

# “Collaborative Efforts on Digital Preservation in Germany: nestor - Network of Expertise in Digital Preservation”

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I would like to give you a brief overview about the goals and the missions of nestor, the network of expertise in digital preservation and talk about our experiences in collaborative working.

- nestor brings together the existing know-how and the competencies with regard to digital preservation in Germany
- nestor itself does not preserve electronic resources
- nestor builds a network of institutions
- currently 12 partner institutions from
  - libraries
  - archives
  - museums
  - research institutions

nestor brings together the existing know-how in digital preservation in Germany. Nestor itself does not preserve digital objects but it builds a network of institutions which are concerned with the challenge of digital preservation. Currently twelve institutions are part of the network, among them libraries, archives, museums, research institutions. On the following slide the nestor partners are listed.



- ..■ 1995: Paper from the German Research Foundation (DFG) "Electronic publications,, mentioned digital preservation
- ..■ 2002: Two workshops
- ..■ 2003 - 2006: nestor I (funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research)
- ..■ 2006 - 2009: nestor II (funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research)
- ..■ Since 2009: Consortium based on a Cooperation Agreement

The first time, digital preservation was mentioned in the context of electronic publication in a paper in 1995 from the German Research Foundation. After that, several workshops and discussions followed. In 2003, nestor started as a project, funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research. Funding ended in 2009 and at this point almost all partners agreed to continue with nestor as a consortium, based on a cooperation agreement. That means there is no external support for nestor anymore, every institution must bring its own resources, e.g. staff and travel costs. This year the directors of nestor agreed to pay a little fee for the purpose of membership in other initiatives or PR. In the long term we hope to get support by the government to establish a sustainable organisation.

- ..■ Website as online information and communication platform
- ..■ Publications:
  - ..■ Studies
  - ..■ Guidebooks
  - ..■ Infosheets
  - ..■ Catalogues of Criteria
  - ..■ Checklists
  - ..■ nestor edition
- ..■ Information services:
  - ..■ Databases
  - ..■ Calendar
  - ..■ News

<http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de>  
[http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de/Subsites/nestor/EN/Home/home\\_node.html](http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de/Subsites/nestor/EN/Home/home_node.html)



14th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

Overall nestor serves as a platform to provide and to exchange information about different aspects of digital preservation. The nestor website serves as an information platform with different kinds of information services:

Various kinds of publications can be found on the nestor website as well as information about projects and persons connected to digital preservation activities. Announcements and reports on events connected to digital preservation can also be found there.



- ..■ nestor Schools:
  - ..■ 3-5 days workshop for staff from heritage institutions as well as for students
- ..■ nestor encyclopedia:
  - ..■ All aspects of digital preservation
  - ..■ Print version
  - ..■ Online version freely available
- ..■ Publication: Digital preservation of research data
- ..■ MoU with 11 higher education institutions:
  - ..■ Development of curricula
  - ..■ Development of e-tutorials together with students

Together with higher education institutions nestor plays an important role in the field of education and training. The so called nestor Schools take place once a year for a week and experts teach staff from heritage institutions as well as students.

Not only for these purposes but also to everyone who is interested in the nestor handbook covers all aspects of digital preservation. There is an online version freely available on the website that is continuously updated. In March 2012 a book about digital preservation of research data was also published.

Eleven higher education institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop curricula and e-tutorials in the field of DP in Germany. Together with their students they develop e.tutorials that cover different aspects of digital preservation and share these tutorials.

- ..■ Collaboration with German Institute for Standardisation (DIN), Standardisation Committee for Libraries and Documentation (NABD): 3 nestor works:
  - ..■ Catalogue of Criteria for Trusted Digital Repositories, Version 2 ➔ DIN 31644
  - ..■ Into the Archive - a guide to the information transfer to a digital repository ➔ DIN 31645
  - ..■ Catalogue of criteria for assessing the trustworthiness of PI systems ➔ DIN 31646
- ..■ EU-Framework Audit & Certification

In collaboration with the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN) three nestor publications are now becoming national standards:

The nestor catalogue of criteria for trusted repositories identifies criteria which permit the trustworthiness of a digital repository to be evaluated, both at the organisational and technical levels. The criteria are defined in close collaboration with a wide range of different memory organisations, producers of information, experts and other interested parties.

The aim of the guidelines to the information transfer to a digital repository “Into the Archive” is to help overcome the first obstacle encountered in the field of long-term preservation: how can digital information objects be ingested into a digital repository in a manner that facilitates their secure storage, management and preservation there? However, a digital repository should not be regarded primarily as a technical system, but as an organisational unit or institution which performs the task of digital preservation and which is ideally based on the OAIS reference model.

The “Catalogue of criteria for assessing the trustworthiness of persistent identifier systems” is intended to help providers and users of persistent identifiers (PIs) keep digital objects identifiable, referenceable and accessible over longer periods and despite unforeseeable changes.

The nestor activities in this field are embedded in the European Framework of Audit and Certification, which contains a graduated procedure: Data Seal of

- ..■ Co-operation with initiatives on an national and international level
- ..■ nestor partners are involved in several DP-projects
- ..■ 8 working groups with experts from more than 50 institutions

The activities described above are all undertaken in collaboration, but also in other fields networking is very important. We are in touch with national and international initiatives, i.e Alliance for Permanent Access, DPC, NDIIPP etc nestor partner institutions are involved in several projects and collaborate with other nestor partners as well as with other institutions.

The nestor working groups are the most visible expression of collaboration.

- ..■ WG Media: AV and multimedia preservation
- ..■ WG Cooperation: forum for identifying and addressing collective problems in DP
- ..■ WG Digital Preservation: pragmatic use of concept of significant properties
- ..■ WG Legal Issues: copyright legislation
- ..■ WG Emulation: best practices
- ..■ WG Certification: Use cases
- ..■ WG Cost models
- ..■ WG DP Policy

The nestor working groups are led by one or two nestor partners but are open for all interested institutions. The working groups address different topics and the goal is generally the exchange of experiences and to share these with others. Most of the working groups develop some guidelines or criteria which are freely available and should help other institutions: For example the above-mentioned guidelines which are now becoming national standards but also a checklist for choosing an archival system.

These working groups are the core of nestor and the members are very encouraged.

- ..■ Webarchiving
- ..■ Research Data
- ..■ Events and workshops:
  - ..■ Workshop: Metadaten und Persistent Identifiers for Social and Economic Data (7.-8. May 2012 in Berlin)
  - ..■ nestor day (June 19th in Berlin)
  - ..■ CULTURAL HERITAGE on line and Pre-Conference on certification of trusted digital repositories, 10-13. December 2012 in Florence



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Some other activities from nestor are the topic of webarchiving. We organised some workshops within the last month, the last one was a public event with 150 participants in March.

nestor also organises a so called „nestor day for practioners“ every year. This event brings together staff from different cultural heritag institutions and provides information exchange about new solutions in digital preservation. The next nestor day will be hed in June 19th in Berlin.

nestor acts also as co-organisator together with other initiatives, i.e the Metadata workshop is co-organized by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), the GESIS Leibniz-Institute for

Social Sciences, the ZBW Leibniz-Information Center for Economics, and the International Data Service Center of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IDSC of IZA).

The event in December is organised by “Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale” and supported by DSA + DPC + nestor + DANS + APARSEN + IFLA + W3C



Here you can see an overview about the nestor activities I have mentioned before

- ..■ ~300 people registered in experts database
- ..■ ~200 nestor school participants
- ..■ 54 projects registered in projects database
- ..■ 15 nestor studies released
- ..■ Dozens of nestor events (workshops, seminars, conferences...) with hundreds of participants

How do we measure success? It is very difficult to answer this question. But what we can say is that around 300 persons have registered in our experts database, and there were more than 200 participants in the nestor Schools, many of them even participated in more than one of the schools. In our database for projects working on digital preservations more than 50 projects are listed and we have published 15 studies, among several other materials. We don't know exactly how many persons participated in nestor events like workshops and conferences, but it was a large number.

- ..■ Most relevant Digital Preservation projects in Germany are connected to nestor
- ..■ nestor partner collaborate in projects
- ..■ Institutions turn to nestor when they start dealing with digital preservation issues

In terms of collaboration and cooperation we can say that most of the relevant DP projects in Germany are connected with nestor in one or another way. The nestor partners are involved in different projects. When institutions start with digital preservation they turn to nestor and ask for recommendation and information.

It is now three years that nestor became a consortium and although we are acting without any external funding, we continue almost all our activities and even started new ones. Currently we have expressions of interest from more institutions. That shows that there is an interest and a need for a network like nestor!

..■ Any questions?

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