

# Preservation and Regime Change

## Do We Need Multinational Solutions?



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Assertion

**The record is  
at risk**



YOUTUBE/ISLAMIC STATE



*courtesy(!?) of ISIS*



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# King Uthal, 2017

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- Part of Morehshin Allahyari's *Material Speculation* project
- “Repairing history”



# How many King Uthals do we have?



If we are collecting the right things, we should anger powerful people.

# No longer an abstraction

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Our digital preservation commitment is for generations

Regime change is inevitable

Physical barriers/borders no longer viable



# **It's time to talk about extra-territoriality**



**And perhaps do more than just talk.**

# Current situation at McMaster

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All systems and files resident in library-based data centre. Sole tenant.

~16 TB of unique digital assets (primarily IR and digitized collections) pushed out to Ontario Library Research Cloud (OLRC).

More or less meeting demand of 3-2-1. Moving toward calling it preservation.

# A note about OLRC

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- Operated entirely within universities.
- 5 distributed nodes.
- Minimum 3 copies.
- No commercial data centres.
- No commercial fibre (VPN on ORION).

4-2-2?

**4 copies**

2 local, 2 off-site



**2 media**

better: two entities



**2 countries?**

2+?

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**CLOCKSS** preserves content in 12 strategically chosen libraries across the globe to optimize the content's safety against **political and environmental threats**. Libraries in Asia, Europe, and North America have a complete copy of the archive.

# Important considerations

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Crossing a border  
does not mean  
escaping legal  
regime

Institutions will lose  
disputes with  
corporations and  
nations, always  
(Rosenthal)

# Potential barriers to multiple nations

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Privacy regulations and concerns

Currency, language, logistical issues

Legal and contractual concerns

Trust

Culture



Don't be deterred by  
*red herrings*



# Get around the barriers

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~~Privacy regulations and concerns~~

Don't include PI or business data

~~Currency, language, logistical issues~~

Eminently solvable

~~Legal and contractual concerns~~

Emphasize partnership; SLA, not contract

**Trust *can* be built.**  
**Culture *can* change.**

# What are the components?

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## *Embrace*

Institution-based storage

Research networks

Partnerships

Agility

## *Avoid*

“Heavy” collaboration

Excessive governance

Perfection

Just to be perfectly clear:

**The first line of defence is  
still the national solution.**

**This could be a  
hedge against  
“cultural extinction”  
events**

# Thank you!

Deck design courtesy of SlidesCarnival  
Deck - [u.mcmaster.ca/digipres17](http://u.mcmaster.ca/digipres17)



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