

mashups

Community developments of preservation and curation services have failed to target the real needs of users and practitioners working at the coal face of digital stewardship. Many community tools lie abandoned and unused. We ran mashup events that invited practitioners to bring along their data and their preservation challenges, then worked to solve them by re-purposing and developing existing open source tools. OPF hackathons and the EU funded SCAPE Project also followed a practitioner driven approach.

5 SPRUCE mashups

6 OPF hackathons

16 SCAPE partners



practitioners

The practitioners came from a variety of backgrounds and organisations that included Libraries, Archives, Museums and commercial entities. Some were experienced information professionals, others were taking their first steps as digital stewards. All had some responsibility for the management of digital data.

80 practitioners

60 organisations

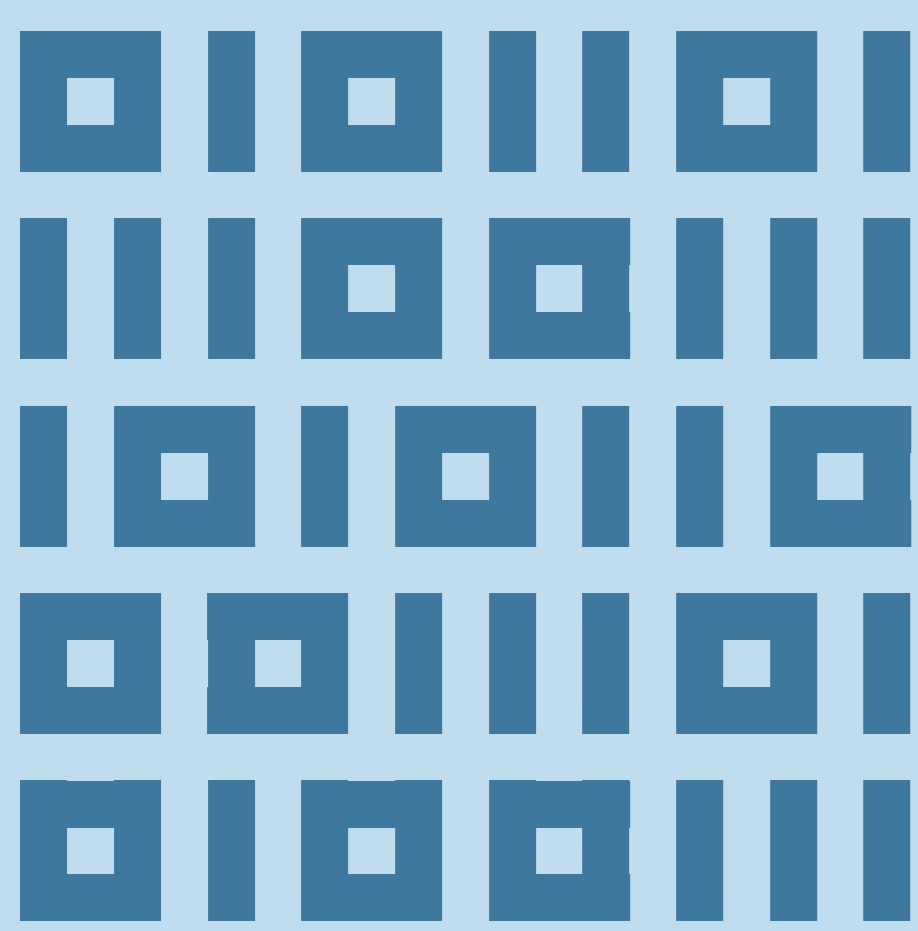
11 nationalities

preservation practice captured here: <http://bit.ly/spruce-results>

60 datasets



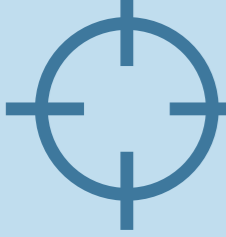

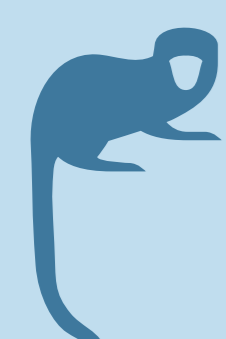
120 issues

70 solutions



Activities from mashups, hackathons and the SCAPE Project are captured on the Open Planets Foundation wiki. The result is a detailed record of practitioner requirements and current preservation practice. Although not a completely scientific examination of user needs it has the potential to inform the direction of future tool development.

5 key themes drawn from 120 practitioner issues

-  quality assurance and repair of damaged or potentially damaged data or metadata
-  appraisal and assessment in order to inform selection, curation and next steps
-  locate preservation worthy data typically where mixed with other data across shared server space
-  identify preservation risks in order to inform preservation planning
-  long tail including Contextual issues, Data capture, Embedded objects, and broader issues around Value and cost

practitioners need better **characterisation** tools

The overriding focus of these themes is the need to characterise digital data and therefore better understand what it is and what condition it is in. The practitioners have spoken: they need better characterisation tools and services.



<http://bit.ly/spruce-project>

Paul Wheatley, SPRUCE Project, University of Leeds, p.r.wheatley@leeds.ac.uk



Sagui designed by Travis Yunis, Warning designed by Unknown, Volunteer designed by Dima Yagnyuk, and Wrench designed by John Caserta. All are from The Noun Project.