

Does Trust Matter?

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Abstract: *Trusted Repositories: Audit and Certification (TRAC)*, soon to be *ISO standard Audit and Certification of Trusted Digital Repositories (CCSDS 652.0-R-1)*, serves as a guideline for repositories seeking to demonstrate compliance and accountability to manage digital assets long term. Within this document, there are only a few sub-sections dealing specifically with dissemination and designated communities. However, sub-sections concerning administrative aspects, such as policies, also concern data reuse. Thus, issues of data reuse are implicit in parts of TRAC that do not deal directly with dissemination and designated communities. While we know that adherence to TRAC enhances the ability of a repository to preserve digital objects, how TRAC enhances data reuse is less clear.

Our major research question is: What difference do the attributes of a trusted digital repository (TDR) make to researchers using data from that repository? The sub-questions include: What attributes of trusted repositories as outlined in TRAC do researchers care about? How do their perceptions about repositories influence their propensity for data reuse? Using content analysis of the digital preservation/curation literature, we will present a conceptual model of TRAC concepts as they apply to users. At a future date, we will then operationalize concepts in our model to survey social scientists accessing datasets through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

About the authors:

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Ixchel M. Faniel, Principal Investigator and Post Doctoral Researcher, OCLC, Online Computer Library Center, Inc. Ixchel’s research interests include the reuse of content, particularly how to capture, document and disseminate the content that makes it easy to share and reuse via technology. Her research focuses on the reuse of knowledge and scientific research data within industry organizations and academic communities.

Elizabeth Yakel, Co-Principal Investigator and Associate Professor, School of Information, University of Michigan. Elizabeth examines the uses and users of digital primary sources. She is particularly interested in representational practices and how digital objects are not only preserved and renderable but also how meaning is communicated over time.

Nancy McGovern, Research Assistant Professor and Digital Preservation Officer at the Inter-university Consortium for Social and Political Research (ICPSR) and Senior Personnel on DIPIR. Nancy's interests are organizational models for digital preservation planning and community-based response to technological change.

Kathleen Fear, Morgan Daniels, and Adam Kriesberg, all Ph.D. Students attending the School of Information, University of Michigan and working as Research Assistants on DIPIR. Kathleen is interested in long-term preservation of medical and scientific research data, specifically the identification of significant properties of data for reuse in these communities. Morgan studies data management and reuse in research communities with a specific interest in research uses of museum collections and information. Adam examines digital preservation and archival practice, data curation, access to digital materials, and digital collaboration in the humanities.