



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Information for All Programme

IFAP Working Group on Information Preservation

Report as of 14 January 2012

One of the central issues of the *Working Group on Information Preservation* in the more recent past has been the drafting of the four proposals for the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-13 (36 C/5):

1. World Report on Information Preservation
2. Safeguarding the Hidden Documents of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity
3. Open Source Software for Digital Preservation and Data Management
4. Promoting International Cooperation in Format Registries

(see report of 30 June 2011)

In order to ensure their inclusion in the 36 C/5, these projects have been submitted to the General Conference in form of a Draft Resolution (DR 26) by Austria, Israel, Madagascar, Nigeria, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. In a thorough debate, the secretariat expressed sympathy and general support for the spirit of the projects and explained that digital preservation will be one of the key engagements of the sector during the forthcoming biennium. In view of the budgetary situation, however, it felt unable to shoulder these concrete additional obligations.

Dietrich Schüller, Chair of the WG, is member of the Steering Committee of the mentioned Digital Preservation Conference, scheduled 26 - 29 September 2012 in Vancouver and actively engaged in its preparation and programme., Jonas Palm, Chair of SCoT and thus member of the IFAP IP WG, is programme co.-chair. together with Luciana Duranti, University of British Columbia, and host of the Conference.

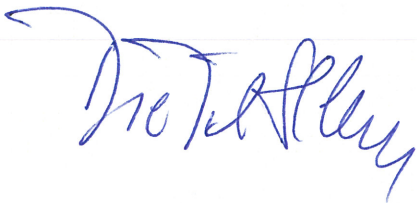
As a preparatory conference of the Vancouver event, a conference on *Preservation of Digital Information in the Information Society: Problems and Prospects* has been organised in Moscow, October 3–5, within the framework of Russia's chairmanship of IFAP. This conference adopted the *The Moscow Declaration on Digital Information Preservation*¹.

Outlook:

The Working Group is ready to actively take part in the Vancouver conference, by submitting proposals for papers and workshops. This conference will specifically offer the opportunity to widen the WG by representatives from the private sector.

¹ (Cf.report of the IFAP President)

In addition to this forthcoming event, the Working Group continues to stand ready for consultation regarding the execution of the current regular programme, including the planning of the next mid-term strategy and biennia. A *modus operandi* in order to intensify routine contacts between the secretariat and the WG should be discussed at the 19th Bureau Meeting. This shall also include mechanisms for feeding the expertise of IFAP WGs into the work of the Regular Programme. Despite the present precarious financial situation of UNESCO, the four proposals worked out by the WG must not be forgotten.



Dietrich Schüller
Chair
14 01 2012