2024

Repository Staff Attitudes about CoreTrustSeal Requirements

Rebecca D. Frank
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, rfrank7@utk.edu

Repository Staff Attitudes about CoreTrustSeal Requirements

Rebecca D. Frank, Ph.D.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Einstein Center Digital Future

1 Background

- CoreTrustSeal is a community-based certification system for Trustworthy Digital Repositories.
- Repositories submit documentation demonstrating compliance with a set of requirements, which is reviewed by a group of reviewers.
- This poster is part of the pilot study for a larger research project which seeks to understand how stakeholders in the CoreTrustSeal certification system construct their understanding of risk.

2 Research Questions

- How do staff members from certified repositories regard the three sections of the CoreTrustSeal requirements?
  - Which do they view as most important for long-term preservation?
- Do staff members from certified repositories agree with the CTS requirements?
  - Do they believe that meeting those requirements demonstrates trustworthiness for long term preservation?
  - Do attitudes about the CTS requirements differ between repository staff members who have been CTS reviewers and those who have not?

3 Methods

- Survey of staff from CoreTrustSeal certified repositories in 2020.
- 53.98% response rate (88 of 171 possible respondents).
- Survey questions included a mix of multiple choice, select all that apply, and ranking questions, as well as open response questions that asked respondents to reflect upon their own experiences and attitudes.

Respondents were asked:
1. whether the particular requirement was necessary for the long-term digital preservation,
2. whether the evidence described in the requirement guidance would provide a sufficient evidential basis to demonstrate that a repository had met the requirement, and
3. whether meting the requirement would demonstrate a repository's trustworthiness for long-term preservation.

5 Findings

Most important CTS requirement section by review experience. (N = 88)

	Review Experience			
	Yes	No	Other	Total
Organizational Infrastructure	17	26	2	45
Digital Object Management	9	20	2	31
Technology	1	11	0	12
Total	27	57	4	88

Attitudes about individual CTS requirements. (N = 88)

		Yes		No		Other	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Organizational Infrastructure (R3: Continuity Plan) (N = 45)	Necessary for Preservation	40	88.8%	0	0%	5	11.1%
	Sufficient Evidence	43	95.6%	2	4.4%	0	0%
	Trustworthiness	32	71.1%	1	2.2%	12	26.7%
Digital Object Management (R10: Preservation Plan) (N = 31)	Necessary for Preservation	29	93.5%	1	3.2%	1	3.2%
	Sufficient Evidence	27	87.1%	1	3.2%	3	9.7%
	Trustworthiness	24	77.4%	0	0%	7	22.6%
Technology (R15: Technical Infrastructure) (N = 12)	Necessary for Preservation	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%
	Sufficient Evidence	10	83.3%	2	16.7%	0	0%
	Trustworthiness	8	66.7%	2	16.7%	2	16.7%

6 Conclusion

- Broad agreement that:
  - the requirements were necessary for long-term preservation.
  - the evidence requested was sufficient to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.
- Less agreement that meeting those requirements would demonstrate trustworthiness for long-term preservation

7 Acknowledgments