## Introduction: What is Digital Preservation?

"Digital preservation combines policies, strategies and actions that ensure access to digital content over time"

"Definitions of Digital Preservation." Prepared by the ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section, Working Group on Defining Digital Preservation, 2007. Available at <a href="http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/defdigpres0408">http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/defdigpres0408</a>

## Reasons for Digital Preservation

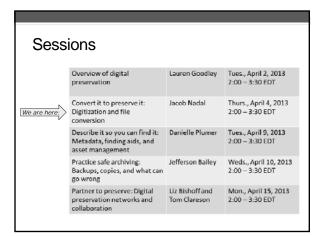
- Cost
- Especially for digitized materials it is better to do it once and make sure the materials remain available than to digitize them over, and over, and over again!
- Institutional Mission
  - Especially for "born digital" materials (things that have no physical counterpart) and for items that cannot be preserved indefinitely in their original physical form (audio and video, especially)
  - Examples:
  - 1960 U.S. Census
  - (http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/winter/1960-census.html)
  - 1986 BBC Domesday Project (http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/story)
  - · In your institution? Your personal life?

## Jargon Watch

- Some of the terms and concepts used in this series may not be familiar to you
  - This is a new field
- People from different communities of practice (libraries, archives, museums, historical societies) use different terms for the same things
- If you don't recognize a term or concept, please ask us to explain it!

## Series Goals

- Participants will have a better understanding of the inherent fragility of digital objects
- Participants will acquire information to help them select preservation formats, metadata, and backup systems for digital objects
- Participants will be able to identify one or more actions that can be taken to improve their institution's digital preservation efforts



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