Presenting…

The SPOT Model

for Risk Assessment

Priscilla Caplan

Totonto, 2 October 2012

What is SPOT?

Preservation threats:

- Threats to archived digital content

    - E.g. technical issues related to ingest & storage

- Threats to the custodial organization

    - E.g. economic and legal issues

SPOT: A lightweight framework for addressing threats arising from technical operations associated with preserving objects.

Desired qualities in a threat model:

Conceptual Clarity

- Don't mix causes with results

Appropriate detail and consistent granularity

- Don't mix very broad with very detailed

Comprehensiveness

- Within professed scope

Simplicity

- Fitness for purpose

SPOT approach

- Agree on the goals of technically successful digital preservation

- Itemize threats that could negatively impact those goals

- Assess your vulnerability to those threats and look at ways to mitigate them

Goals of digital preservation

- Availability
  - Object has been captured and is maintained in repository

- Identity
  - Object can be distinguished from other objects, discovered and retrieved

- Persistence
  - Bits are intact on media and can be read

Goals of digital preservation (continued)

- Renderability
  - Object can be used in a way that retains significant properties

- Understandability
  - Object can be interpreted by its designated community

- Authenticity
  - Object is what it purports to be

Using the SPOT model for risk assessment

- What are property-oriented threats?

- How well do you mitigate them?

E.g. Threats to identity

- Sufficient metadata is not captured or maintained.

- Linkages between metadata and the objects that the metadata describes are not captured or maintained.

- Metadata is captured and maintained but not made available to users.

Example:
Sufficient metadata is not captured/maintained

If you think about causes –

> Organization can't afford good catalogers

> Has good catalogers but one is lazy

> Cataloger went on leave, was hit by bus

If you think about results –

> Quality control step for sufficient metadata

Sally Vermaaten, Brian Lavoie, Priscilla Caplan

Identifying Threats to Successful Digital Preservation: The SPOT model for Risk Assessment

D-Lib Magazine, Sept/Oct 2012

http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september12/vermaaten/09vermaaten.html