

nestor Spring School 2007 - Introduction to Digital Preservation

nestor¹, the German “Network of Expertise in Long-Term Storage of Digital Resources”, held its Spring School 2007² in Gernrode/Harz³, Germany, from 11 – 15 March. This five day training event was organised by the Goettingen State and University Library (SUB)⁴, as the nestor partner responsible for training and education, together with representatives from FE and HE institutions. The event was generously sponsored by the Digital Preservation Europe (DPE)⁵ project and supported by the DELOS network of Excellence⁶.

The nestor spring school 2007 was the first event in an elaborated training and education program to be executed in nestor’s second project phase from 2006 to 2009. This year an audience of nearly 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 Cyriakusheim⁷ in Gernrode to participate in the intensive discussions about digital preservation issues.

Three speakers from DPE - Heike Neuroth, Susanne Dobratz 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 us to issue a limited number of grants. A number of renowned experts were enlisted as speakers and were present for the duration of the event.

The spring school comprised of five lessons and a number of lectures. Similar to the program 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 five lessons were:

- Metadata
- Formats and Significant Properties
- Open Archive Information System (OAIS)
- Selection Criteria for Digital Preservation
- Trusted Repositories

The spring school provided an intensive and fertile learning environment leading to some presentations spontaneously being contributed by the audience. In addition to the structured lessons, there were additional discussions covering topics such as “Preservation Policies”, “Experiences from the kopal Project” or “Digital Preservation in Switzerland”. There was also time for relaxation, a walking-tour in the countryside, several social evenings and a visit to the famous collegiate church of Gernrode afforded opportunities for networking and an informal exchange of ideas. The feedback of the event was outstanding and an urgent need for further, similar training events was expressed. To address this a follow up event, the nestor Winter School 2007 is planned. This event will take place from 11 -15 November 2007 again in Gernrode/Harz. This event will focus more on practical solutions for digital preservation issues.

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¹ <http://www.digitalpreservation.de>

² http://nestor.sub.uni-goettingen.de/spring_school_2007/index.php

³ <http://www.gernrode.de/>

⁴ <http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/>

⁵ <http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu/>

⁶ <http://www.delos.info/> and <http://www.dpc.delos.info/>

⁷ http://www.cyriakusheim.de/index_eng.htm