Digitisation Leadership Event #DLE23
31 March 2023

#DLE23 Programme

- Welcome from Josie Fraser, Head of Digital Policy, National Lottery Heritage Fund

- Government Digital Priorities Panel

- [Digitisation Planner](#) Launch, Dr Mathilde Pavis

- Funder Digital Priorities Panel

- [Digitisation on a Budget Guide](#) Launch, Dr Andrea Wallace

- Small and Volunteer-Led Organisations Digital Priorities Panel

Welcome – Josie Fraser

As the largest funder for the UK's heritage, our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future.

Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on.

Over the life of our new strategy, Heritage 2033, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players.

Introduction – Josie Fraser

Digital Skills for Heritage is our ambitious £4.2Million, four year initiative to raise digital capability across the UK sector.

We require the digital resources we fund to be available, accessible and open.

Our definition: "Digitisation is not a singular process, but a set of stages, which in turn are often part of a wider programme. At its core, digitisation is a combination of releasing digital data about collections and creating digital representations of analogue or physical objects."

Digitisation Priorities for Government #DLE23

Josie Fraser, National Lottery Heritage Fund

Recommended priority?

Citizen Heritage: supporting community and volunteer led digitisation.

Important because...

Our national digital records should represent UK people and histories. Organisations and individuals that could help us address current gaps in representation may lack resources.

Benefit to the UK?

Strategically prioritising 'citizen heritage', including routes to contribute to national initiatives, would unlock knowledge and increase the value and impact of investment.

Valerie Johnson, The National Archives

Recommended priority?

Discoverability: cataloguing and metadata.

Important because...

Without it, you can't find anything! And if you can't do that, then you can't search, link, explore, discover and compute over digitised material.

Benefit to the UK?

An explosion of potential opportunities!

George Oates, Flickr Foundation

Recommended priority?

Digital Perpetuity: Develop very long-term plan for durable digital heritage preservation

Important because...

How bad would it be if our only digital copies are lost?

Benefit to the UK?

Robustly preserved & accessible digital materials, and new leadership in generous international practice.

Arike Oke, British Film Institute

Recommended priority?

Remove Barriers for Access and Innovation: Enabling communities and creatives to use digitised collections by refreshing copyright for the digital age.

Important because...

The ways that society and industry interact digitally has moved at a far faster pace than legislation allowing access to and use of cultural collections.

Benefit to the UK?

Cultural institutions will be able to support innovation and creativity through their digitised heritage collections

Vincent Smith, Natural History Museum

Recommended priority?

The development of thematic digital centres of excellence.

Important because...

Because thematic communities and institutions provide authenticity, trust & sustainability.

Benefit to the UK?

The model works for all domains, at all scales, building on UK strengths and capabilities

Priorities for government poll results

Citizen Heritage: supporting community and volunteer led digitisation — 3.6

Discoverability: cataloguing and metadata — 4.6

Digital Perpetuity: long-term plan for durable digital heritage preservation — 4.2

Removing barriers for access & innovation: refreshing copyright for the digital age — 3.9

Developing thematic centres of excellence — 3.1

Not a priority — Essential

Do you/your organisation have additional digitisation priorities for government?

57 Answers submitted (listed in slide comments)

CLIMATE - Climate sensitive data centres; Carbon considerate infrastructures; Recyclable hardware; be sustainable

PEOPLE - Support smaller organisations; create capacity - shared digital champions for the sector; listen to requests from the ground; be human centred; be accessible; develop skills for workforce and volunteers;

INTELLECTUAL - digital copyright update to remove obstacles; long-term preservation and preservation of at risk formats; formal preservation and recognition of digital data collections; ethical frameworks for reuse of data

FINANCIAL - investment to innovate; long-term funding and a regional and national strategy

Digitisation Project Planner
Dr Mathilde Pavis #DLE23

Introducing the Digitisation Project Planner

What is it?

Two planning worksheets, a guide to completing the worksheets, and examples of completed templates. The planner is a tool designed to help people turn their digitisation idea into a concrete plan and to later transfer that project into a well-thought-out funding application. It includes questions, prompts and tips for project staff to consider before they start digitising.

Who is the planner for?

Anyone wanting to do a digitisation project. The planner can be used for any digitisation project regardless of size, source materials or type of digitisation involved. It covers questions, prompts and tips for project staff to consider before they start digitising and works for organisations and institutions of any size.

Digitisation Priorities for Funders #DLE23

David Saywell, Art UK

Recommended priority?

Shared sustainability: think beyond short-term individual projects, focus instead on sustainable digital infrastructures shared between multiple institutions.

Important because...

More strategic way of working, a quintessential levelling up tool - more economical and efficient for organisations

Benefit to funders?

More bang for funders buck via infrastructures over individual projects, greater collaboration delivers other community benefits and amplifies levelling up.

Aruna Bhaugeerutty, Ashmolean Museum

Recommended priority?

Data planning: to require clear data management plans from applicants to ensure everyone is feeding into a shared ecosystem for digital collections.

Important because...

Sound data governance and management will ensure long-term digital access, reuse and preservation.

Benefit to funders?

Funders will be encouraging a sustainable approach to the creation of and access to the national collection, thereby maximising the impact and legacy of their funding.

Anasuya Sengupta, Whose Knowledge?

Recommended priority?

Community expertise: support long term, general support funding of community-led and designed digital/digitisation efforts from the minoritised majority.

Important because...

Most of our knowledge heritage is in communities, not mainstream institutions with huge, growing gap between embodied knowledges and what is expressed, accessed, and stewarded digitally.

Benefit to funders?

Prevent deep losses in and highly inequitable access to knowledge heritage. Funders can transform, not just tweak, the sector.

Ruchir Shah, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Recommended priority?

Promote open source approaches for funded initiatives

Important because...

Holds a lot of promise for increasing accountability, participation and transparency, which are essential to tackling the twin nature and climate crises in a digital world but currently underdeveloped and implications not thought through enough.
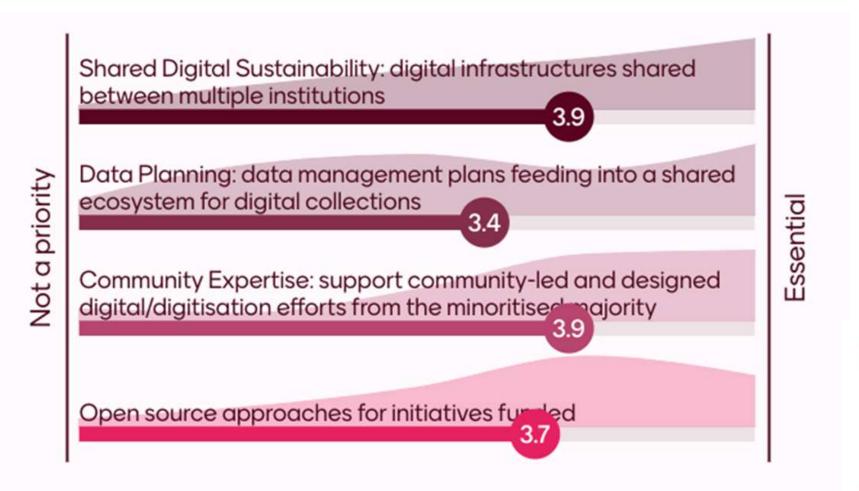
Benefit to funders?

Better impact and sustainability and trust in the initiatives they fund.

Priorities for funders poll results

Shared Digital Sustainability: digital infrastructures shared between multiple institutions — 3.9

Data Planning: data management plans feeding into a shared ecosystem for digital collections — 3.4

Community Expertise: support community-led and designed digital/digitisation efforts from the minoritised majority — 3.9

Open source approaches for initiatives funded — 3.7

(Axis: Not a priority → Essential)

Do you/your organisation have additional digitisation priorities for funders?

33 Answers submitted (listed in slide comments)

CLIMATE - Consider impact through hardware, software, power and storage

PEOPLE - Staffing for digital preservation projects; Building skills; continue professional development; build expertise

INTELLECTUAL - International collaboration; sharing knowledge and best practice between organisations of all sizes; open licensing so people can use what they help to fund; fund cataloguing to underpin metadata; break barriers between professionals and community

FINANCIAL - Long-term (not project based) funding; make funding processes easier; universal approach to funding, accessible to all backgrounds; pay people fairly; fund beyond the end of projects

Digitisation on a budget
Dr. Andrea Wallace #DLE23

Introducing 'Doing digitisation on a budget: A guide to low-cost digital projects'

What is it?

The guide provides an overview of low-cost digitisation, including steps, tips and ideas: Details on where costs arise and where trade-offs can be made, such as using equipment you already have, free image management software and free publication platforms; Links to free resources; Real strategies that have been tried-and-tested by others to spark creative thinking.

Who is the planner for?

Organisations wanting to carry out digitisation projects on a budget.

Digitisation Priorities for Small & Volunteer-Led Organisations #DLE23

Lucy Crompton-Reid, Wikimedia UK

Recommended priority?

Develop policies and practices for sharing digitised works and metadata on Wikimedia projects (Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and Wikidata).

Important because...

Engagement with heritage is vital, and as Wikipedia is in Top 10 most visited websites in the world, it is an easy route to enable access to and with your collections.

Benefit to small & volunteer-led organisations?

Openly licencing your content will significantly increase your organisation's reach, and ensure long term preservation and accessibility.

Rheinallt Ffoster-Jones, National Library of Wales

Recommended priority?

Training volunteers to develop understanding and skills to correctly tag and metadata digital assets, improving the awareness and confidence inclusive content.

Important because...

Long-term discoverability and accessibility is achieved through focus on wider, more diverse and inclusive audiences.

Benefit to small & volunteer-led organisations?

Skills and understanding reaches a higher level of metadata and tagging and aligns with overarching national and regional programs, such as the 'Anti-racism Action Plan' in Wales.

Kevin Gosling, Collections Trust

Recommended priority?

Don't go it alone: take advantage of sector-level infrastructure that can keep the results findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR).

Important because...

If you want your project's digital content to last, you need to park it with people who can look after it over the long term.

Benefit to small & volunteer-led organisations?

Digital preservation is hard. Let's make it one less thing to worry about, and turn single-use content into re-usable assets.

Janet Hancock, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

Recommended priority?

Digitisation dating: find your perfect partners - share core values but have different skills. Remember opposites attract.

Important because...

Working smart with partners who have complementary skill sets and resources creates better quality outcomes.

Benefit to small & volunteer-led organisations?

Mutual benefit. Improves the quality of proposal and the chance of funding approval. Widens networks, builds capacity, develops skills and grows confidence.

Abira Hussein, Nomad-Project

Recommended priority?

Community built: work in close partnership with a technical partner/developer embedded in galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM).

Important because...

Allows you to explore your technical capacity within the systems you are using and opportunities to be plugged into discussions and developments around innovations in technology that enable you to develop tools and be involved in open sourced technologies.

Benefit to small & volunteer-led organisations?

To increase the presence and the accessibility and usage of those archives allowing greater and meaningful engagement.

Priorities for small & volunteer-led organisations poll results

Do you/your organisation have additional digitisation priorities for small & volunteer-led organisations?

27 Answers submitted (listed in slide comments)

PEOPLE - collaborate and break down isolation; make access to skills and training easier; human centred approach and design principles should come first

INTELLECTUAL - should we rely on volunteers as much as we do?; establish regional centres; share best practices; opportunities to partner with larger organisations and ensure we can maintain the same standards; create community networks; how do you keep the rights of your organisation?

FINANCIAL - fund extra staffing; full cost recovery is paramount; funding for project legacies; capacity support

Thank you!

Thanks to our presenters, panellists & speakers, and online moderators, and to everyone who attended & contributed on-site and online.

Special thanks to everyone from Tricolor & the Heritage Fund who helped organise an excellent event!