



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Why Digital Preservation is Important for Everyone

Traditional information sources such as books, photos and sculptures can easily survive for years, decades or even centuries but digital items are fragile and require special care to keep them useable.

The latest release in the Digital Preservation Video Series, titled “[Why Digital Preservation is Important for Everyone](#),” is a high-level overview about how digital media is essentially different from traditional media and has different requirements for its preservation.



Screenshot from the video

This video describes the situation in broad terms, showing how digital content depends on technology to make it available and requires active management to ensure its ongoing accessibility.

The entire NDIIPP video collection is available at digitalpreservation.gov/videos/.

“In the News”

[Federal Computer Week](#) recently did a story that discusses how the [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#) is helping government agencies preserve audio-visual information.

Carl Fleischhauer from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, and convener of the [audio-visual subgroup](#), is quoted as saying that, “We want to define a set of specifications for the creation of digitized content that are as much as possible in common between different federal agencies.”



Carl Fleischhauer. Credit: Stan Barouh.

In other recent news, David Kirsch, of the [Birth of the Dot-Com Era Project](#), provided some historical analysis for two recent news stories.

In an [National Public Radio piece](#) discussing how companies fared during and after the 2000 dot-

com crash, Kirsch drew on digital information that his project has preserved from the era. He noted that about half of the 1,000 companies he has studied are still in business.



Nasdaq. Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bfishadow/>

[Information Week](#) also cited Kirsch’s work in an [article](#) marking the 25th anniversary of the dot-com Internet. He is credited with observing that the survival rate of dot-coms was higher than many realize: a higher percentage of them were actually more successful than other kinds of companies.

Speaking of Digital Preservation Sustainability

A central question confronts everyone who cares about digital stewardship: how to pay for it?

The question is as complex as it is short. Marshalling resources depends on making compelling justifications and getting stakeholders to agree on a sensible division of responsibilities.

The [Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access](#) sponsored an engaging symposium on April 1, 2010, to consider these issues. [A National Conversation on the Economic Sustainability of Digital Information](#) focused on the findings of the group’s recent report, [Sustainable Economics for a Digital Planet: Ensuring Long-Term Access to Digital Information](#).



BRTF final report.

Read [more](#) about the symposium at digitalpreservation.gov.

JHOVE2 Prototype Released

The California Digital Library, along with partners Portico and Stanford University, have released an alpha version of [JHOVE2](#) to the digital preservation community. JHOVE2 is an open source next-generation application and framework for identifying digital formats placed under stewardship.

Read [more](#) about it at digitalpreservation.gov.



On the Leading Edge: Koninklijke Bibliotheek

The National Library of the Netherlands is a small institution that plays a large role in the world of digital preservation. The library (known in Dutch as the [Koninklijke Bibliotheek](#) and more commonly as the KB) is a leader in supporting practical approaches to preservation through research and collaboration.



The National Library of the Netherlands.

In 2003, the KB launched its [e-Depot](#) for the long-term management of electronic journal literature. e-Depot is closely tied to the digital life cycle and one of its key features involves agreements with publishers for direct transmission of content to the library's preservation environment.

Now, seven years and 15 million articles later, the KB is building on the success of e-Depot. "We are ready for a next-generation system," said Hilde van Wijngaarden, head of acquisitions and processing at the KB. The KB intends to become a large-scale digital library, networked with other institutions in the Netherlands.

Read [more](#) about the KB's work and future plans at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

New Digital Preservation Podcast

Babak Hamidzadeh, director of repository development at the Library of Congress, is featured in a new Library of Congress "[Conversations about Digital Preservation](#)" podcast.



Hamidzadeh talks about the challenges of building an efficient, scalable digital repository, describes how the Library's repository works and details the Library's future plans for the repository.

Arizona States Project Preserves E-mail



The [Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records](#) has developed an automated process to preserve official e-mail records produced by Microsoft Outlook. The process also captures metadata needed for the long-term preservation of the information.

This work is taking place as part of the [Persistent Digital Archives and Library System](#) project, which is developing a shared curatorial framework for preserving digital public records across multiple states.

Read [more](#) about the project at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

North Carolina Partners Share Project Findings

Representatives from the [Geospatial Multistate Archive and Preservation Partnership](#) reached out to federal geospatial information users with a presentation during the [ESRI Federal User Conference](#) in Washington, DC. They provided a primer on archives concepts for the geospatial audience.

Read [more](#) about the meeting at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Upcoming Events

- [The 1st International Digital Preservation Interoperability Framework Symposium](#). Apr. 21-23, 2010, in Dresden, Germany. Director of NDIIPP Program Management Martha Anderson will keynote at the event.
- [Pass It On: Personal Archiving Day at the Library of Congress](#). May 10, 2010. The public event will raise awareness and highlight what everyone can do to preserve analog and digital personal and family collections of photos, moving images, recorded sound and music and personal documents. The Library is holding the event in conjunction with [National Preservation Week](#) (May 9-15).

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