

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 <http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/defdiagpres0408>

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
- Some definitions are available at: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/ndsa-glossary.html>
- If you don't recognize a term or concept, please ask us to explain it!

Series Goals

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

Sessions

Overview of digital preservation	Lauren Goodley	Tues., April 2, 2013 2:00 – 3:30 EDT
Convert it to preserve it: Digitization and file conversion	Jacob Nadal	Thurs., April 4, 2013 2:00 – 3:30 EDT
Describe it so you can find it: Metadata, finding aids, and asset management	Danielle Plumer	Tues., April 9, 2013 2:00 – 3:30 EDT
Practice safe archiving: Backups, copies, and what can go wrong	Jefferson Balley	Weds., April 10, 2013 2:00 – 3:30 EDT
Partner to preserve: Digital preservation networks and collaboration	Liz Bishoff and Tom Clareson	Mon., April 15, 2013 2:00 – 3:30 EDT

We are here: →