to the surveyed collections.

The survey report is available free-of-charge from the IFLA Offices for UAP and Interlending, c/o The British Library, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ United Kingdom; fax: +44 1937 546478; e-mail: richard.ebdon@bl.uk.

NPO digital publications available

The National Preservation Office at the British Library has mounted texts of selected papers from the September 1998 conference, "Guidelines for Digital Imaging." This conference was a joint effort of the NPO and the U.S.-based Research Libraries Group. Available papers include "Guidelines Versus Guidance for Digital Imaging: The Opportunity Before Us" by Anne Kenney of Cornell University; "Selection Guidelines for Preservation" by Janet Gertz of Columbia University; "Guidance for Selecting Materials for Digitalisation" by Paul Ayris of University College London; "Preparation of Materials for Digitization" by Ann Swartzell of Harvard University; "Protecting the Physical Form" by John McIntyre of the National Library of Scotland; and "Guidelines for Image Capture" by Stephen Chapman of Harvard University. The URL for these papers is http://www.bl.uk/services/preservation/confpapers.html.

The NPO has also published an 80-page book titled Digital Culture: Maximising the Nation's Investment. Edited by Mary Feeney, this book reviews many aspects related to preservation of digital materials.

It considers the responsibilities of stakeholders from researchers through archivists, the life cycle of materials, technological decisions, and costs for various types of digital documents and records. These considerations are based on seven research papers, which can be found at http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/services/papers/bl/. The book is available only in print-on-paper from the NPO.

For more information or print copies, contact the National Preservation Office, the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, United Kingdom; phone: +44 20 7412 76 12; fax: +44 20 7412 77 96; e-mail: npo@bl.uk.

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