



APPLYING FORENSICS TO PRESERVING THE PAST: CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

First Digital Lives Research Workshop

11-12 September 2014

British Library Conference Centre

Workshop Summary

The application of digital forensics to library, archives and museum (LAM) contexts has gained considerable attention in the past several years. There is increasing recognition of the benefits that digital forensics can bring to archival practice: the creation of authentic copies of data on disks; reflection of the original order of materials; establishment of more trustworthy chains of custody; discovery and exposure of associated contextual information; and identification of sensitive information that should be filtered, redacted or masked in appropriate ways.

Many institutions have begun to establish workflows that include elements of digital forensics, such as use of hardware write blockers, formation of forensic disk images, capture of forensic metadata and search within disk for various forms of 'hidden' data. However, there are still many gaps in associated research and professional practice.

This one-day inter-institutional workshop will be held at the British Library Conference Centre. The focus will be on application of digital forensics to acquisition, processing and preservation of materials in libraries, archives and museums. Participants will report on current activities, discuss gaps and opportunities and advance collective action.

The objectives will be to feature innovative application of digital forensics in LAMs; report on the current state of the art; identify challenges, gaps, and opportunities for further collaboration; and articulate recommendations for future activity.

The workshop will include:

- Personal introductions and overview
- Short talks by individuals reporting on current activities or future possibilities
- Small group discussions devoted to planning and strategies for sharing and collaboration in specific areas (based on a clustering of the submitted papers)
- Discussion among all participants about implications for collective action
- Formulation of next steps

This is intended to be a very inclusive and interactive event. It will allow all participants to dig deeper into the ideas from a series of short talks and collectively formulate concrete areas of future collaboration, research and development that are important to them professionally.

The opportunity for taking more formal papers forward for public dissemination will be explored.

Venue

Conference Centre
British Library
96 Euston Road
LONDON NW1 2DB
United Kingdom

Organisers

Jeremy Leighton John
British Library, St Pancras, London

Christopher (Cal) Lee
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Susan Thomas
Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Digital Lives Research Workshop 2014 **Personal Digital Archives for the 21st Century**

This workshop continues the series of research gatherings started by the Digital Lives Research Conference 2009 and the Digital Lives Research Seminar 2010 held at the British Library and supported by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council Grant Number BLRC 8669