

## 1. Publishable summary



### Objectives

The PARSE.Insight project concluded at the end of June 2010. Its driving motivation was to contribute to the long-term access and usability of digital resources created by scientific endeavour. It is widely recognised that there are risks that such resources might be lost to future use unless active steps are taken for their preservation. Not only hardware, media and formats change, but knowledge, required to interpret and reuse data, also changes over time. There are of course many initiatives under way dealing with this problem, but PARSE.Insight aimed to look across communities to seek a common infrastructure.

The project delivered:

- **Insight and understanding** into the capabilities and practices within a wide range of research communities
- A **roadmap** for a support e-infrastructure for maintaining long-term accessibility and usability of scientific and other digital information in Europe
- Identification of **gaps** in the existing and planned infrastructure
- Progress towards a standard for **evaluating** the sustainability and trustworthiness of digital repositories.

The PARSE.Insight project has strong links with the Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science (<http://www.alliancepermanentaccess.eu>).

### Work performed and results achieved

In the first year of project the main emphasis was on surveying communities with an interest in digital preservation to build up insight, and developing a draft roadmap for the e-infrastructure.

In the second year (plus the extended four months), in-depth case studies of four diverse research communities were conducted, complementing the general surveys done in the first year. In addition, several qualitative interviews have been conducted with key persons in funding and policy making positions. The findings were analysed and combined to provide insight into the situation and outlook for digital preservation.

See deliverables: D3.3 'Case study report', D3.6 'Insight report'.
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As part of this work on community insight, an interactive map was developed giving a rich representation of the actors in digital preservation in Europe.

See deliverable: D3.2 'Inventory of communities' (revised version).

The roadmap was exposed to scrutiny and discussion, particularly through a workshop held in Darmstadt in September 2009, and was extended and refined into its final version.

See deliverable: D2.2 'Revised strategic roadmap'.

The gap analysis examines the gap between the current or foreseen situation in terms of developments in preservation, and the ideal that is envisaged in the roadmap. A systematic approach was defined in the first year of the project, and was applied in the second year to several communities of interest. A supporting tool was developed for the purpose.

See deliverables: D4.3 'Gap analysis final report', D4.4 'Gap analysis tool plus supporting database'.

In the sustainability and evaluation work, excellent progress was made towards an international standard for audit and certification of digital repositories. The main standards document and a supplementary document on the requirements on bodies providing audit and certification services were both submitted to CCSDS and ISO for consideration.

See deliverable: D6.2 'Final report on audit and certification standard for trusted digital repositories'.

### Expected final results and their potential impact and use

The final results of the project are the following:

- The **final roadmap** setting out a vision of the components, both technical and non-technical, which would be needed to supplement from the perspective of long-term preservation the existing and already planned infrastructures for science data.
- The **survey report** and **case study report** giving a comprehensive analysis of the current state and outlook of digital preservation in a wide range of scientific communities, and providing a thorough basis of evidence for policy makers, strategists and funders.
- The **insight report** synthesizing the findings of the project with respect to long-term digital preservation.
- Applied **gap analyses** of certain communities, applying specially developed tools to ascertain the gaps between the ideal and reality.
- Progress towards an **international standard for audit and certification of digital repositories**.

### Find out more

The public website of the PARSE.Insight project is at <http://www.parse-insight.eu> (screen shot of the front page below). There the project's publications can be found, with other material of interest such as a link to the interactive map.

## About PARSE.Insight: Permanent Access to the Records of Science in Europe



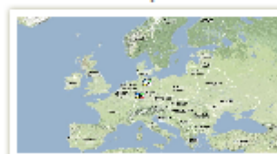
PARSE.Insight is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme. It is concerned with the preservation of digital information in science, from primary data through analysis to the final publications resulting from the research. The problem is how to safeguard this valuable digital material over time, to ensure that it is accessible, usable and understandable in future. The rapid pace of change in information technology threatens media, file formats and software with obsolescence, and changing concepts and terminology also mean that, even if data can be read, it might not be correctly interpreted by future generations.

Many initiatives are already under way in this area, and the aim of the PARSE.Insight project is to develop a roadmap and recommendations for developing the e-infrastructure in order to maintain the long-term accessibility and usability of scientific digital information in Europe. The project will conduct surveys and in-depth case studies of different scientific disciplines and stakeholders and will base its results on these findings, as well as knowledge of ongoing developments.

PARSE.Insight is closely linked to the Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science. The output from the project is intended to guide the European Commission's strategy about research infrastructure.

## How active is Europe?

Check out the PARSE.Insight  
Interactive Map:



## Upcoming events

[Alliance conference:  
Helsinki 22 November 2010](#)

## Recent publications

[Roadmap \(June 2010,  
PARSE.Insight\)](#)

[Insight Report \(June 2010,  
PARSE.Insight\)](#)

[Case Studies Report \(May  
2010, PARSE.Insight\)](#)