



# **DIGITAL PRESERVATION: MAINTAINING THE FUTURE'S REAR-VIEW MIRROR**

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## Overview

- Digital Preservation
- Issues
- Solutions
- The Future



# **Digital Preservation**

## **Definition**

- to save; to maintain and protect

## **Goal**

- to maintain access to and the integrity of materials indefinitely

## **Characteristics**

- immediate
- ongoing
- changing



## Issues

- **The “universe” of digital records**
  - legacy formats
  - proprietary formats
  - textual formats
  - microfilm/microfiche
  - data bases
  - web sites
  - email



## Issues (cont)

- Digital preservation impacts anyone with electronic materials
- Rapidly changing technology makes preservation challenging and ongoing concern
- Ease of use today is tomorrow's headache
- Volume is escalating



## Solutions

- **Nature of holdings**
  - digital data and documentation
  - magnitude and diversity of holdings
  - changes over time
  - how materials used by clientele
  - future acquisitions



## Solutions (cont)

- **Digital Preservation Strategies**
  - migration
  - conversion
  - emulation
  - metadata
  - combination



## Solutions (cont)

- evaluate holdings especially legacy formats
- utilize software tools
- make preservation part of managing electronic records
- raise awareness among colleagues about preservation
- network with others who face similar issues





## The Future

- Preservation will be more diverse
- Preservation must be part of the archival process right at the beginning
- Preservation is a community effort
- Educate relevant communities about preservation
- Resource needs
- Keep abreast of changes that are ongoing



## **The Future (cont)**

- Formalize mechanisms to aid in preservation efforts
  - clearinghouse
  - training programs
  - professional advocates



## Want More Information?

- Conway, Paul. *Preservation in the Digital World*  
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/conway21>
- Day, Michael. *Metadata for Preservation*  
<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/edars/AIW01.html>
- Hestrom, Margaret. “*Digital Preservation: A Time Bomb for Digital Libraries*”.  
<http://www.uky.edu/~kiernan/DL/hedstrom.html>
- Kenny, Anne R.. And Oya Y. Reiger *Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives*  
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/pubs.html>