

nestor/DPE Winter School 2007 – Practical Application Areas of Digital Preservation

nestor¹, the German “Network of Expertise in Long-Term Storage of Digital Resources”, and DigitalPreservationEurope (DPE)² held a joint Winter School 2007³ in Gernrode/Harz⁴, Germany, from 11 – 15 November 2007.

This five day training event was organised by the Goettingen State and University Library (SUB)⁵, as the nestor partner responsible for training and education, together with representatives from several FE and HE institutions. The event was generously sponsored by the DPE project and supported by the DELOS network of Excellence.

The nestor/DPE Winter School 2007 was part of the elaborate training and education programme to be executed by nestor and the DPE project. This time an audience of more than forty students, practitioners, researchers and university lecturers representing the complete cultural heritage sector of archives, museums and libraries stayed from Sunday to Thursday at the Cyriakusheim⁶ in Gernrode to participate in the intensive discussions about digital preservation issues.

Three speakers from DPE – Heike Neuroth, Andreas Rauber and Stefan Strathmann – took an active part in the organisation and realisation of the event, and due to the generous support by the DPE the attendance fees could be kept low. The DPE support also enabled the issuing of a limited number of grants. A number of renowned experts were enlisted as speakers and were present for the duration of the event.

The Winter School comprised four lessons and a number of lectures and discussions. Similar to the programme for the DELOS Summer Schools, the lessons consisted of an introductory talk, followed by group work and then presentations of the results concluding with intense discussions. The topics of the four lessons were:

- Criteria for archival systems
- Introduction in existing archival systems
- Web archiving
- Preservation planning

The Winter School provided an intensive and fertile learning environment. In addition to the structured lessons, there were additional discussions covering topics such as “Digital Preservation in Switzerland and Austria”. There was also time for relaxation, a guided tour through the village of Gernrode, several social evenings and a visit to the famous collegiate church of Gernrode provided good opportunities for networking and the informal exchange of ideas between the attendees.

Feedback from the event was outstanding and an urgent need for further, similar training events was expressed. To meet these needs, a follow up event, the nestor/DPE Summer School 2008 is planned.

¹ <http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de/>

² <http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu>

³ http://nestor.sub.uni-goettingen.de/winter_school_2007/index.php

⁴ <http://www.gernrode.de/>

⁵ <http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/>

⁶ http://www.cyriakusheim.de/index_eng.htm