

Digital Preservation and Cultural Heritage in the Context of the Experience Society

Since August 2006, Roskilde Festival Repository has undertaken the task of registering and preserving data from one of the biggest music festivals in Northern Europe, Roskilde Festival, which has been an ongoing annual event since 1971. Electronic registration was introduced one year later, in August 2007, when the Repository started to digitise pictures and files and to convert the many diverse film formats into DVD.

Using electronic registration is a challenge and there is a lack of previous experience. Therefore, we consider it essential to find ways of sharing our experiences and know-how regarding how to use, maintain and preserve digital data for the future.

Objectives

The objective is to investigate how digital data can be a useful tool for the public through Internet access, but, more importantly, how it can be maintained and preserved in an appropriate way. A new homepage was introduced in December 2007, (www.roskilde-festival.dk), and we intend to launch a history module at the time of the next update, early in 2008.

Experience

The short-term and preliminary experiences gained so far indicate that collection of digital data is relatively simple, as the data can be plotted into a database. By using a database specially designed for archives, it is possible to store and retrieve data information fairly quickly and easily. The archive database, developed by the association of local archives in Denmark, is to the best of our knowledge currently the best on the market. It is still, however, in its infancy and future versions may improve the standard considerably. Pictures and documents can be uploaded to the Internet-based database, which is physically located on a remote server. Images and document files are, however, still kept in-house, which leaves us with the problem of monitoring the digital files. So far we have sufficient hard disk space, but in coming years we will face a lack of space as the amount of data increases.

In order to maintain a secure standard, images are kept in the lossless Tiff format, which is also recommended by the National Museum as well as by the SLA (Association of Local Archives in Denmark).

Older versions of film formats are being transformed to DVD format by companies with dedicated equipment, but we must already face the fact that some of the oldest digital film formats are now obsolete.

Open issues

We have limited experience in working with checksum algorithm systems that can monitor the digital files and inform us about possible loss of data. Also, we are facing challenges regarding the physical condition of the repository, in that we are maintaining the existing data material in storage facilities without climate control and at relatively high humidity.

Regulations

Being a private repository, we do not have access to public funding even though the Roskilde Festival Repository is larger than a Danish middle-range archive and holds the history of a vital part of the last 40 years of youth culture, music culture and local culture. Roskilde Festival Repository is, however, very fortunate to be a part of the Archival Network, and therefore able to share know-how and experiences with other national archives. We expect to expand this network in the coming years by joining international networks also.

Other sectorial experiences

Roskilde Festival Repository uses volunteers to work with the archival material. It is, therefore, necessary to earmark time for vocational training in the proper use of the database and archival preservation work in general. We are in the fortunate situation that we collaborate with the IT University of Copenhagen, as well as with Roskilde University Centre, which means that in the future we may be able to involve highly motivated students to work with computer-related issues regarding digital preservation.

Legislation

A promulgation of the Danish Archives Act No. 1050 of 17 December 2002 with amendments consequential upon section 1 of Act no. 563 of 24 June 2005 and Act no. 532 of 6 June 2007 can be found at the homepage of the Danish Ministry of Culture: www.kum.dk/sw832.asp

References

[1] Rigsarkivet (the Danish State Archive)
www.sa.dk

[2] Statsbiblioteket, Århus
(the State and University library)
www.statsbiblioteket.dk

[3] Sammenslutningen af lokalarkiver (SLA)
www.danskearkiver.dk

[4] Organisationen af danske Arkiver (ODA)
www.dkarkiver.dk

[5] Lokal Historisk Netværk:
(project) arkiver, biblioteker, museer
www.lokalhistorisknet.dk

[6] Landsforeningen til bevaring
af Fotografier og Film (LFF)
www.fotoogfilm.dk

[7] Danmarks Nationale Privatarkivdatabase (Danpa)
www.danpa.dk