Insight into what people think preserving digital information

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ABSTRACT

The PARSE.Insight project conducted extensive surveys of opinions about digital preservation from researchers, data managers and publishers, supported by three in-depth case studies; several thousand people responded.

These responses, from very many disciplines and from around the world, show a surprising consistency about the kinds of digitally encoded information which they need to be preserved, what they worry about in terms of preservation, what they think of about data sharing and why the vast majority do not make their data openly available.

In this paper we present a summary of the responses, which are in many cases unexpected, and aspects of people's view of preservation, (open) access and re-use of scientific (in the broadest sense) data. Some initial results have been published previously but here we present further analyses of the responses which we feel are valid given the number of responses we have.

The aim of the project was to help to develop the next steps in the areas of preservation, (open) access and re-use of scientific (in the broadest sense) data. We will describe the guidance we believe one can derive from the mass of survey results and its implications for the emerging data e-infrastructure and for the services and performance which repositories should be considering.