

Life beyond the timeline: creating and curating a digital legacy

Craig Bellamy, Michael Arnold, Martin R. Gibbs, Bjorn
Nansen and Tamara Kohn

Computing and Information Systems, History and Philosophy of Science,
Anthropology, University of Melbourne

Funded by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network

Our Digital Legacy

In the course of everyday life, we are assembling a media legacy of considerable volume, personal importance, and arguably historical importance.

Problems

- Curation
- Preservation and deletion

What is Best Practice?

Problem: are these files mine, and who can access them?

- Cloud Storage
- Terms of use agreements
- Different legal jurisdictions

Problem: curating and bequeathing a local digital archive

- Cataloguing
- Providing meta-data
- Meeting archiving requirements

Problems curating and bequeathing digital music and eBooks

- Not owned
- Cannot be legally bequeathed

Problems curating and bequeathing images

- owned... but –
- Cataloguing
- Providing meta-data
- Meeting archiving requirements

Problems curating and bequeathing email

- Correspondence is a vital legacy, but...
- Posthumous access very difficult.
- Also...
 - Cataloguing
 - Providing meta-data
 - Meeting archiving requirements

Creating a digital register

- Provide locations
- Provide usernames and passwords
- Provide instructions

to a “digital executer”

- Presupposes a high level of organisation.

Conclusion

- The “manual” methods described above are not going to work on any sort of scale.
- A semi-automated system needs to be devised and distributed.
 - An “intelligent agent” that repurposes the algorithms used for surveillance and data-mining.

Questions and Discussion