

[DIGITAL PRESERVATION WEBSITE: Home Page and Links]

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The Digital Preservation Challenge

One of the great challenges facing universities around the world is finding a way to maintain access to electronic information over long periods of time. Preservation of digital materials – across a spectrum that ranges from primary research data to email to each year’s online course catalog – is fundamental to meeting the University's instructional, research, and public service missions.

Paper documents endure with modest upkeep and can be read without intermediary technology. We can set aside a paper document and reasonably expect to find it readable years later.

Digital information is not so forgiving. Digital information resides on physical media (tapes, disks) that are fragile and susceptible to corruption. Digital information relies on intermediary technology (software and hardware) to read it – technology created in a marketplace that prizes proprietary control and innovation, resists standardization, and is often inattentive to backward compatibility. (Remember 5 ¼ inch floppies? Word Star?) In such an environment and without a planning program for continued access to digital information, there can be no reasonable expectation that digital information created today will remain usable even in a few years.

Digital preservation will require both technological and organizational solutions, and a KU task force has been charged to recommend steps the University can take to ensure lasting access to digital files. However, the digital preservation challenge also results from a mismatch between traditional information management practices – practices largely formed in a print-on-paper environment – and the characteristics of digital information. Everyone who creates documents, databases, websites and other kinds of digital information can help meet this challenge by following some simple guidelines for the creation and management of their files.

Learn more ...

- About good information management practices ...tips for authors and creators of digital files [LINK TO A]
- About good information management practices and standards [LINK TO B]
- About research around the world on technologies and practices to help keep digital information accessible [LINK TO C]
- About the KU Digital Preservation Task Force [LINK TO D]

[Links for Digital Preservation Website]

[A]

TIPS FOR AUTHORS AND CREATORS

Help Make Your Information Last [Link to Appendix G]

Recommended Standards and Best Practices for Digital Projects (KU Digital Library Initiatives, January 2003), <http://kudiglib.ku.edu/docs/DLI%20Standards.doc>

A Glossary of Terms: “Tech to English” [link to Appendix L]

Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging Tutorial (Cornell University Library):
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/index.html>

[B]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND STANDARDS

The Long-term Preservation of Databases, ERPANET Workshop Report, Bern, Switzerland, April 9 - 11, 2003, <http://www.erpanet.org/www/products/bern/bern.htm>

Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs / Fred R. Byers, October 2003,
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub121abst.html>

ISO Archiving Standards (OIS Reference Model)
http://ssdoo.gsfc.nasa.gov/nost/isoas/ref_model.html

Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS)
<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/>

Metadata Standards Framework – Preservation Metadata (Revised, June 2003) -
National Library of New Zealand
http://www.natlib.govt.nz/files/4initiatives_metaschema.pdf

PDF Archive

PDF-A committee is working to define a basic subset of the current PDF standard that meets the needs of producers and users while excluding features that will hinder archival viability.
<http://www.aiim.org/standards.asp?ID=25013>

[C]

DIGITAL PRESERVATION RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

Preserving Access to Digital Information (PADI), National Library of Australia,
<http://www.nla.gov.au/padi>

*Library of Congress Digital Preservation: National Digital Information
Infrastructure and Preservation Program, A Collaborative Initiative of the Library of
Congress* <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/index.php>

OCLC Digitization & Preservation Online Resource Center
<http://digitalcooperative.oclc.org/default.htm>

New Zealand Aotearoa's National Digital Forum
<http://ndf.natlib.govt.nz/>

Research Libraries Group
<http://www.rlg.org/>

Digital Library Federation
<http://www.diglib.org/preserve.htm>

Edinburgh University Library Digital Archives Research Project
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/sites/digpres/dpreport.pdf>

Cornell University Digital Preservation
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/iris/dpo>

OTHER RESOURCES

D-Lib Magazine

Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)

A online magazine focusing on digital library research and development for the digital library community. Issued 11 times per year.

<http://www.dlib.org>

What's New in Digital Preservation

Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) and Preserving Access to Digital Information (PADI)

A web-based quarterly summary of recent activity in the field of digital preservation, compiled using information from the PADI gateway and digital preservation mailing lists.

<http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/whatsnew/index.html>

University of Kansas - Preservation Planning for Digital Information
Appendix K

RLG Diginews - Research Libraries Group

A bi-monthly web-based newsletter aimed at managers of digital initiatives.

<http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews>

Council on Library and Information Resources

The publications of the Council on Library and Information Resources

<http://www.clir.org/pubs/>

[D]

ABOUT THE DIGITAL PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

University of Kansas' Information Services -- High Velocity Change, High Volume
Collaboration

<http://www.ku.edu/~hvc2/>