DPE Digital Preservation Trainers

DigitalPreservationEurope, building on the earlier successful work of ERPANET, facilitates pooling of the complementary expertise that exists across the academic research, cultural, public administration and industry sectors in Europe. DigitalPreservationEurope (DPE) fosters collaboration and synergies between many existing national initiatives across the European Research Area. DPE addresses the need to improve coordination, cooperation and consistency in current activities to secure effective preservation of digital materials.

Core Partners: HATII at the University of Glasgow (Co-ordinator), Technische Universität Wien, Statsbiblioteket, Nationaal Archief van Nederland, Národní knihovna Ceske republiky, Ministero Per I Beni E Le Attività Culturali, Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Vilnius University Faculty of Communication, FernUniversität Hagen.

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Country:

Languages: English

Areas of Expertise: - Electronic records
- Information management
- Digital preservation
- Archives
- Records management

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Profile

Mr. John McDonald is a Senior Information Management Consultant with over 30 years of professional experience in the management of information.

Through his consulting practice (2000-present) he has been involved in the management of public sector projects focusing on the analysis, development and implementation of strategies and policies for the management and preservation of information with an emphasis on information in electronic form. Examples include:

- For National Library and Archives Canada (2007) served as an advisor on initiatives to build recordkeeping capacity across the Government of Canada.
- For National Library and Archives Canada (2005-06) conducted surveys of national and international digital preservation initiatives as a contribution to the development of a national digital information strategy.
- For various federal government departments (e.g. Agriculture, Canadian International Development Agency, Justice Canada, Citizenship and Immigration, Elections Canada, Public Service Commission, Canada Revenue Agency, National Research Council, National Defence, Health Canada) developed comprehensive strategic plans for the management of records and information.
- For Industry Canada (2003) and other government departments (2003-2004) developed guidelines on the management of e-mail and other electronic documents.
- For the Government of Alberta (2005) developed and tested a digital preservation strategy based on the testing of digital preservation concepts in a government ministry.
- For the Governments of Malaysia (2004-05) and Hong Kong (2002-03), developed strategic plans for the management of electronic records including their preservation.
- For the International Records Management Trust (2006) developed a guide on integrating record keeping requirements in the design of financial information systems used in developing countries.
- For the International Monetary Fund (through the International Records Management Trust – 2001) developed strategies designed to support the modernization of the IMF Archives program.

As an educator, Mr. McDonald was responsible for the design and delivery of numerous courses on the management of information. The courses included multi-session

graduate and undergraduate programs, on-line courses, workshops and seminars, and course programs designed for federal government public servants. Examples include:

- For the Canada School of the Public Service (2006-2007), designed and delivered courses on the management of digital information for IM/IT specialists in the federal government.
- For the University of British Columbia, School for Library, Archives and Information Studies, (annually: 2001-2007), designed and delivered a graduate level half course (seven 3 hour sessions) on electronic records management in the public sector.
- For the University of the West Indies, School for Library and Information Studies (2005), developed and delivered a 14 week under-graduate course on records management (with a focus on electronic records) and delivered it on-line to over 35 students.
- For the University of Hong Kong (2003 and 2007), designed and delivered a three day course module on electronic records management to archives students from over 10 Asian countries participating in the three week post-graduate level program on archives and records management.
- For CIDA (annually: 2002-2004), participated with 4 other specialists in the design and delivery of a 3-week course program on information management for CIO's and equivalents from nearly 25 developing countries.
- For the University of Toronto and ARMA (2000-2003) designed and delivered several iterations of a one day course on "Introduction to Electronic Records" as part of the 5 day Basic Records Management series and a one-day course on "Electronic Record Keeping Systems" for the 5 day Intermediate Records Management program.
- For the Department of Public Works and Government Services (2001) developed and delivered several iterations of a one day course, 'Information Management and Government On-line', for federal government IT and IM specialists.

While with the National Archives of Canada (1975-2000) and in his capacity as a special advisor to both the National Archives and the Treasury Board Secretariat (2000) he led a major government-wide project that resulted in a high-profile assessment of information management (IM) in the Government of Canada. The final report included recommendations that contributed to decisions to develop a new government-wide IM policy and to enhance IM capacity across the Government.

As Director of the National Archives' Office of Government Records (1986-2000) he was responsible for facilitating the management of records (regardless of physical form) in Canadian federal government institutions. The work involved the development of government-wide standards and practices, implementation strategies for electronic records, and training programs. He also facilitated the development of government-wide policies on the management of information.

From 1981-85 Mr. McDonald was a member of the Treasury Board Secretariat's Task Force on the Implementation of the Access to Information and Privacy legislation.

Mr. McDonald joined the National Archives in 1975 as a data archivist with the Machine Readable Archives Division. For over six years he was responsible for the appraisal, acquisition and preservation of electronic records of long term national significance.

Mr. McDonald has authored and contributed to government-wide guides and standards on the management of government information and has published numerous articles in leading archives and records management journals.

Mr. McDonald is a Past-President of the Society of Canadian Office Automation Professionals, Past Chair of the Committee on Electronic Records of the International Council on Archives, Past Chair of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Records Council, and founder and Past Chair of the Government of Canada's Information Management Forum.

Mr. McDonald has been a member of several advisory boards and groups including those established for electronic records led by the University of British Columbia (e.g. the Interpares projects), the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Indiana. He currently serves as a 'collaborator' on the UBC-led project on the management of electronic records in the archives of small organizations and is a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Northumbria's project, "Accelerating Positive Change in Electronic Records. Understanding issues and developing practical approaches".

Mr. McDonald is the recipient of the Emmett Leahy Award, presented for outstanding contributions to the information and records management profession (1999), the Career Achievement Award, presented by the Secretary of the Treasury Board for contributions to the field of information management in the Canadian Federal Government (1998), the international Emmett Leahy Award for lifetime achievement in the management of records (2000), the Cardillo Award for outstanding lifetime achievement in records management in the Government of Canada (1996), and a Fellowship award from the Society of Canadian Office Automation Professionals (1990).

In 2000, Mr. McDonald was presented with a lifetime honorary membership by the International Council on Archives.

Mr. McDonald is security cleared within the Government of Canada to the level of 'secret' (file: 95290324-0000340277).