

# Lighting the way

Ensuring the survival of news archives into the future

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# The New Dark Ages?

- Digital media are among the most fragile formats ever created
- Longevity is inversely proportional to data density
- The research agenda is still being established
- The 1990s are 'gone'

# The New Dark Ages?

## ■ Do we care?

- Serving future historians is not our mandate
- Value of material drops after 90 days
- Digitization is all about access: reuse, outside sales, sharing with other business units
- Media companies are bottom-line oriented

# The New Dark Ages?

## ■ Yes, but ...

- Similarities with other cultural heritage institutions—like it or not
- Newspapers have unique collections
- Material potentially has enduring social, political, cultural, literary, artistic value
- The older it gets, the more valuable it is
- Invaluable to present and future historians

# The New Dark Ages?

- No standards, protocols, models ...
- ... While our data is growing more complex
- No “originals” to go back to
- To digitize is not to preserve—at least not today
- Do you know where your 1990s are?

# Dawn of Enlightenment?

## ■ International initiatives

- Library of Congress, OCLC, NARA, major universities, others
- U.K. Europe, Canada, Australia
- Migration, emulation, encapsulation, XML decomposition; normalization, archaeology
- Metadata schemas
- Schema, format registries
- Trusted third-party repositories

# Rocket science: OAIS



**Open Archive Information System  
Reference Model**

# Night and day

- Archives
- Few or no standards
- Minimal metadata
- Simplistic data structures
- Focus on print product
- Don't annoy users
- DAM Systems
- Robust standards
- Lots of schemas
- Nested schemas
- Holistic view of asset cycle
- Institutional discipline

# Night and day

- Flexible systems
- Lots of software
- ‘Keep’ ‘everything’ ‘forever’
- Master of your data
- Information wants to be free
- Rigid workflows, standards, best practices
- Controlled suites
- Selectivity, archival appraisal
- Trusted repositories
- Information hates to be free

# Night and day

- Research budget
- Informal acquisition
- Flexibility, tweaking
- Latest and greatest
- Native formats
- Copyright tools
- Hardware upgrades
- Creativity
- Preservation budget
- Well-defined policy
- Standards, controls
- Stable platforms
- Normalized formats
- Transparent code
- Hardware museums
- Discipline

# Squinting ahead

- Long-term costs: too big, too complex, too expensive
- D-Space (MIT) model
- Defined levels of supported formats
- Trusted repositories, non- and for-profit datakeepers
- Escrowed code
- Emulation houses

# Squinting ahead

- Education and awareness
- IT department buy-in
- Vendor buy-in
- Emerging standards
- Accession policies
- Problematic formats
- Metadata and migration strategies

# PREMIS

- Preservation Metadata Implementation Strategies
- Grew out of OAIS work: LC and OCLC
- Survey of compliance
- News subset?
  - Focus group
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