

# Potentialities for Collaborative Enabled Digital Preservation Training within the Mercian Region

## Introduction

Following requests for investigation at the November 2017 Mercian Directors' meeting, a survey was established in 2018. This was configured to collect views regarding the relative importance of digital preservation (DP) within member libraries, along with any potential for pursuing digital preservation training (DPT) as a regional endeavour.

## Survey Results

- 11/23 institutional Directors responded<sup>1</sup>.
- Less than a quarter considered DP a current service priority and two thirds have no library staff involved in DP
- Less than half of institutions were aware of any staff participation in DTP
- Around half of the institutions displayed an interest in pursuing the DPTP training scheme as a collaborative venture, while a similar level expressed interest at a later date<sup>2</sup>
- Three-quarters of institutions believed DP skills as important or useful for their staff

## Conclusions

As a minority of Mercian institutions responded to this survey, definite conclusions are not possible. It is reasonable to assume, supported by the limited director meeting engagement, that this reflects a relative disinterest and/or priority ascribed to the topic by the remaining 12 institutions.

However, from those directors who did respond, the picture which can be drawn from this sample is within the region there is little to no staffing resource focussed on DP, nor is it viewed as an immediate library service priority. Nevertheless, potentially a moderate interest in seeking to develop a corpus of knowledge and training, facilitated by the Collaboration, exists. However, given the low response rate, and the lack of priority ascribed to this area by those who did respond, minimal impetus can be inferred towards any significant resource outlay by the Collaboration in this area. Given the costs and staff time commitment required to participate in the DPTP scheme, for the time being, this effectively rules it out as an area for active investigation.

## Recommendations

- A DP skills/experience sharing workshop should be developed by an appropriate Mercian SIG to enable/develop a corpus of regional knowledge
- The topic of formal DP training should be revisited by Directors in the light of the workshop outcomes

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<sup>1</sup> One institution responded twice. Due to the lis-midlands-libraries distribution list now including deputies, this may be a recurrent issue in future surveys. Hence, there were 12 responses in total.

<sup>2</sup> This was a multiple-choice question, consequently, these may be the same institutions as the preceding answer