Even though early web archiving activities started already in the 1990s, at the 16th International Congress on Archives in Kuala Lumpur a well-attended workshop was to address web archiving as a new challenge to archivists. Meanwhile, first standards have been defined, like the WARC file format (ISO 28500:2009), and more initiatives to enhance web archiving, in particular at a national level, have been taken: A current study has identified and analysed 42 web archiving initiatives, 80% of them exclusively focusing on content related to their respective host country (Gomes et al., 2011).

At the same time, the Web once again is rapidly changing, and what has been called the Social Web by Howard Rheingold in 1996, then still as a vision, is now more and more coming into reality. It encompasses text, image, and multi-media content generated by the users in an interactive way, and becomes manifest in social networking sites, blogs, microblogs, image and video sharing sites, social marketplaces, etc, which easily transcend national borders. The even more elusive nature of the Social Web, in comparison with “traditional” web content, makes archiving the Social Web a challenge demanding innovative solutions. The societal and political impact of the interaction in the Social Web makes it, however, an urgent need.

The panel presentation will deal with

- Social Media and policy making
- Future internet and web archiving
- Web archiving projects,
- Methods for crawling,
- User interfaces for web archiving,
- Opinion mining for digital preservation
- Sentiment analysis and Social Media
- Ownership and lifespan of archived content.

The objective of the presentation is to bring together researchers and (web) archivists with an active interest in the future of digital preservation.