RE
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LIBRARIES

NATIONAL & STATE LIBRARIES
AUSTRALASIA

www.nsla.org.au

NSLA Digital Collecting Project - Scope

- Heritage material – for permanent retention
- Does not include ebooks, databases, digital newspapers, except where they are acquired under legal deposit

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BIG DATA

90%

OF THE
WORLD'S DATA
WAS CREATED IN
THE LAST

2

YEARS

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Survey – General Observations

- Numbers and types of items vary wildly. Figures in one collecting area range from 80 to 420,000.

- National libraries are way ahead of the states and territories.

- Inconsistent data measures

- Capacity affects ability to collect born digital.

- Lack of policies and procedures for born digital collecting

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Survey - Strengths

Collection strengths:

- Photos (9 out of 10 libraries collecting)
- Digital documents (10 out of 10 libraries collecting)
- Web harvesting (9 out of 10 libraries collecting)
- Oral histories (6 out of 10 libraries collecting)

Survey - Weaknesses

Collection weaknesses:

- Manuscripts and records
- Unable to estimate the extent of unprocessed digital collection material
- Static Data
- Dynamic data
- Digital art
- Audiovisual collections
- Reactive rather than proactive collecting
- Lack of policies and procedures

Definitions

- An agreed set of 22 terms, in simple language that anyone can understand

- Complements the glossary created by the NSLA Digital Preservation group

Principles of Digital Collecting

- A set of seven publicly available principles, and five principles that govern our internal work practices

Digital Collecting Framework

- Links together the definitions, principles, donor pages and PDAT, to give guidance to NSLA libraries, and potentially others, on how best to collect born digital material

Benefits and Outcomes

- Greater cohesion amongst our libraries
- A selection of publicly accessible tools for digital collecting
- Greater engagement of staff
- Building skills and capacity
- Closing in on the digital black hole

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Sister NSLA Projects

- Digital Preservation
- Legal Deposit
- Digital Skills (spin-off from Digital Collecting)

NSLA Digital Skills Project

- Three streams:
  - Digital Literacy
  - Digital Engagement
  - Digital Specialisation

But…

- Still a lot to be done
- It is HARD – there is no one-size-fits-all solution
- Until digital collecting is core business, we cannot rest

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More info:

- NSLA Digital Collecting Framework: http://nsla.org.au/publication/digital-collecting-framework
- NSLA Digital Skills Project: http://nsla.org.au/projects/digital-skills