



An expedition to European Digital Cultural Heritage

***Preservation, Digitization, Migration...
What comes next?***

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Looking at the problem from the technical side



Some initial concepts:

Preservation: Transferring Analogue contents into a Digital format

Digitization: Managing Digital contents within an Information System (it provides access)

Migration: Regularly transferring Digital Contents from an existing Storage and Information System into a new one in order to preserve Data

Looking at the problem from the technical side



Some misunderstandings:

Once preservation is done your worries are ended

Digital born contents are eternal, since they are digital

Industry will soon develop a conservation carrier that will last ages

Looking at the problem from the technical side



Some needs:

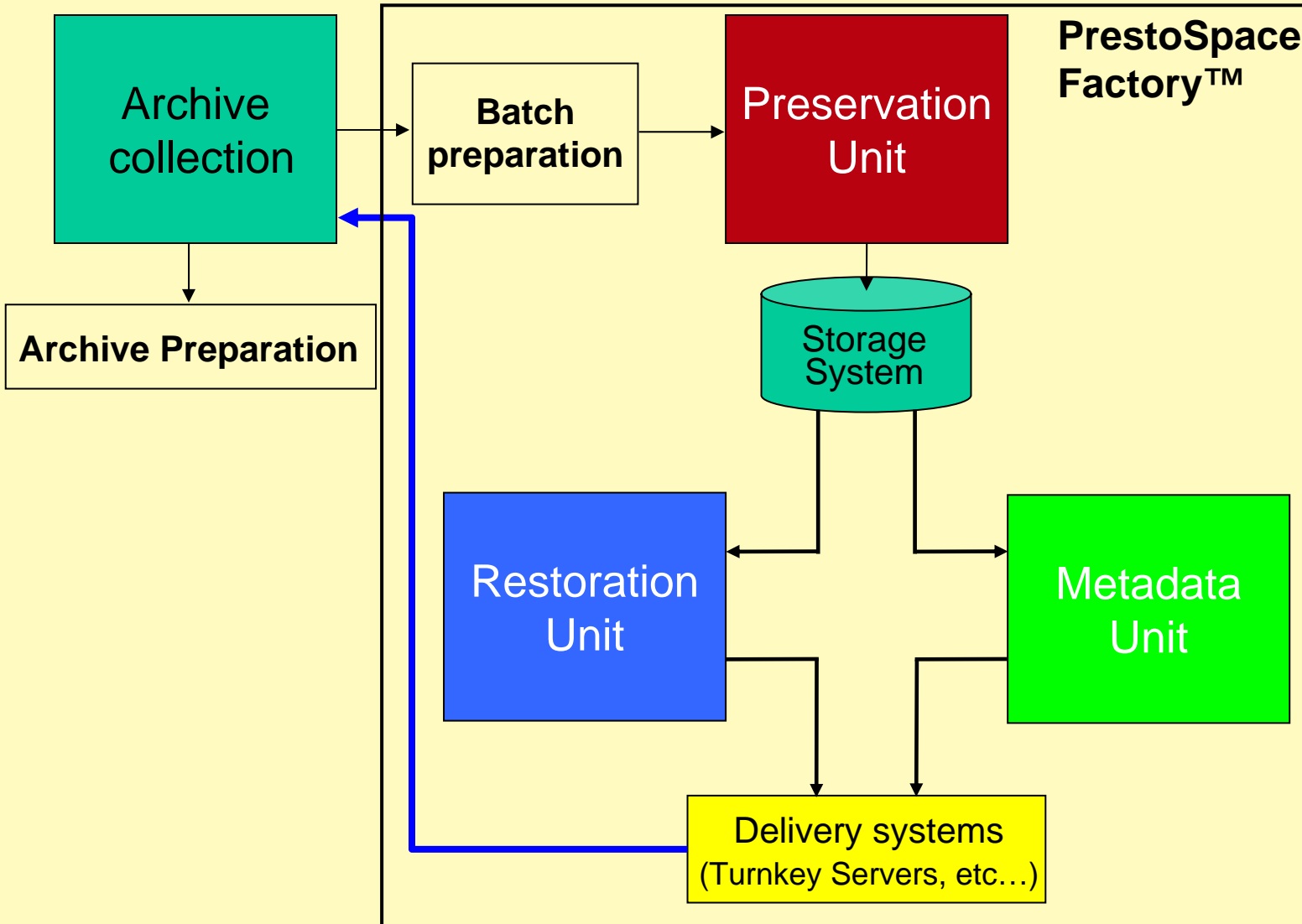
Information Systems and Carriers specifically conceived for archiving

Efficient Security and Authentication technologies

Keeping not only Data, but the necessary environment to make Data reusable (Caspar project)

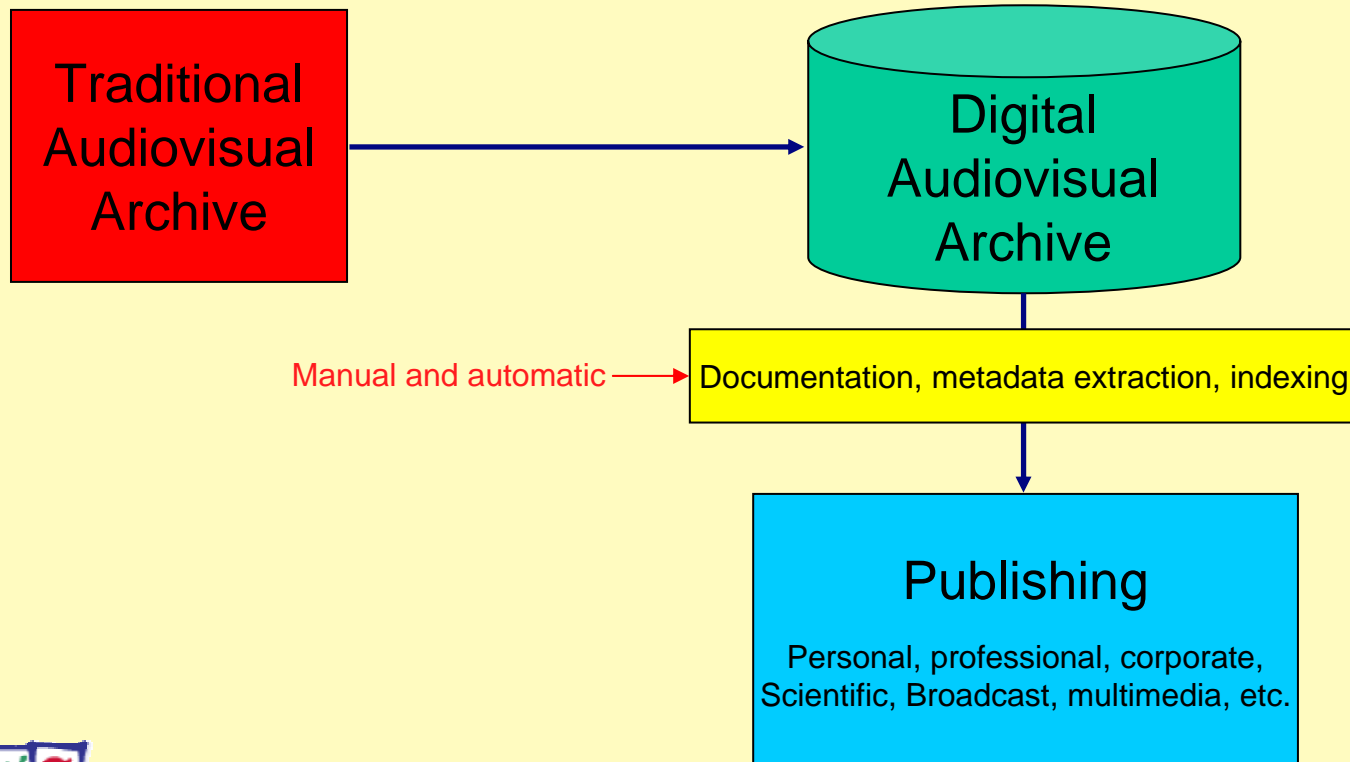
Embedded description systems in production technology

Preservation and Digitization management



Looking at the problem from the documentation side

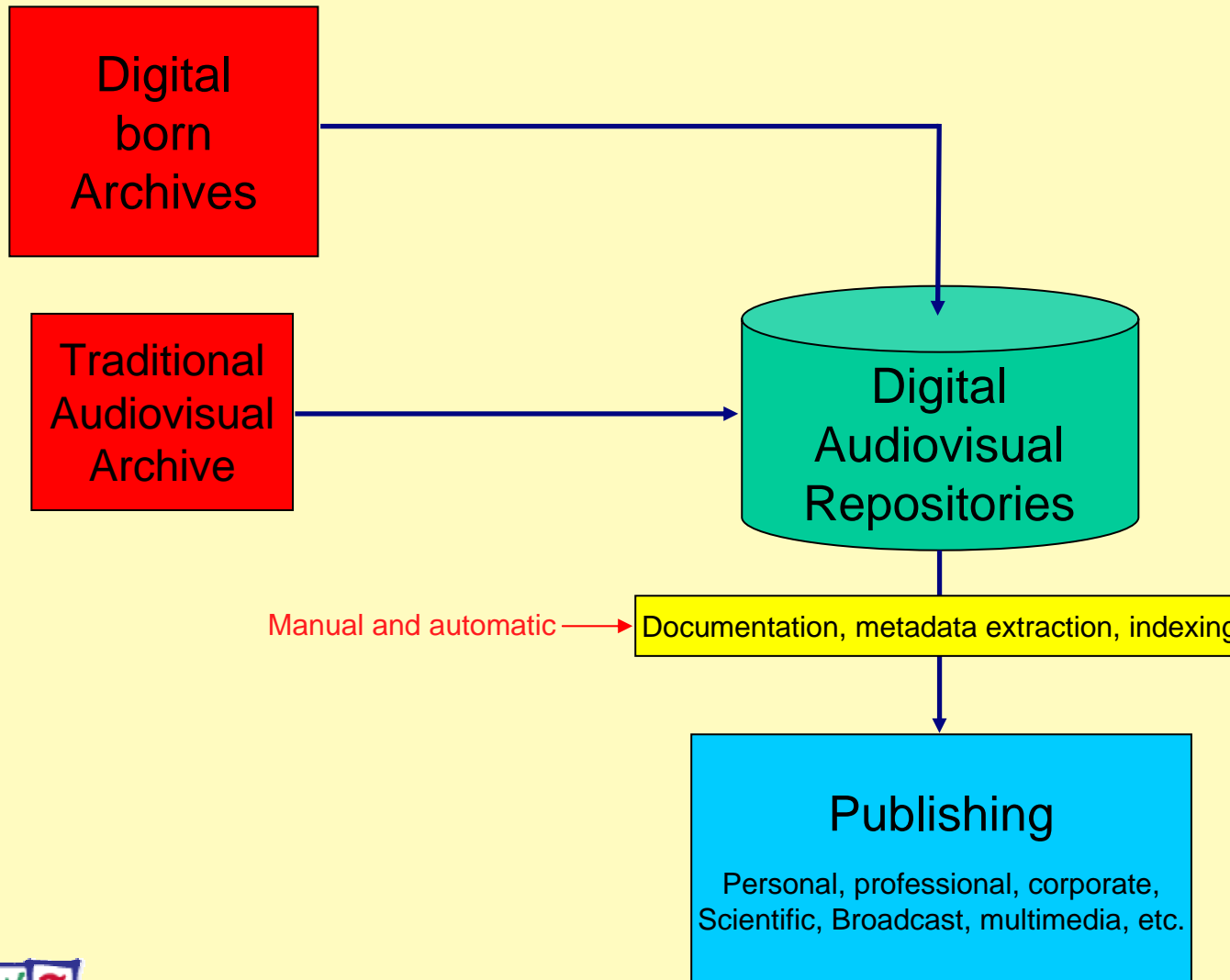
Initial concept: Preservation is a road to Access



Looking at the problem from the documentation side

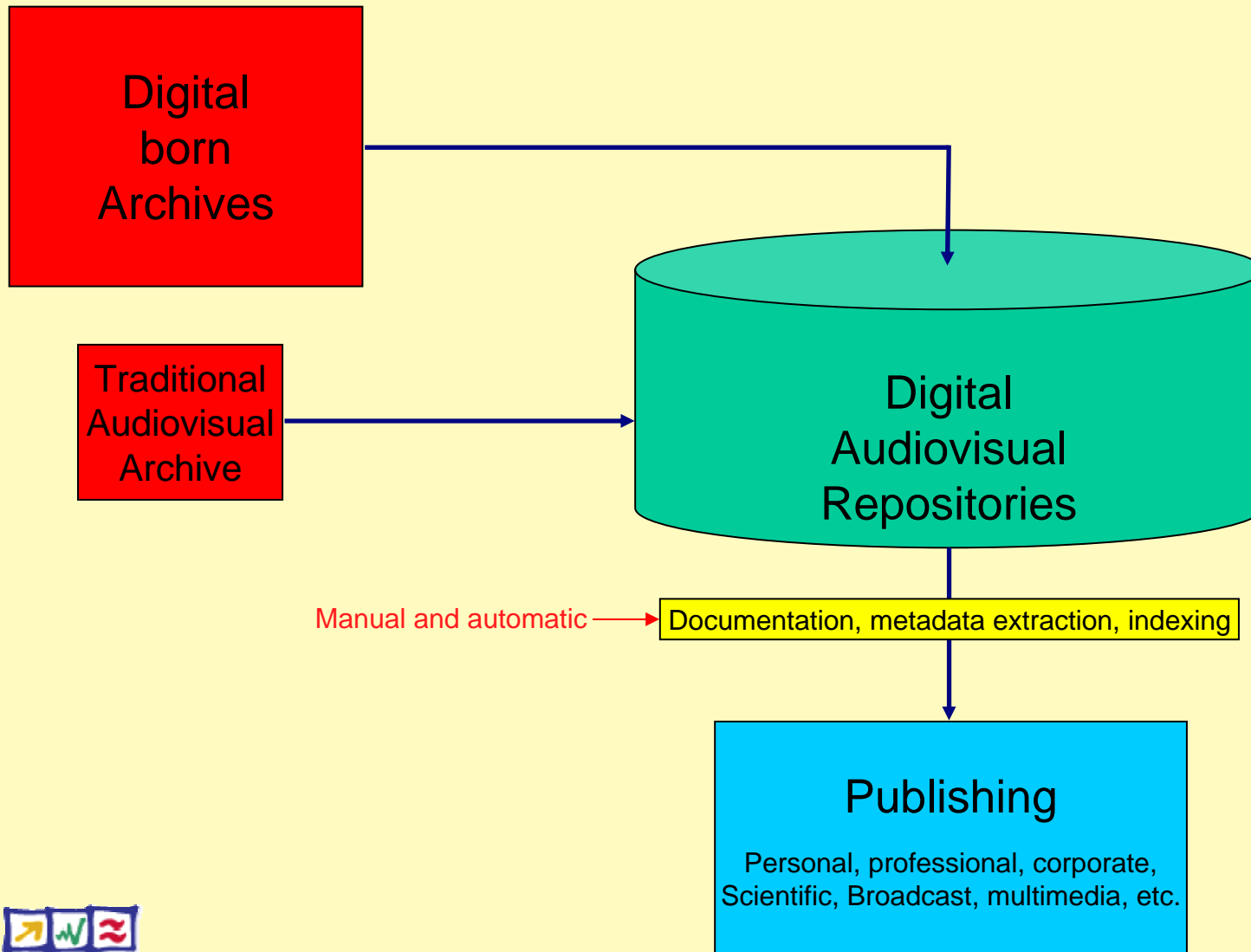


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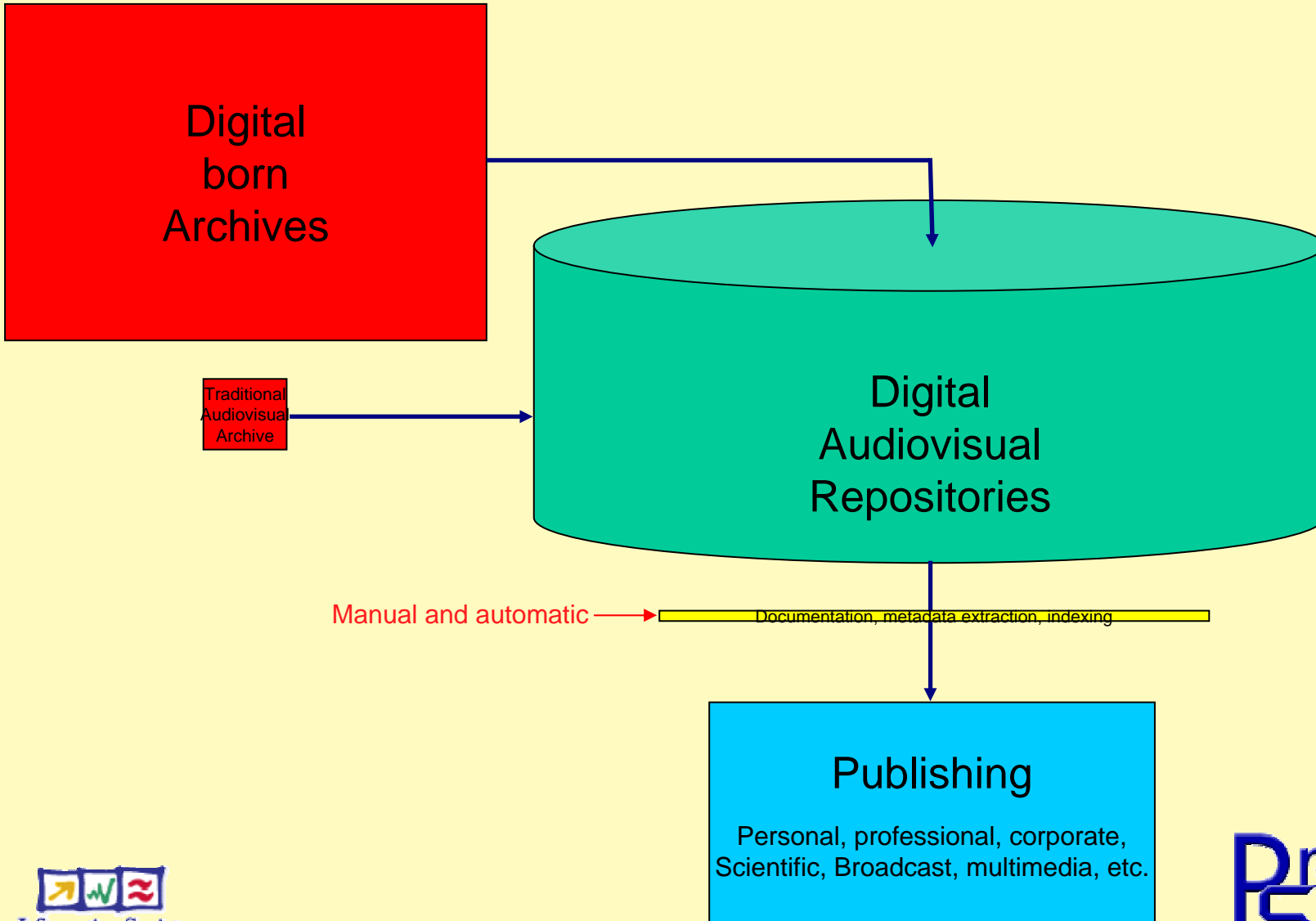
Looking at the problem from the documentation side

Preservation is a road to Access ?



Looking at the problem from the documentation side

Preservation is a road to Access ???



Looking at the problem from the documentation side

Preservation is a road to Access ???



Digital
born
Archives

Traditional
Audiovisual
Archive

Digital
Audiovisual
Repositories

Help !!!

Manual and automatic → Documentation, metadata extraction, indexing

Publishing

Personal, professional, corporate,
Scientific, Broadcast, multimedia, etc.

Looking at the problem from the documentation side



How to improve documentation?

Looking at the problem from the documentation side



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- 6) Integrate Archiving as a part of the Production Technology



Some questions

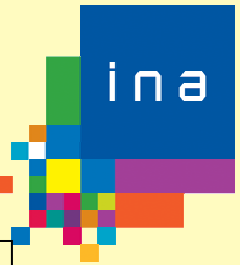
What is the purpose of keeping ?

What should we keep ?

Who is keeping ?

How long should we keep ?

What will happen if someday storage will no more be a problem ?



Some general principles related to Archiving

- Archiving is historically a Power action, today it is a voluntary action, it does not happen by itself
- Before starting any archival action you have to define the purpose and the method that will guarantee its subsistence and its coherent description
- The value of an archive depends on the knowledge you have about it
- Archiving is not just keeping information for the future, it is permitting any information to be retrieved and reused after any lapse of time
- An archivist cannot decide the real value of what he is keeping
- Selection goes against archival principles (even if it is sometimes inevitable)



Problems and perspectives for the future

- **A Digital Archive is not only a Repository, it constitutes a road towards public access**
- **It needs constant care and survey, as well as a permanent technical update**
- **A Digital Archive should not only keep contents, but also the environment, the context and the description of the Information System used to produce the document**
- **The Web is a powerful vector for distribution and access (Google is not an archive, even if it often looks like one)**
- **If Archivists and Production continue to be disconnected we are doomed to lose most of our contemporary culture**
- **Collaboration is a major issue for our society in an archival perspective**



Some conclusions

- **Collaboration between institutions is a major key to mutualize contents, storage and access**
- **User needs are very important, users are keeping more and more information in all domains of activity**
- **New tools are needed to easily manage personal contents (an *i-archive* tool would be welcome)**
- **Knowledge has to be structured and organized in order to be made accessible**



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- **Knowledge has to be structured and organized in order to be made accessible**
- **There is a temptation to create a Backup world, a copy of the actual world, where everything is kept. It is an excess we should avoid, but it is a reality we cannot deny**



The end