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Thought for the Day

*Who controls the past controls the future.
Who controls the present controls the past.*

George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four, 1949



Digital Dark Ages...

- **We have already lost information.**
- **Demographic document bulge is coming.**
- **Technological obsolescence.**
- **Format proliferation.**
- **Diminishing financial resources.**



... Digital Dark Ages.

- **Restrictive IP and licensing regimes.**
- **Privatization of information.**
- **Changing locus for preservation activities.**
- **Dynamic standards environment.**
- **Need to preserve existing analog resources.**



The Preservation Nexus

The challenge is to maintain the relationship, over time, between:

- **hardware,**
- **software,**
- **humanware (organizations and people).**



Digital Preservation Research Agenda

- Identify data types and formats.
- Responsibilities of rights holders.
- Seeking cost models.
- Examine methods of digital preservation.
- Develop guidelines.
- Identifying the preservation needs of universities and funding bodies.
- Information rescue/data archaeology



What is to be Done?

- 1. We do not know how to preserve electronic information.***
- 2. The problems are not technological but sociological.***



What is to be Done?

- **Knowledge Creation.**
- **Digital Triage.**
- **Rescue Operations.**
- **Deal with Formats.**
- **Rights Management.**
- **Promotion.**
- **Working Together.**
- **Digital Preservation as a Public Good.**



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Closing Thought

*Those who cannot remember the past
are condemned to repeat it.*

George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1906



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Closing Thought

*I have not lost my mind - it's backed up
on disk somewhere.*

Unknown signature file.



Copies of the Paper

- **Available on IFLANET in PDF format at:**

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla63/63cp.htm>

- **Contact me directly.**
- **Copies available from organizers.**



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