Collaboration to Clarify the Cost of Curation

4C/DPC Conference on 17th/18th November 2014 at

The Wellcome Trust Centre, London, UK

Conference Report

Project funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	✓
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Version History

Version	Date	Changed pages / reason	Modified by
0.01	14 January 2015	First draft	KH
0.02	14 January 2015	Review and comments	
1.00	15 Jan 2015	Finalised version	KH

Attendees

A complete list of attendees is provided in the attachment to this document.
From the 4C project in attendance were:

Kevin Ashley, DCC

Ingrid Dillo, DANS

Luis Faria, KEEPS

Miguel Ferreira, KEEPS

Magdalena Getler, DCC

Neil Grindley, Jisc

Katarina Haage, DNB

Kathrine Hougaard Edsen Johansen, DANN

Ulla Bogvad Kejser, KBDK

William Kilbride, DPC

Hervé L'Hours, UEssex

Sarah Middleton, DPC

Diogo Proença, INESC-ID

Raivo Ruusalepp, NLE

Diana Sisu, DCC

Paul Stokes, Jisc

Stephan Strodl, SBA

Alex Thirifays, DNA

David Wang, SBA

Conference planning

DOW Definition: 'The final project conference will showcase the draft project findings, disseminate messages, and try to consolidate and sustain the emerging network and community that will have been defined.'

The 4C Conference 'Investing in Opportunity: Policy Practice and Planning for a Sustainable Digital Future' was held as a joint event together with the DPC Award. The planning started early in January 2014 and in the Conference Committee were:

Carol Jackson, DPC

William Kibride, DPC

Sarah Middleton DPC

Neil Grindley, Jisc

Paul Stokes, Jisc

Katarina Haage, DNB

Maureen Pennock, British Library

It was agreed on early that DPC helped organising the event to connect the DPC Awards to it. This had positive effects for both parties; DPC's large audience and 4C's international outreach could reinforce each other. The venue was chosen in the UK partly because all the major conferences were out of reach to a UK audience that year (IDCC in SF, iPRES in Melbourne etc.) and mainly to ensure make the travelling convenient for all participants.

The full final programme is also provided in the Conference Information Pack attached.

The introduction and promotional text which was used for the invitations is shown below. Invitations have been sent to all stakeholders and distributed via the various mailing lists, communicated through newsletters and news posts also from partner projects and initiatives and via Twitter.

'Investing in Opportunity:

Policy Practice and Planning for a Sustainable Digital Future'

Introduction

The 4C (Collaboration to Clarify the Costs of Curation) Project and the DPC (Digital

Preservation Coalition) welcome you to a two day conference exploring the long term value and sustainability of digital objects.

The 4C Project is an EC-funded initiative that is helping organisations across Europe to invest more effectively in digital curation and preservation. Research in digital preservation and curation has tended to emphasize the cost and complexity of the task in hand. 4C reminds us that the point of this investment is to realise a benefit, so our research must encompass related concepts such as 'risk', 'value', 'quality' and 'sustainability'. In this major international conference the project will present its major findings and invite a distinguished panel of experts to review and consider the implications of their work.

Working jointly with the membership of the DPC, the conference will compare the strategic economic aspirations of funders and policy makers against the practical experience of digital preservation, including perspectives from practitioners, vendors and users of digital preservation services. It will identify emerging best practice and will provide a forum for needs and practical requirements to be articulated.

Participants will be invited to review key 4C Project deliverables, considering the implications of these resources and providing the opportunity to shape these to suit community needs before they are submitted to the European Commission. In particular participants will have a final chance to influence the soon to be published Digital Curation Roadmap. The conference coincides with a ceremony at which the biennial Digital Preservation Awards will be presented.

Conference proceedings

The booked venue reached full capacity with 150 attendees which represented a broad range of our stakeholder spectrum; predominantly universities, libraries and archives, but also banks, charities, funders and lots of vendors.

Since the conference was held in the UK the majority of these stakeholders was always likely to be from the UK, but (as well as the project partner countries) we also saw delegates from:

- Netherlands
- Finland,
- US,
- Ireland,
- Kingdom of Saud Arabia,
- Switzerland

The programme and content fulfilled the brief in terms of 'showcasing project findings' as well as the work the 4C Project has undertaken. Presentations were given on:

- Roadmap
- ESRM
- CCM
- CCEx
- With discussions on Trust & Certification and Risk recurrent throughout the two days

In terms of disseminating messages delegates heard during the two days:

- The message of 'sustainability' very strongly throughout all sessions
- The need for the community to take ownership of the subject matter
- …To collaborate
- And to take the 4C project's work forward

In terms of addressing the action to try to consolidate and sustain the emerging network and community the following actions can be formulated:

- There was a strong community presence
- The 4C Project has contact details for all delegates through the registration process
- All contacts have been entered into the Project CRM for ongoing contact
- The project will continue to communicate with them until the end of the project

Feedback

The project team received lots of positive, useful feedback from those who attended, particularly in the discussion sessions of the two days, as well as over coffee and in the post-conference feedback received which was asked for through feedback forms and also online feedback.

Generally:

- Delegates thought the conference was very useful and worthwhile
- The subject matter was appropriate and well presented
- There was a good range of speakers
- The conference provided a thoughtfully presented programme and sets of arguments – many especially liked the 'theme' of digital curation costs without it being too Economics-heavy

- The conference was a great opportunity for the community to get together and discuss this subject
- The keynote speaker on day two, David Rosenthal was a favourite speaker – presenting a very pertinent subject for a lot of people.

What did we learn?

Specifically the project learnt that people still want to know 'how much is it going to cost?'. Ron Dekker told the conference there was no more money, David Rosenthal told delegates that volumes would rise but the cost of curation was getting cheaper, AV Preserve told the audience about the 'Cost of Inaction' – different standpoints with different resulting actions.

In terms of the 4C outputs that were presented the following conclusions may be drawn:

Roadmap

- Generally delegates welcomed the report
- The question of timing arose several times: some said 5 years was unrealistic, others said 5 years is too long a lead-time
- Some of the roadmap messages are more pertinent for particular stakeholder groups – the project has taken an action to disseminate the messages more widely still, in a more targeted and digestible format

CCM/ESRM

- Feedback suggested that the session was too short to present two complex models back to back
- There was not enough detail in the presentations given the time constraints
- There is still some confusion about purpose and application? – an action for the project is suggested use cases for each, or explanatory notes at entry point?

CCEx

- Invited respondents told the project team about the levels of granularity within the tool: for some it was too great, some not enough
- A FAQ section was suggested with gave more detail on why the CCEx is the way it is
- Others told the project that it was a useful tool for managers' due diligence and for 'verifying' costs
- Alex's Thirifays has written a blog outlining and clarifying more details on this topic.

Certification and standards

- This subject generated a great deal of discussion
- There were some conflicting views/opinions – still seems to be an area not fully understood.
- David Rosenthal began his paper from the standpoint of a 'victim of certification' but conceded there were benefits…
- The project team may incorporate some signposting into the Roadmap to address what's available and how to get involved in a standards review?

Vendors

- The conference received a lot of input from Preservica (all were invited – Preservica was the only vendor to accept) so the project and conference is clear on their opinions. We have previously heard from Matthew Addis in his blog…but not so much from others.
- Action to set up a vendors focus group in January with an emphasis on product alignment to investigate this further.
- Conference heard that vendors are keen to be involved.

In Summary, the 4C/DPC Conference was a very worthwhile event for the project team and was very well received by all delegates.

Sustainability

All conference presentations and workshop presentations as well as notes from the sessions with live note taking are available online on the 4C website under Community Resources – Investing in Opportunity Conference: http://4cproject.eu/community-resources/investing-in-opportunity-conference

For those who could not attend a webcast was established and the recordings can be found online under: http://www.dpconline.org/events/webcast4canddpa2014

Appendix – Conference Information Pack

141105 Programme for Conf Pack_FINAL.pdf