



UK LOCKSS Alliance Roundup

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This is the latest periodic news bulletin reporting developments in the UK LOCKSS Alliance. In this bulletin we report on: how others in the global LOCKSS network are using their LOCKSS software, specifically for Private LOCKSS Networks (PLNs); and the Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation Conference in Barcelona, November 2013.

PLNS

Consultation with UKLA members in 2012 revealed increasing interest, among the membership, in establishing private LOCKSS networks (PLNs). A PLN allows deployment of the LOCKSS software for specific community and organizational requirements. For example, the CLOCKSS Archive is an example of a PLN for e-journal content. There are many examples of PLNs in use for preservation of special collections, providing a system to preserve local materials and non-journal formats e.g. manuscripts, images, audio files, official publications and databases. PLNs are effective in collaborative environments where like-minded institutions share responsibility for preserving e-content of importance to them. A PLN allows the community to build digital preservation infrastructure, safeguard local digital content and cultivate and maintain local staff expertise and technology assets. There are instances where PLNs are used as a redundancy layer for institutional repositories to ensure robust preservation. In the USA, the tamper proof mechanisms of LOCKSS have made the software ideal as a mechanism for community preservation of official government documents.

At a LOCKSS PLN Community meeting in Alabama, in October 2013, members committed to various concrete actions that will improve documentation to the benefit of LOCKSS members throughout the world and to various technical developments. Work on documentation will include re-organising and populating the PLNWiki at <http://plnwiki.lockss.org/> and converting support emails into sections of the LOCKSS Technical Manual. Technical work will include effort on the baseline technical requirements for a LOCKSS PLN.

Examples of existing PLNs and those in development are documented on the LOCKSS website (<http://www.lockss.org/community/networks/>).

ANADP

Adam Rusbridge, the UKLA Coordinator was in Barcelona on 18-20 November 2013 attending the second Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation (ANADP) conference. The ANADP conference brings people together "to align digital preservation efforts internationally between communities." At a series of plenaries and practical action sessions, delegates focused on themes such as:

- concerns about smaller organisations and their ability to take action and satisfy digital preservation requirements;
- the role of education and advocacy to support digital preservation;
- planning for failure but relying on slow failure to allow succession plans to kick in; and
- new approaches to preservation to address special, unique and minority collections.

At a satellite workshop on the morning of 18 November focusing on Private LOCKSS Networks (PLNs), representatives of various PLNs including the MetaArchive, CoppulPLN, Alabama PLN, gathered to share information on how they initiated their PLNs and secured buy-in from their institutions. This may be useful to the UKLA membership in initiating a UK-specific PLN.

After the meeting in Barcelona, those running PLNs in different parts of the world have begun meeting on the first Tuesday of every month by telecon. These calls are informal and aimed at sharing information between individuals working with LOCKSS, both technical and non-technical. All LOCKSS members with an interest in PLNs are encouraged to participate; UKLA members should get in touch at edina@ed.ac.uk to be put on the PLN mailing list. Minutes arising from the meetings will be published on the PLN wiki at http://plnwiki.lockss.org/wiki/index.php/PLN_Monthly_Meeting_Minutes.