

**Government publications:  
some issues on the transition from print to digital**

**Howard Picton**

Standing Committee on Official  
Publications (SCOOP)



# UK official publications - why should you care?

- It is through official information and data that the citizen may hold government to account
- Official publications form an important part of academic library collections, particularly in the social sciences

**Beware of potential and actual threats to the integrity of your collections!**

# Good Things:

- Statute Law Database <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk/>
- London Gazette <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/>
- Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>
- Stormont papers <http://stormontpapers.ahds.ac.uk/index.html>

# Official publications – print format: problems

- Access
- Availability
- Bibliographic control
- Fugitive publications

# Official publications in digital format: problems

- Access
- Availability
- Bibliographic control (or the electronic equivalent)
- Fugitive ‘publications’
- Integrity/authenticity of text
- Preservation (archiving)

## ***Government expects to save £9m as it shuts 550 websites***

- *FT* headline

***“As sites closed, redundant information was being disposed of ...”***

– *FT*, 10.1.07

# Archiving the web:

Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org/index.php>

UK Web Archiving Consortium (UKWAC)

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/>

# What can you do?

- Find out who is responsible for official publications in your institution
- Find out how you can support them
- Get your professional networks (M25, JISC) to lobby BL/TNA

# Contact Details

For further information or discussions please feel free to contact Howard Picton at:

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