



Public Document

UK Data Archive Preservation Policy

UK Data Archive

Created by: Matthew Woollard,
Head of Digital Preservation & Systems
Maintained by: Matthew Woollard
Contributor(s):
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UK Data Archive
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester
Essex
CO4 3SQ

email: matthew@essex.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1206 873704
Fax: +44 (0) 1206 872003
preservation@essex.ac.uk

Contents

1.	Purpose	4
2.	Scope and Objectives	4
2.1.	Scope.....	4
2.2.	Objectives.....	5
3.	Requirements	6
3.1.	Legal and regulatory framework	7
4.	Roles and Responsibilities	8
5.	Model	9
5.1.	Pre-ingest function	9
5.2.	Ingest function	9
5.3.	Archival storage function	10
5.3.1.	Physical data preservation and storage	10
5.3.2.	Media monitoring and refreshing strategy	10
5.3.3.	Compression.....	11
5.4.	Data Management function.....	11
5.4.1.	Administrative preservation database	11
5.4.2.	Version control/change procedures.....	11
5.4.3.	Data collection withdrawal	12
5.5.	Access function.....	12
5.6.	Administration function	12
6.	Preservation planning and strategy.....	12
6.1.	Preservation strategy overview	12
6.2.	Integrity measures	13
6.3.	Monitoring, review and feedback	13
7.	IT Architecture	13
8.	Security	14
9.	Co-operation	14
10.	Funding and Resource Planning	14
A.	Glossary	16

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Policy and strategy documents:

- The *UKDA Strategic Plan*;
- The *UKDA Collections Development Policy*;
- The *UKDA Information Security Policy*;
- The *UKDA Records Management Policy*;
- The *UKDA Preservation Strategy*.

Reports/information papers:

- *Guidance on Data Management*

- *Assessment of UKDA and TNA Compliance with OASIS and METS Standards.*

Outline

This policy outlines the principles which underpin the main activities of the UK Data Archive (UKDA) — the *active preservation* of digital resources for use and re-use within its core user community. From a preservation point of view this policy is generally conformant to the *OAIS Reference Model*, with additions and alterations which are specific to the materials held within the Archive. The UKDA has a series of strict requirements for its digital preservation activities. These requirements are laid down in this policy, and the manner in which these requirements can best be achieved in relation to regulatory requirements, archival best practice, information security and available funds is also detailed below. Consequently, the UKDA's preservation policy is based upon open and available file formats, *data migration* and *media refreshment*.

For clarity this document does not contain references, but it has a detailed glossary in which terms appearing in italics are defined.

1. Purpose

The UKDA exists to support high quality research, learning and teaching in the social sciences and humanities by acquiring, developing and managing *data* and related digital resources, and by promoting and disseminating these resources as widely and effectively as possible. The UKDA takes as its primary user community social science data users within Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) in the UK, though best efforts are made for all users.¹ To ensure the continued use of these resources the UKDA follows a policy of *active preservation* with the aim of ensuring the *authenticity*, *reliability* and logical *integrity* of all resources entrusted to its care while providing usable versions for research, teaching or learning, in perpetuity.

This policy is the codification of long-standing good archival practice at the UKDA. The Archive has been the primary repository for social science research data in the UK since 1967. As a 'national data collection service' the UKDA, originally called Data Bank, was created by the forward-thinking Social Science Research Council, now the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), to bring together "social survey research materials for storage, retrieval and secondary analysis of the information in them". For over three decades, preservation of these collections has been a core function of this enterprise. The ESRC *Datasets Policy* emphasises the importance and requirement of depositing ESRC data with the Archive, and The National Archives' Acquisition and Disposition Strategy regulates the disposition of datasets created by government departments.

The formulation and biennial revision of a preservation policy for the UKDA is an essential step in fulfilling its strategic aims and responsibilities: it gives strategic direction both to initiate any measures which are necessary for the protection of its collections, and to meet, or extend, nationally and internationally agreed standards for the preservation of digital materials. A preservation policy helps the UKDA meet legislative and accountability requirements and its user communities' expectations. The UKDA ensures that it is at the leading edge of technical advances by taking a strategic approach to long-term digital preservation, and by monitoring hardware and software developments and migrating its collections accordingly.

The UKDA also aims to continually improve all aspects of the preservation related workflow by embedding an awareness of quality in all processes.

2. Scope and Objectives

2.1. Scope

The scope of this policy is limited to the UKDA's data collections. It deals with all aspects of

¹ The vast majority of the UKDA's current users are staff and students at UK HE/FE institutions, though some central and local government staff, commercial users and personal researchers are amongst its users.

preservation and applies to all materials held by the Archive on behalf of the University of Essex and others. The policy only covers the preservation of data collections for which the UKDA is the primary custodian. It does not consider preservation of other materials such as the UKDA web pages, internal administrative documents and correspondence, and the Archive's intranet. These materials are governed by the Archive's records management programme.

A comprehensive statement on the preservation strategies of the UKDA's data collections, dealing with all aspects of preservation and applying to all collections held by the Archive can be found in the UKDA Preservation Strategy document.

2.2. Objectives

The primary objective of all archives is to select, preserve and make available for use documents or information which have permanent or continuing value. The UKDA is no exception; however, it differs from some archives in providing archival facilities only for digital material, whether born digital or digitised. Consequently digital preservation activities are essential in ensuring the continued use of material. This policy outlines the key actions and rationale behind the actions necessary to ensure that the data collections of the UKDA are permanently accessible in a form which is fit for purpose for all end users of the service provided by the UKDA.

In the language of *digital preservation* the UKDA is a digital repository. The UKDA assumes responsibility for the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital objects. For all practical purposes long-term means beyond the next round of technical change.

The act of selecting material for archiving also brings to bear on the archival organisation the responsibility to ensure the reliability and logical integrity of the *data collection*. For paper-based documents, the reliability and integrity of elements of a data collection are usually assured by a simple audit trail; for digital material these requirements can not be guaranteed in such a straight-forward fashion, because to guarantee long-term *usability* some *significant properties* of a data collection may have to be altered in order to ensure a level of software independence.

Any strategy for the long-term preservation of any electronic information must address the issue of software dependence. For most electronic information it is generally possible to eliminate software dependence by sacrificing structure, but the end products of these transformations are not authentic versions of the original. In these cases the authenticity needs to be re-established through the documentation of the actions taken and validation that the substantive content has not been altered.

As an example, a relational database could be migrated to a number of flat files. However for each table, the relational links need to be expressed in *documentation* in terms of the type of the link and the manner in which the keys can be identified.

Thus the primary goal of the UKDA preservation policy is to ensure the long-term usability of electronic information while ensuring the highest level of authenticity of any usable version. In effect this means that all the inherent qualities of the electronic information upon which their authenticity depends are preserved.

In 2005 the UKDA was designated a Place of Deposit by The National Archives. This status has meant that the UKDA has had to modify a number of its procedures to ensure that its previous emphasis on usability with reliability, and levels of integrity has been replaced with a much stronger emphasis on authenticity, integrity and reliability, while not ignoring usability.

This policy is also designed to promote preservation as an integral part of the management of the UKDA's collections and to ensure best use of resources by providing a framework for managing the preservation procedures. The specific aims of the preservation policy are to:

- provide authentic, reliable versions of data collections to the *designated user community*;
- be a "trusted repository" within the generally accepted scope of the term;
- maintain the integrity and quality of the data collections;

- ensure that digital resources are managed throughout their life-cycle in the medium that is most appropriate for the task they perform;
- ensure that all data collections are protected;
- ensure that the relevant level of security is applied to each data collection;
- instil good practice in active preservation management;
- improve the speed and efficiency with which information is preserved and retrieved;
- develop and maintain systems of low-cost storage, with appropriate location and with regular review;
- optimise the use of the UKDA's space for storage purposes.

The concept of preservation level has recently been introduced to the UKDA. The majority of data currently archived at the UKDA do not rely on presentation characteristics to ensure they are 'understandable'.

3. Requirements

As the main functions of the UKDA are to acquire, develop and manage data and related digital resources of value to social scientists, and to promote and disseminate these resources as widely and effectively as possible, the UKDA has developed a series of requirements which it strives to ensure are followed as closely as possible:

- the *datasets* it accessions are accompanied by adequate documentation to enable their use for analytical and research purposes;
- the datasets are checked and validated according to strict data ingest procedures;
- the data collections are professionally catalogued according to appropriate *metadata* standards;
- the data collections are indexed with keyword terms using an appropriate thesaurus created by the UKDA;
- the datasets, *documentation* and metadata are kept in conditions suitable for long-term archival storage;
- the authenticity, integrity and reliability of datasets preserved for future use are retained;
- the preservation actions undertaken by UKDA are uniform regardless of the perceived value of any dataset.

As a core activity in the UKDA, preservation does not exist in isolation. It needs to take account of:

- the aims and objectives of the UKDA;
- its strategic and operational plans;
- its collections development policy;
- the needs of the users of the UKDA;
- archival theory and practice;
- the place of the UKDA within local, national and international frameworks.

Preservation decisions have an impact on most areas of the UKDA and this preservation policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policy and strategy documents:

- *UKDA Strategic Plan*;
- *UKDA Collections Development Policy*;
- *UKDA Information Security Policy*;
- *UKDA Records Management Policy*;

- *UKDA Preservation Strategy*

and the following reports/information papers:

- *Guidance on Data Management;*
- *Assessment of UKDA and TNA Compliance with OAIS and METS Standards.*

The preservation policy and strategy are equally steered by a variety of external guidelines, manuals, and standards that represent an international body of knowledge and expertise pertaining to various issues within digital preservation. Many of these are referenced in the *UKDA Preservation Strategy* document.

3.1. Legal and regulatory framework

The legal and regulatory frameworks for the management of the data collections accessioned by the UKDA are complex. The University of Essex is the legal entity under which the UKDA functions. The UKDA is a centre within the University of Essex, and has no legal status.

The relationship between the *depositor* of a data collection and the UKDA is based on:

- a legally-binding deposit agreement and licence (known as the Licence Agreement) which confirms the rights and obligations of both parties and offers an opportunity for depositors to specify the conditions under which access may be given to third parties;²
- an assertion of copyright and intellectual property rights to ensure that the data creator/depositor has cleared all necessary permissions;
- where necessary, negotiations for licence agreements with third parties to enable the UKDA explicitly to distribute the material to particular user communities.

The UKDA will not ingest materials which have unclear ownership or unresolved rights issues.

In preserving its collections, the UKDA follows:

- Copyright, Design and Patents Act, 1988 and amendments to this Act;
- Data Protection Act, 1998;
- Freedom of Information Act, 2000;
- EU Copyright Directive, 2001;
- Environmental Information Regulations, 2004;
- UK law for commercial agreements and contract law

and

- current best practice.

In terms of national standards for the management of information security, the UKDA follows:

- BS ISO/IEC 27001: 2005;
- BS ISO/IEC 27002: 2005, BS 7799-1: 2005;
- Cross Government Actions: Mandatory Minimum Measures³

UKDA also expects depositors to undertake an expedited review of ethical issues relating to datasets which they may wish to deposit with the UKDA. Depositors are expected to ensure that there is no potential for risk of harm to any participants in making data available to third parties. The ESRC's *Research Ethics Framework (REF)* provides guidance to both the UKDA and to its researchers.

² Since 2008, the UKDA promotes 'open data' with the use of a de facto access condition of open to all comers, for all uses.

³ Cabinet Office (2008), *Cross Government Actions: Mandatory Minimum Measures*. Available at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/csia/assets/dhr/cross_gov080625.pdf [Accessed 9 June 2009]

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Since its inception in 1967, preservation has been a fundamental function of the UKDA. It has always been recognised that the preservation function is made up of a series of interrelated activities which have traditionally been carried out by different sections of the Archive. Digital preservation requirements are relevant to all activities within the UKDA's workflow, hence the centrality of this policy to the undertakings of the UKDA.

The *Digital Preservation and Systems* (DPS) section has responsibility for preserving data and metadata in all forms to ensure they remain usable over time, including monitoring technological changes that will affect preservation and migration decisions. It is also responsible for the creation of *preservation metadata*.

The *Acquisitions* section is responsible for identifying, selecting and acquiring data and other resources in line with the *UKDA Collections Development Policy*. It is also responsible for the initial validation of the data.

The *Data and Support Services* (DSS) section is responsible for the initial validation of the data and documentation, including checking of consistency, accuracy and suitability for preservation and secondary analysis, and producing and enriching metadata about the data resources in order to populate finding aids. This section also provides user access to data and documentation, converts the archival copy of data to distribution formats to meet user needs, and provides other value-added user support.

The cross-sectional *Information Development and Programming* (IDP) section interprets national and international standards for local implementation in its *resource discovery metadata*, and provides access to data collections through the internet.

All UKDA staff have a role to play in the implementation of the preservation policy. Preservation and Systems section staff take an active role in assisting and encouraging the implementation of the preservation policy Archive-wide. Accountability is shared amongst the Archive staff as defined below:

Director

The Director has a duty to ensure that the UKDA complies with the requirements of legislation affecting management of the collections and their preservation, and with supporting regulations and codes.

Head of Digital Preservation and Systems

The Head of the Preservation and Systems section works closely with other heads of Sections to ensure that there is consistency in the management of preservation and collections and that advice and guidance on good preservation management practice is provided.

The establishment of standards, procedures and tools for ensuring optimal conversion of materials from ingest to preservation and dissemination formats is the responsibility of the Head of Data and Support Services in consultation with the Head of Digital Preservation and Systems.

Systems and Preservation Manager

The Systems and Preservation Manager ensures the effective running of all the Archive's IT systems, software and hardware and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Archive's preservation services, under the line management of the Head of the Preservation and Systems section.

Systems and Preservation Administrator

The Systems and Preservation Administrator manages the on-site main preservation server.

The Systems and Preservation Manager takes responsibility for the on-site mirror and near-site mirror preservation servers. The off-site mirror preservation server is managed remotely by the UKDA Systems and Preservation Manager and by a local Systems Manager on-site.

Resource Services Business Manager

The UKDA internally audits procedures against this policy. The Resource Services Business

Manager will be responsible for this audit.

All staff

All UKDA and project staff are accountable to their line managers for compliance with this policy and with related policies, standards and guidelines.

5. Model

The Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model is an international standard which proposes common terms and concepts and a framework for entities and relationships between entities in digital preservation environments. OAIS is a conceptual framework and not a concrete implementation plan. The UKDA follows the broad guidance given in the OAIS reference model, and this version of the preservation policy is the first to explicitly use OAIS terminology.⁴

The primary value to the UKDA of the OAIS reference model is that it provides a framework of best practice on which its activities can be based. The UKDA recognises the benefits of the OAIS model. When, in 2005, the UKDA assessed its conformance with the OAIS model, the main divergence between model and practice was the strict separation of Archival Information Packages (AIPs) from Dissemination Information Packages (DIPs), and there were a number of activities within the data management function relating to monitoring and management which were not appropriate to the stated objectives of the UKDA.

The UKDA believes, that as digital preservation activities are an integral part of the mission statement of the organisation, all areas of work are influenced by the preservation policy. Separate operational guides (or operational procedures) will be published to document the implementation of this preservation policy across the key areas of UKDA activity.

5.1. Pre-ingest function

The pre-ingest function is not explicitly specified in the OAIS model. However, experience of the UKDA has shown that inclusion of this function within the preservation model has considerable benefits. Most notably it ensures quality, comprehensibility and accessibility of all information packages. It also reduces costs within the ingest process. Successful application of the pre-ingest process also helps ensure that data collections are submitted at a standard which requires a lower level of processing at the ingest stage and potentially greater levels of usability through the provision of adequate documentation. Proactive pre-ingest activity also allows for various issues which might impact on preservation activities (relating to consent, confidentiality, ethics, legal issues and data formats) to be considered and addressed before data collection starts.

5.2. Ingest function

Ingest is the first functional component of the OAIS reference model. It includes the receipt of information from a *producer* and the validation that the information supplied is uncorrupted and complete. This process also identifies the specific properties of the information which is to be preserved;⁵ it authenticates that the information is what it purports to be. The supplied version is known within the UKDA as the 'original' version and this is retained for preservation in its original format and stored in the appropriate directory on the preservation system. This supplied version has a close correspondence to the SIP in OAIS parlance.

The ingest function also transforms all elements of the deposited files into a valid preservation format for the specified data type. Files for preservation are copied to a different machine, as the ingest and preservation directory structures are created.

The UKDA believes that the construction of a DIP during the ingest process (rather than

⁴ See BS ISO 14721: 2003 (Space data and information transfer systems. Open archival information systems. Reference model.)

⁵ Guidelines relating to the ingest process will be made available in the internal *Data ingest techniques guides*.

automatically from an AIP on demand) has considerable benefits for the preservation process. It allows the UKDA to eliminate errors in co-operation with the producer and ensure understandability of the data. It is known that the production of multiple DIPs which are based on different software packages may lead to a loss of integrity in the underlying data. Hence the UKDA deprecates the use of an existing DIP to create a new DIP.

The ingest function also includes the creation of descriptive metadata for a variety of purposes and the production of multiple DIPs for usability.

As well as an unbroken audit trail of actions to ensure the authenticity and integrity of any data collection, the ingest process includes an element of depositor accountability whereby depositors are informed of all actions undertaken within the UKDA before the data collection is released to a wider user community.

The UKDA will not preserve depositor-submitted media or non-digital documentation in their original format. These will either be returned or destroyed.

5.3. Archival storage function

The second functional component of OAIS is archival storage. Archival storage manages the digital objects which are entrusted to the Archive. In essence, the purpose of archival storage is to ensure that what is passed to it from the ingest process remains identical and accessible. In the UKDA this function receives AIPs and DIPs from the ingest function and adds them to the permanent storage facility, oversees the management of this storage, including *media refreshment* and monitoring. This function is also responsible for ensuring that AIPs can be retrieved.

The UKDA does not follow the OAIS model fully. In the model there is a 'Provide Data Function' whereby end users of the Archive can request AIPs from the storage area. Theoretically this process ensures that end users receive an authentic version of the data collection. However, due to a combination of factors relating to data security access conditions and usability, the UKDA has elected to prepare DIPs as part of the ingest process. These DIPs are accessible to users through a 'Provide Data Function' and they are also stored alongside the AIPs in the preservation system. Thus for any data collection there are always at least three versions residing on each of the different preservation systems: the original SIP, the ingested AIP and multiple DIPs. When a new version of a DIP is created it must be created from the AIP (or possibly the SIP) but not from an earlier recension of a DIP.

5.3.1. Physical data preservation and storage

In order to best safeguard long-term preservation, the UKDA follows a policy of multiple copy resilience. Five versions of the complete preservation system are held: main near-line copy (on the main preservation server) and a shadow copy (on main preservation server). Both are held on the main area on the Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) system and are presently accessed only by the dedicated preservation user. The storage media used for this copy is SDLT and disc cache area. The access online copy (on the mirror preservation server) is held in a RAID 5 disc system and copies are generated for user access and dissemination. There are also a near-site online copy kept on a RAID 5 disc system on a server located in another building within the University of Essex, and an off-site online copy. Finally a disc-based offline copy exists, which are held in either DVD-R or CD-R copy.

The UKDA follows best practice in the storage and housing of magnetic and optical media. In particular, for environmental conditions for storage media (BS 4783, ISO/IEC22051, BS ISO 18921:2002 and BS ISO 18925:2002) and for the storage of archival materials (BS 5454).

5.3.2. Media monitoring and refreshing strategy

The UKDA operates a media monitoring procedure as part of its AMASS® preservation system. This allows it to check for potential future problems of wear and tear on media and act before the problems become severe.

Digital Linear Tapes (DLTs) that are used for preservation are re-tensioned every six months

and each full tape in the system is also copied every year onto a new tape. This is scheduled annually and a log of all actions is kept for checking. The Systems and Preservation Administrator is responsible for performing the media refreshing procedure.

Idle tape media are automatically ejected from the DLT drives and placed in the carousel at set regular intervals to prevent excessive wear of both tapes and the drive.

The CD-R/DVD-R media are checked on a scheduled basis, every two years. If any media have either recoverable or non-recoverable errors then they are regenerated from the on-site mirror preservation server. A log is kept of all refreshment results and all storage media are provided with a date stamp indicating the time they were written and the next renewal date. CD-Rs are used within three months of purchase to ensure a short time period between when they are acquired and when they are written.

5.3.3. Compression

In order to reduce the risk of damage to data, the UKDA uses industry standard lossless compression tools, which are outlined in the *UKDA Information Security Policy*. Compression software is used under tightly controlled conditions on files stored on CD-Rs and as a concatenation tool for coherent collections of multiple TIFF files. Sufficient redundancy is used for long-term storage to warrant use of these tools.

Compression software technology is monitored continuously to ensure timely updates to enable successful migration.

5.4. Data Management function

Data Management is the third major function of the OAIS reference model. It works in conjunction with the Archival Storage function. It maintains databases of descriptive metadata; supports external finding aids; and manages administrative metadata which support internal operations, including change control.

5.4.1. Administrative preservation database

The Preservation and Systems section is in the process of defining and implementing an administrative preservation database to manage all preservation decisions taken at the UKDA including those relating to storage media management.

5.4.2. Version control/change procedures

Ensuring that any alterations to the preserved version of any part of a Data Collection is accurately documented is integral to the authenticity of any Data Collection. The UKDA distinguishes between two forms of alteration post ingest.

new *version* (Definition: when there is a change to the *preserved* metadata);

new *edition* (Definition: when there is change to data or documentation).

The word *preserved* is highlighted because not all metadata are proposed to be preserved under this policy. All 'finding-aids' (which the UKDA defines explicitly as: abstract, subject category and keywords) are understood in this policy to be metadata which are not necessarily preserved at present. Work is currently underway to include all metadata within the preservation system.

When there is a new version of a data collection, the relevant descriptive and structural metadata will need revising and the old file will be retained.

When there is a new edition of a data collection, all descriptive and structural metadata will need to be recreated, the old file will be retained and also, the old AIP and DIPs will be retained within the preservation system and identified as not for issue.

5.4.3. Data collection withdrawal

The UKDA operates a multifaceted policy towards Data Collection withdrawal. Like the TNA, the UKDA distinguishes between *soft deletion* whereby certain references to the withdrawn content are deleted, but not the content itself, and *hard deletion* whereby the content and all references to it are deleted. In the case of soft deletion the Data Collection is only accessible to Digital Preservation staff.

The UKDA chooses soft deletion as the default method of withdrawal as it is too expensive to remove data collections, and their physical removal would present unacceptable risks to other parts of the collection. The UKDA has, in the past, undertaken hard deletion of collections which are archived, preserved and disseminated elsewhere.

In cases of the withdrawal of a data collection, the administrative metadata are updated, and the external view of the catalogue record is updated to reflect the change of status of the collection (with information about why the collection had been withdrawn, the dates of its availability, and where appropriate the reasons for withdrawal).

5.5. Access function

The sixth and final function of OAIS relates to access. In this end users interact with the UKDA to find, request and receive Data Collections. The UKDA recognises that use of its collections is a prime motive for its existence as a service provider for ESDS and the History Data Service. These three separate, but inter-related operations are:

- finding data collections;
- requesting data collections;
- receiving data collections.

The access function must also implement the security of access; all access management failures are logged and processes reviewed periodically.

5.6. Administration function

In the OAIS model the *administration function* manages the day-to-day operations of the repository. In the UKDA the roles of this function are spread across different internal sections. For example, the negotiating of licence agreements with information producers is the responsibility of the Acquisitions section; customer services are carried out by the Data and Support Services section; systems engineering is carried out by the Information Development and Programming section.

6. Preservation planning and strategy

6.1. Preservation strategy overview

The UKDA has chosen to implement a preservation strategy based upon open and available file formats, data migration and media refreshment. Preservation decisions at the Archive must always be made within the context of its *Collections Development Policy*, balancing the constraints of cost, scholarly and historical value, and user accessibility alongside the requirements of levels of authenticity and legal admissibility. Hence, different ingest processes may be required for material with different levels of quality and significance. Data collections are assigned an ingest activity level as outlined in the Archive's *Acquisition Review Process* document. Specifications for ingest standards including validation and integrity checks are given in a series of Archive *Data Services Ingest Guides*.

The UKDA preservation strategy is predicated on two basic principles: first, that digital storage media are inherently untrustworthy unless stored appropriately; second, that all file formats and physical storage media will ultimately become obsolete.

Therefore, the environmental parameters which control the storage media are tightly

controlled to reduce the vulnerability of these media. Additionally, the strategy to reduce the risk of obsolescence is based on storing multiple copies on different storage media. These are reviewed regularly and data are copied onto new media when appropriate.

A similar strategy is employed to deal with the obsolescence of file formats. Appropriate information-rich preservation formats have been identified and are used in conjunction with formal documentation procedures. These formats are chosen with specific reference to the 'data types' under consideration. The UKDA follows international best practice in its choice of preservation formats and data migration procedures.

Defining, timing, testing and implementing migration pathways are the responsibilities of the Preservation and Systems section. When new formats are created from data files either through migration into new file formats or through creating new file formats for dissemination, the old files are retained alongside.

The preservation strategy of the UKDA aims to maintain a flexible preservation system that evolves to meet the demands of changing technology and new and increasing user expectations.

Every study within the Archive follows a consistent directory structure for storage, and this is enforced by automated checks when files are copied onto the preservation system. This has many benefits, such as the ability to locate set types of information and also to allow automated tasks (e.g. migration of file formats) to be run without the need for complicated locator scripts. In addition to this structure, file label details are kept in an in-house system to provide extra information about a file in addition to its filename. Further, file extensions are always standardised, with a single extension allowable for each type of file.

6.2. Integrity measures

The UKDA takes its role as custodian of data collections seriously. To this end the complete chain of custody of all data collections is documented through metadata. All actions are explicit, complete, correct and current. However, only the 'original' version can be said to be an integral copy of the version deposited with the UKDA. The preservation and dissemination versions are considered to be authentic and there is an audit trail of all alterations in the preservation and dissemination versions which relates back to the original deposited version.

6.3. Monitoring, review and feedback

The preservation policy of the UKDA is monitored and reviewed in the light of changing technologies on an annual basis to ensure timely updates. The head of the Preservation and Systems section initiates the review process. The next review of the policy will begin in June 2010.

Implementation of the preservation policy is monitored and there are regular planned audits to assess how the policy is executed, including an biennial benchmarking of the UKDA preservation agenda.

This document is the third revision of the UKDA's Preservation Policy. It has been substantially revised since the second version made available in 2005. This document is communicated to all UKDA staff and will be published on the Archive's open access web site, and shared with other archives and digital preservation associations.

Queries concerning the preservation of the digital collections in the UKDA, or digital preservation in general, should be directed to the UKDA Preservation and Systems section: (preservation@essex.ac.uk).

7. IT Architecture

The preservation of the UKDA's collections relies on an IT infrastructure that is fit for purpose and is continually monitored and periodically reviewed to ensure timely upgrades in both hardware and software.

In order to ensure resilience and provide an adequate level of redundancy, the preservation system consists of on-site, near-site and off-site storage. For the same reasons, mirror versions of on-site systems are provided. Furthermore, to reduce risk further different operating systems will be installed across the systems.

Adequate storage capacity for all holdings is maintained. Additional unlimited capacity from external media is to be provided at all times.

The UKDA provides necessary secure networking and communications equipment, providing adequate connectivity, the ability to restrict to valid Mac addresses and a facility to segment the network for switched separated firewall connectivity.

All servers in the UKDA are protected by power surge protection systems.

Disaster recovery procedures are in place.

8. Security

The UKDA is committed to taking all necessary precautions to ensure the physical safety and security of all data collections that it preserves:

- fire prevention and protection system;
- physical intruder prevention and detection systems;
- environmental control systems.

The repository rooms are equipped with multiple key entries and a security-protected swipe-card system linked to an on-site alarm system and to the University Security Office. The swipe-card system is maintained by the Systems and Preservation Manager, and access is restricted to three key members of staff – the Head of Digital Preservation and Systems, the Systems and Preservation Manager and the Systems and Preservation Administrator.

The repository rooms are located outside of the secure working area of the UKDA.

The SSRC building in which the UKDA is housed, is locked between 7.30 p.m. and 7.30 a.m. and all weekend, and is regularly patrolled by University of Essex security staff.

All machine room computer systems are locked by a logon password system to prevent unauthorised access in the case of a security breach of the room.

This policy is influenced by requirements laid down in a series of international and British standards. These are detailed in the *UKDA Information Security Policy* and the *UKDA Premises Security Policy*.

9. Co-operation

The UKDA has established productive working relationships with other institutions and organisations in order to address the Archive's preservation needs. The Archive recognises the need for communication with groups active in formulating national preservation policies and programmes. It also acknowledges the need to participate in activities and programmes in the area of digital preservation.

10. Funding and Resource Planning

The UKDA is committed to supporting continued funding for all of the operations relating to preservation management. Resource management for preservation of digital resources includes:

- technical infrastructure, including equipment purchases, maintenance and upgrades, software/hardware obsolescence monitoring, network connectivity, etc.;
- financial plan, including strategy and methods for financing the digital preservation programmes and commitment to long-term funding;
- staffing infrastructure, including hiring and ongoing training.

The Archive has established a rolling planning scheme for lifetimes of computer equipment and storage media to facilitate forward planning for the necessary upgrades.

As stated in the *UKDA Strategic Plan* the preservation of data and documentation to ensure they remain usable over time is a core activity of the Archive. The Archive, therefore, makes every effort to remain up-to-date with any relevant technological advances to ensure continued access to its collections.

A. Glossary

For the purposes of this policy, some terms are used with specific meanings as defined below. Explanatory terms in italics are themselves defined in this section.

Active preservation

Active preservation is a form of digital preservation which seeks to ensure continued accessibility and use of electronic information through the active intervention of format migration.

Authenticity

A *record's* authenticity can be said to rely on three significant provable properties. The three properties are: that the record is what it purports to be, that it was created by whomsoever it is purported to have been created by; and that it was created at the time when it is purported to have been created. (*Adapted from ISO 15489-1:2001.*)

Code

This refers to uncompiled code in the command language of a *statistical package* or computer language, which occasionally forms part of a UKDA *data collection*. It may be important for code to be maintained as executable, in which case it is preserved in its own right and migrated as required, or it may be considered as more of a human readable resource and incorporated as part of the *documentation* (and cut and pasted back into an executable environment by the data user if desired). Code that shows how derived variables were created in a *dataset* might fall into this latter category.

Data

Data are all the material, regardless of format, which are intended to be analysed. As part of *datasets*, they are the primary element of a *data collection*. More precise definitions of data vary according to context. Quantitative data may refer to just the matrices of numbers or words that comprise a data file, but may also cover other information (*metadata*) held within a *statistical package* data file, such as variable labels, code labels and missing value definitions. Qualitative data might include interview transcripts as well as audio and video recordings (analogue or digital).

Data collection

The UKDA organises *data* for preservation as data collections. A data collection is typically comprised of three components: *dataset(s)*, *documentation* and *metadata*. Occasionally, a fourth component of *code* exists. Data collections are typically organised by reference to a particular survey or research topic and cover a specific geographic area and time period. There is normally a one-to-one relationship between a data collection and what the UKDA terms a *study*.

Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)

The DDI is a project of the social science community to establish an international standard and methodology for describing the content, presentation, transport, and preservation of *metadata* about *datasets* in the social and behavioural sciences. The DDI is currently expressed as an XML Document Type Definition (DTD) and Schema. The UKDA has been centrally involved in the adoption, development and promotion of the DDI as an international standard for social science *metadata*.

Data migration

Data migration is the process of converting data from one structure to another structure to counter software obsolescence.

Dataset

A dataset is defined in this policy as any computer file (or set of files) which is organised under a single title and is capable of being described as a coherent unit within the UKDA's catalogue.

Depositor

A depositor is an individual who is named on a deposit agreement as having sufficient responsibility to grant particular rights to the UKDA on behalf of a data collection. The depositor may be the instigator, creator or the copyright owner of a data collection, but does not have to be. In OAIS terminology the term producer is used in a similar sense.

Designated user community

UKDA's designated user community is made up of social science data users within HE and FE in the UK, though best efforts are made for all users. All users are expected to have a basic understanding of social science methods and techniques relevant to the data collections being accessed.

Digital preservation

Digital preservation is a series of managed activities necessary to ensure enduring access to authentic versions of the content of digital materials for as long as necessary.

Documentation

Documentation is that portion of a *data collection* that is required in order to re-use data. It commonly covers the subjects of sampling design, methods of data collection, questionnaire/interview design, structure of the data files, lists of variables and coding schemes, details of weighting, confidentiality and anonymisation, and provenance of any secondary data used. It also includes licence arrangements and all materials obtained through the original negotiation and data deposit, as well as post-deposit information created during preservation and ingest activities. The terms *metadata* and documentation are often used interchangeably and there is overlap between the two, though documentation tends to have a structure that is specific to each data collection, whereas all UKDA metadata files have a common structure (the *DDI*). For the purposes of this policy, documentation is extended to include all print and digital materials that accompany the original data deposit or are created during its preservation and ingest as a UKDA *study*.

Fixity metadata

Fixity metadata document the means by which a digital resource can be authenticated, and safeguarded from undocumented alteration.

Integrity

The integrity of a *record* refers to its completeness and to a continued state of unalteration. (*Adapted from ISO 15489-1:2001*). The UKDA uses the term logical integrity to highlight the fact that a digital object within its system may change, but that the content information (data) remains unaltered without that alteration being explicitly documentation.

Media refreshment

Refreshment is the process of transferring data from one type of storage medium to another to ensure continued access to the information, without alteration to the format of the data.

Metadata

Information that describes significant aspects (e.g. content, context and structure of information) of a resource is called metadata. Metadata are created for the purposes of resource discovery, managing access and ensuring efficient preservation of resources. Metadata, particularly resource discovery and resource use metadata, may exist at various levels, typically from that of the data collection through to the individual variables of each data file in that collection. Metadata standards such as the *DDI* typically have a hierarchical structure as a result. Various types of metadata are important for efficient digital preservation (see *fixity metadata*, *preservation metadata*, and *resource management metadata*), and data sharing (see *resource use metadata* and *resource discovery metadata*).

Migration

Data migration is a means of overcoming technological obsolescence by periodically transferring, and where appropriate transforming, data from one hardware/software environment to another, for the purposes of preservation for future use. Migration must maintain the authenticity, integrity, reliability and usability of any digital object.

OAIS Reference Model

The Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model is a conceptual framework for an archival system dedicated to preserving and maintaining access to digital information. It addresses a full range of archival preservation functions including ingest, archival storage, data management, access and dissemination. It is not a metadata standard but rather it outlines a taxonomy that defines the information types deemed necessary for the understanding of digital content over an indefinite period of time. Details of how the UKDA and TNA are compliant with OAIS standards are given in *Assessment of UKDA and TNA Compliance with OAIS and METS Standards*. The OAIS is an international standard (ISO/DIS 14721).

Preservation metadata

Preservation metadata are intended to support and facilitate the long-term retention of digital information. Preservation metadata are part of *resource management metadata*.

Preservation strategy

A digital preservation strategy is a particular technical approach to the preservation of digital materials. This document contains the strategy and policy of the UKDA.

Producer

See *depositor*.

Record

The UKDA generally uses this term with its accepted computing meaning as a collection of related data. The word record is used in this glossary in its archival sense as information which provides evidence for the future. The content of that information is understood to be the primary element of the record, but both structure and context are necessary for integrity and usability.

Redaction

Redaction is the separation of disclosable from non-disclosable information prior to the release of a document. When related to *datasets* this is usually carried out by the removal of information from a record while retaining the structure of the record in the version being released.

Reformatting

Altering the underlying bit-stream of a dataset (by moving it between different physical carriers or transforming the character code), but making no changes to the physical representation or substantive content. (*Adapted from ISO/TR 18492.*) If this form of reformatting takes place it is documented.

Refreshment

See media refreshment.

Reliability

The reliability of a record relies on having trusted and dependable contents. (*Adapted from ISO 15489-1:2001*)

Resource discovery metadata

In UKDA usage resource discovery metadata are the catalogue and index record component of a data collection.

Resource management metadata

Generally referred to as administrative metadata, resource management metadata comprise information that is required for management of a digital resource throughout its life cycle, including its preservation and ingest history.

Resource use metadata

Resource use metadata are information required to support the use of a resource, including details of its content, structure, any technical dependencies, and meanings of coded numbers.

Significant properties

Significant properties are those elements of a digital object which need to be preserved in order for it to be used by the designated user community. They will almost always include information content, a level of functionality, but might also include formatting and look and feel.

Statistical Package

A statistical package is a (software) package specifically designed for analysing and often structuring and storing social survey and other social science data. The three most widely used commercial packages are SPSS, SAS and Stata. These three packages store certain variable-level metadata in addition to the data.

Study

The study is the UKDA's basic content-tracking concept used for a data collection during the stages of acquisition, ingest, preservation and dissemination. There is normally a one-to-one relationship between a study and a data collection. Similarly, there is often a one-to-one relationship between a deposit and a study, but a deposit may, depending on circumstances, be divided into more than one study. Equally, more than one deposit from the same depositor may be combined into a single study, similar to accumulating archival fonds.

Usability

The usability of data relies on its ability to be located, retrieved, presented and interpreted. *(Adapted from ISO 15489-1:2001.)*