**ANNUAL MEETING**
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**Discussion group C : Preservation of digital heritage: regional and international cooperation as a solution – Steve Knight, Programme Director Preservation Research & Consultancy, National Library of New Zealand**

The IFLA Trend Report 2013 identified five top level trends which will play a key role in shaping our future information ecosystem:

- New technologies will expand access to information for some people and limit access for others
- Online education will democratise and disrupt education around the world.
- The boundaries of privacy and data protection will be redefined.
- Hyper-connected societies will listen to and empower new voices and new groups.
- The global information environment will be transformed by new technologies.

Digital preservation was explicitly noted in the IFLA Trends Report:

*Preserving our digital heritage is a priority for libraries and archives around the world. Identifying and capturing digital content of historical or cultural significance in the information deluge is one challenge for libraries. Copyright restrictions on digital content, format obsolescence and lack of technological capacity are others. Automated technologies like web harvesting and search algorithms are increasingly being used by libraries to identify and record our digital output – what have we lost in turning curation and preservation over to algorithms?*

The question posed by the IFLA Trend Report was 'How will we access, use and benefit from information in an increasingly hyper-connected world?'

While digital preservation is based on the same concepts and ethical principles as traditional conservation practice, digital preservation is a new challenge and our digital collections continue to grow in both volume and complexity.

In addition, there are challenges to our business models, our collecting strategies, and our workforce planning. Perhaps the greatest challenge now and increasingly in the future is the sheer cost of storing and managing large-scale digital collections. And if our digital collections are not large-scale now, they will be in 10, 20, 50 years' time.

This workshop will pose the question 'What role should national libraries play in ensuring the long-term sustainability of digital assets so that we can access, use and benefit from information in an increasingly hyper-connected world?