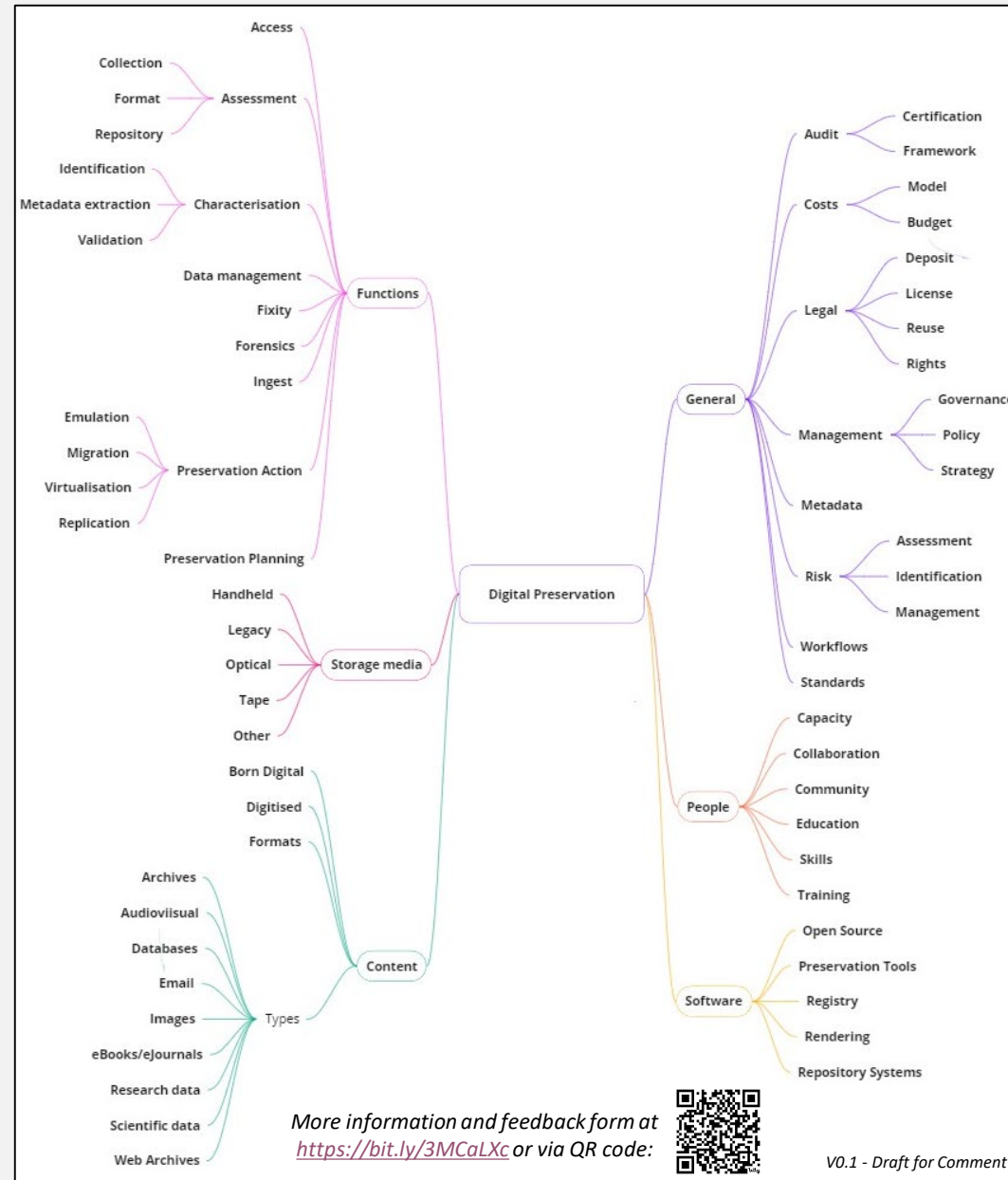# Enabling Easier Discovery with a Controlled Vocabulary for iPRES

Problem Statement

Conference proceedings are a major source of disciplinary knowledge but iPRES papers often receive relatively few citations, indicating limited impact and re-use. Controlled vocabularies are used in other fields to facilitate re-use, though there is currently no agreed vocabulary for iPRES. *Analysis of the corpus to date identifies >1000 different keyword terms, over 80% of which are single use.* Fuzzy matching can go some way to consolidate semantic spread, but requires a technical solution and does not support consistent application of terms during keyword assignation. A domain specific controlled vocabulary is therefore proposed to support improved consistency, accuracy, searching, and greater re-use of conference materials in the future.

Approach

- Using the Keyword array from the Consolidated Index of iPres Proceedings, manually review and group all terms each used more than once.
- Assign possible vocabulary terms to each group
- Compare against high level vocabulary classes in the CHARM digital preservation domain model
- Refine vocab & groupings for simplicity and coverage, then enhance after expert gap analysis
- Revise based on community input to develop proposal for iPRES Steering Group

More information and feedback form at https://bit.ly/3MCaLXc or via QR code:

V0.1 - Draft for Comment

Benefits

- Supports re-use of cumulative knowledge with a consistent structure for classifying and finding relevant papers year on year
- Reinforces a consistently scoped field of interest for iPRES independently of annual themes
- Particularly helpful as a structural tool for early career researchers or new participants, supporting new entrants to the field
- May also be of use for long-term field analysis

Limitations

- Challenging to implement retrospectively
- Excludes terminology and functions from associated fields e.g. curation and archiving
- Terms not yet reviewed by wider community
- Field still developing so will require maintenance

Next Steps: Get Involved!

- Give feedback – what do you think, and why?
- Engage iPRES Steering Group for governance and oversight of year-on-year implementation
- Develop community-based working group to support SG with practical management and revisions