

# Information professionals as educators: The need for digital preservation training amongst cultural heritage volunteers



Helena Byrne

MLIS student at UCD SILS

## Introduction

In recent years more people have become interested in local cultural heritage, which is why there are so many local history groups around the country. Some of these groups are based on social media such as Facebook, where people can share their memories and photos of the area. However, many local groups have been involved in in-depth research projects and have produced high quality publications on an annual basis. As we are now more dependent on digital technology to store and produce this research the retrievability and accessibility of this research is at risk unless there is a clear digital preservation strategy in place.

In recent years we have created huge volumes of digital files without taking the proper measures to protect these files from risk factors such as, technology fragility, obsolescence or safe storage. The active management of digital files can reduce these risks by implementing a digital preservation plan; this is an ongoing process that requires careful planning for the lifecycle of the digital file (DCC)

This project aims to develop an information literacy programme that will attempt to address the need for digital preservation training amongst cultural heritage volunteers by providing a basic introductory training programme.

## Literature Review

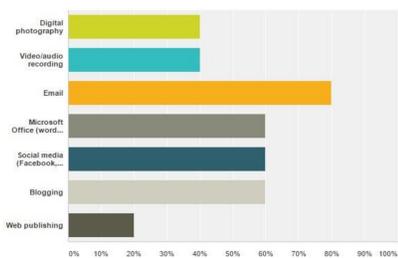
- Volunteering is very common, cultural heritage industries are becoming more dependent on them to run their institutions (Da Milano, C., Gibbs, K. and Sani, M).
- Lack of specialist knowledge and skills amongst short term staff is a big issue (Museum Association).
- Volunteers want to develop new skills and knowledge (Stamer, D., Lerdall, K., & Guo, C.).

## Research steps

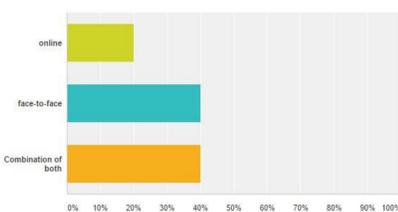


## Pilot survey results

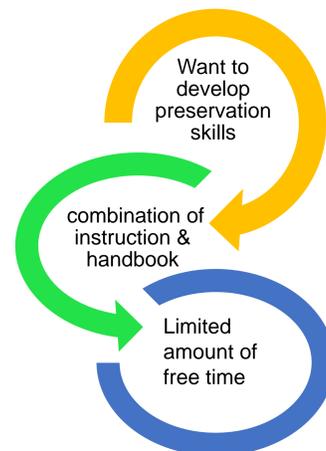
### What digital activities are you involved in?



### Preference for face-to-face or online instruction.



### Volunteer Comments



## Conclusion

- Volunteers are involved in a wide range of digital activities.
- They are aware of the need to implement digital preservation strategies.
- They would like to participate in specialised training workshops in their locality to develop these skills.

## References

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- What is digital curation? (n.d.) DCC. Retrieved April, 5 2015 from: <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/digital-curation/what-digital-curation>

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