Mission

The mission of the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) is to acquire, preserve and make accessible knowledge and information from the Internet for future generations everywhere, promoting global exchange and international relations.

Goals

To achieve its mission, the IIPC is working to accomplish the following goals:

> To enable the collection of a rich body of Internet content from around the world to be preserved in a way that it can be archived, secured and accessed over time.

> To foster the development and use of common tools, techniques and standards that enable the creation of international archives.

> To encourage and support national libraries, archives and research organisations everywhere to address Internet archiving and preservation.

IIPC STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 – 2017

In February 2016, the IIPC consortium was renewed for a 5 year period under a new Consortium Agreement and By-laws. The present Strategic Plan, approved by the Steering Committee, sets the vision, goals, main projects and priorities of the Consortium for one year starting June 1st 2016, in accordance with the principles and objectives detailed in the Preamble to the Consortium Agreement. This document identifies short term actions, to be realized during the one-year period, and longer term actions that should be reviewed at the end of the year in order to decide if they should be continued as such, transformed along with the evolution of the Strategy of the Consortium, or turned into more concrete and short term actions.

1. Strengthen the new organisation

Strategy:

The By-Laws of the Consortium Agreement as of February 2016 define the creation of three Portfolios: Membership Engagement, Tools Development, Partnerships & Outreach. In addition, the Consortium activities will be organised in Projects and Working Groups, which may be funded by the Consortium based on verifiable goals and deliverables. The strategy of IIPC will be to use this new organisation to engage its members in collaborative activities and to better achieve its other goals. New or existing Groups should support the action of one or more Portfolios.

Short term actions:

> To strengthen the new organisation and ensure consistency by creating a framework for Groups creation and Projects proposals as well as for their evaluation;

> To increase funding capacity for Groups and Projects by re-evaluating the balance between operational costs and investment and by changing the reserve policy;

> To affirm existing Groups that were active in the former organisation by reaffirming their convener, mandate, expected duration and specific deliverables. These Groups may also request facilities such as communication channels or ask for funding.

Longer term action:

> To encourage the creation of new Groups or Projects to support Portfolio activities, by dedicating a line of funding to these activities and if needed, by organising calls for proposals.

2. Membership Engagement

Strategy:

One of the main goals of IIPC is to provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience about Internet content archiving. As a starting point, it is important to state that IIPC is built on active membership: the more you give, the more you get in return. In the beginning, most IIPC Members were also Web archiving doers. However, the growth of the Consortium during the past years has created the need for new forms of collaboration, engaging individual institutions beyond the Steering Committee and taking into account the variety of resources and skills held by these institutions as well as their different mandates and objectives. IIPC aims to be a broker between institutions to engage in new partnerships and make collaboration a habit.

Short term actions:

> To facilitate collecting information on what Member Institutions are doing in the field of web archiving, including harvesting, preservation and access;
> To shape this information and share it in a reusable form, including via the website.

Longer term actions:

> To develop innovative communications channels and forums to facilitate collaboration beyond traditional publication and communication processes;
> To oversee the evolution the General Assembly and make sure that this event brings value to Member Institutions;
> To engage the membership in the steering activities of the Consortium (nominations for elections to the SC, participations in the Web Archiving Conference organisation).

3. Tools Development

Strategy:

IIPC plans to facilitate the development of appropriate and interoperable, preferably Open Source, software and tools, a goal that has been confirmed during the General Assembly in 2016. In conducting this activity, the Consortium will act as a broker rather than a director, putting emphasis on the methodology to bring together key players in the field rather than on creating roadmaps or designing specific tools. It is acknowledged that new developments should be modular and flexible while ensuring the evolution and documentation of existing tools continues to meet community need.

Short term actions:

> To develop collaborative platforms and social engagement targeted at developers, by organising events such as hack fests or unconferences, in order to address specific technical issues already identified and well-known in the community;
> To foster a rich and interoperable tool environment based on modular pieces of software and a consensus set of APIs for the whole web archiving chain;
> To encourage use case driven development.

Longer term action:

> To continue the effort on traditional core tools of the IIPC community such as Heritrix or OpenWayback, and on standards such as Warc.

4. Partnerships and Outreach

Strategy:

By creating the IIPC, the web archiving community acknowledged the importance of international collaboration for preserving Internet content for future generations. The Consortium thus aims at raising awareness of Internet preservation issues and initiatives through activities with a focus on conferences and training events (in collaboration with Tools Development Portfolio) relevant to the work of the IIPC. While IIPC Members now cover a variety of geographical areas, including public and private institutions, small and large, there is still room for increasing the membership base. As it was traditionally the case, this effort will be directed in priority towards institutions already engaged in web archiving activities. However, other types of partnerships or outreach initiatives need to be imagined towards other communities (tech companies and researcher communities as a second priority).

Short term actions:

> To engage and support researcher involvement in, and benefit from, member activities (in collaboration with Membership Engagement Portfolio);

> To develop general rules for dealing with potential sources of income such as benefactors, sponsors, and conference fees;

> To define conditions for an IIPC contribution to relevant conferences and research communities (sponsorship for Members (re)presenting IIPC, topics of interest in relationship with project or working groups) and interact with them;

> To define conditions for a partnership with IIPC in general (requirements, benefits for partners, agreement) and identify potential tech companies to interact with;

> To produce a leaflet for use in promoting the existence and work of the consortium and how people can get involved and join.

Longer term actions:

> To oversee the evolution of the Web Archiving Conference by gathering feedback from previous years;

> To explore potential new sources of income such as benefactors, sponsors, conference fees;

> To liaise with other communities (researchers, tech companies, webmasters) in particular through educational outreach;

> To raise awareness of the IIPC and Web Archiving through the participation in events of relevant communities (IPRES, IFLA, UNESCO, digital humanities and computer science conferences).