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REPORTS

A lengthy report on archiving websites was published recently on the DAVID website. Again it covered both the technical and legal aspects of the subject. The researchers ascertained that archiving static websites poses few, if any, problems. The newest websites, however, are dynamic, which means their content is dependent on the profile of the user or of the information to be found at a given moment in the documents management system connected to it, or in the underlying databank. The emulation strategy seems to be the only practicable one at the moment. In the absence of proven effectiveness, the researchers have elected to come up with a practical solution. The report describes and documents this ‘*best practice*’.

The legal analysis focuses first and foremost on the problem of copyright. Here the researchers argued that this problem is highlighted when it comes to web archiving, given that the archiving of web pages requires reproduction operations from the start of the archiving process. Whereas copyright traditionally prides itself on protecting our cultural heritage by reserving the reproduction of copyright works for those who have made the effort to create them, this reservation, as it is currently formulated in Belgian law, will in future result increasingly in the copyright itself being responsible for the loss of our (digital) cultural heritage. Consequently, the researchers call for the introduction of an exception to the exclusive reproduction right for preservational purposes.

DLM FORUM

On 8 May Professor Dumortier will speak at the third DLM Forum about the archiving of digital signatures. Research into this has revealed that there is a need for *Trusted Archival Services*, which can provide the necessary expertise to ensure that digital signatures can also be validated long after the electronic document has been signed, so that the latter retains its value as a piece of evidence.

'OUTRIGHT PROOF' REFERENCE WORK

At the request of BelAIIM (<http://www.belaiim.org>), ICRI has produced a reference work on the legal possibilities and difficulties of setting up an electronic document management system. It looks at the legal aspects concerning the production and storage of a whole range of important documents, such as contracts, accounts, social documents, etc. This reference work will be of particular interest to the business world and the producers of electronic documents management systems.

WEBSITE

The following were recently added to the website:

- Boudrez, F. and Van den Eynde, S., *Archiving Websites*, Antwerp-Leuven, April 2002.
- Dumortier, J. and Van den Eynde, S., *Trusted Archival Services*, Leuven, April 2002.
- Boudrez, F. *Standards for digital archival documents*.

Reports on the archiving of e-mails and the archiving of websites are currently being translated for the English-language site. We hope to have these reports ready for our non-Dutch readers by the end of May / beginning of June.

NEWSLETTER

Next Newsletter: end June 2002. All the previous Newsletters can be consulted on the website.