

E-Journal Preservation

Moderator:

Toni M Tracy
Portico
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Speakers:

Eileen Fenton
Portico
Princeton, New Jersey

Richard W Newman
American Medical Association
Chicago, Illinois

Jayne Marks
SAGE Publications
London, United Kingdom

Patricia Cruse
California Digital Library
University of California
Oakland, California

Kevin Cohn
Atypon Systems, Inc
Santa Clara, California

Reporter:

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Texas A&M University
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When a print journal ceases publication or printing technology changes, back issues remain in library stacks. But what about analogous situations for electronic journals? Publishers, libraries, technology vendors, and others have been working to ensure that access to content remains.

Eileen Fenton, of Portico (a nonprofit service archiving scholarly literature), emphasized that e-resources can and do disappear and that digital preservation is therefore important. She defined digital preservation as “active content management designed to ensure enduring usability, authenticity, and accessibility over the very long term”. She identified core require-

ments for digital preservation: a third party with the mission of performing preservation, a sustainable economic model, suitable technological infrastructure, the necessary legal rights and relationships, and compliance with digital preservation standards and best practices. She noted that the Council on Library and Information Resources has called for new cooperative arrangements among publishers, libraries, and archives to ensure e-journal preservation.

Speaking in place of Vicky Reich, director of the LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) Program, Stanford University, Richard W Newman, of the American Medical Association (AMA), presented first material from Reich and then material of his own. Reich’s material focused on CLOCKSS (Controlled LOCKSS), a partnership of publishers and libraries to achieve a sustainable, globally distributed archive. The archive has seven nodes in various locales and eventually is to have nine to 15 nodes. The 11 publishers participating in the pilot phase include scientific societies and publishing companies. Recently, when SAGE Publications discontinued the journal *Graft*, archiving via CLOCKSS went into effect. Newman said that although AMA is unlikely to need services like Portico or CLOCKSS to archive its journals, it is a member of CLOCKSS, in part because of the importance of having multiple copies in different geographic and political jurisdictions. He hoped that the US national libraries would begin programs for archiving electronic materials, as the national library of the Netherlands (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, or KB) has done.

Jayne Marks, of SAGE Publications, presented a publisher’s perspective. She observed that a commitment to e-journal preservation is essential in obtaining new sales. Much of her presentation regarded SAGE’s release of the discontinued journal *Graft* to three archives: those of Portico,

CLOCKSS, and KB. Some of the challenges, she explained, were related to availability and use of digital object identifiers (DOIs).

Patricia Cruse, director of the Digital Preservation Program at the California Digital Library, University of California, described the program, which fosters long-term availability of materials supporting the university’s “research, teaching, and learning mission”. Content includes not only e-journals but, for example, blogs and e-books. Cruse noted that some loss of digital material is inevitable and that we should therefore ask what materials we care about most, where money will go furthest, and when to try for perfection rather than settling for less. Cruse presented an example of the value of preservation: In 1904–1940, the founding director of the University of California, Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and his colleagues surveyed the mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in central California. The extensive data have been preserved digitally, and now part of the area, “the Yosemite transect”, is being resurveyed to show changes.

The last speaker, Kevin Cohn, of Atypon Systems, Inc, discussed the role of technology vendors in ensuring content availability. He reported that Atypon participates in activities of Portico and CLOCKSS, and he listed types of help that vendors can provide with electronic archiving. He also noted that Atypon has a geographically distributed electronic network with multiple data centers; if one data center becomes unavailable, others remain active. In closing, he emphasized that vendors should encourage publishers to participate in initiatives for archiving, that they need to provide appropriate tools and services in this regard at a reasonable cost, and that they should continue to invest in technology to provide maximal availability. 