

# Personal Archives Accessible in Digital Media

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**PARADIGM**

**project**

**Fedora UK User Group**

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The University of Manchester



# Summary

- Some background - what is the **PARADIGM** project?
  - What are our aims?
  - What are our objectives?
  - What are the expected outcomes?

# PARADIGM

- JISC funded project – 04/04 programme
- Oxford University Library Services & John Rylands University Library, Manchester
- Exploring from 'personal' and 'collecting' perspectives
- Exemplar strategies for preserving digital private papers – using politicians as our example
- Technical issues (Fedora & DSpace repositories; standards - OAIS & METS)
- Cultural issues (creator attitudes, legal issues, etc.)
- Results – an online workbook for curators

***<http://www.paradigm.ac.uk>***

# Philosophy and content

- Enable experimentation with digital curation
- Learning by doing
- Getting to know the standards
- Finding out what software might support our needs
- Testing the software to see if it does
- 'Trying it out' with real material provide by real people
- Sample collections provided by a mixture of ...
- Getting a feel for the drivers and barriers to acquisition of materials for and to the archive!

# Perspective of a collecting archive

- digital curation from a collecting perspective
- Procedures have to be developed in a collecting context
- Working specifically with individuals
  - Creators of personal archives
- Creating trust
- We cannot impose standards on what we are given
- Whilst true in the paper records -
  - digital records are even more vulnerable
- We need to engage with creators much earlier!!

# Results/Outcome - workbook

- Project is a pathfinder
- Beginning of the understanding
  - How curatorial operations differ from traditional to digital
- The lessons learned are being captured in an online workbook
- Most tangible results will be at the project institutions
  - will have piloted methods of selecting, taking-in, managing , cataloguing and providing access to personal digital material

# Aims for the Session & Conclusions

- Establish links with UK based Fedora users
- Establish communication to reduce duplication of effort and re-invention of the wheel
- Digital preservation heralds major changes for the ways in which archivists catalogue and arrange collections
  - IT support crucial for digital archivists
  - An understanding of digital preservation from an archival perspective is crucial for IT specialists

# Questions now?

Questions later... [renhart.gittens@ouls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:renhart.gittens@ouls.ox.ac.uk)