



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

PREMIS for Digital Preservation

Behind every digital object, there is usually metadata with descriptive information about the object. But the library world is all too aware that metadata for access and discovery is no longer enough. Now, digital library professionals are looking to the future with an eye towards preservation, not only needing to preserve the digital objects themselves but also the valuable metadata that goes along with it.



Enter [PREMIS](#), which stands for Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies. According to the publication [Understanding PREMIS](#) [pdf, 543 kb], written by Priscilla Caplan and issued by the Library of Congress, preservation metadata “supports activities intended to ensure the long-term usability of a digital resource.”

The Library of Congress sponsors the PREMIS Maintenance Activity, and thereby is promoting the use and development of this preservation metadata standard as a regular part of the digital library process.

The motivation for PREMIS is based on the needs for implementing a digital preservation repository, which requires keeping important information about its digital objects to enable long-term management. As stated in [Understanding PREMIS](#), “the primary uses of PREMIS are for repository design, repository evaluation and exchange of archived information packages among preservation repositories.”

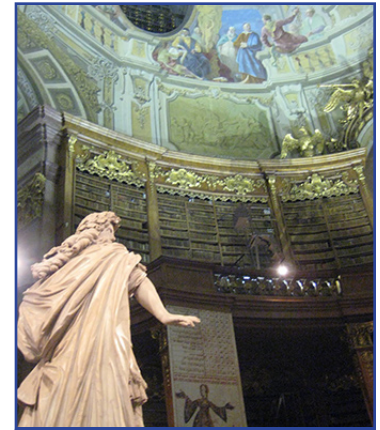
So why is this important? Rebecca Guenther, senior networking and standards specialist at the Library of Congress, illustrates this by the following comparison: “In addition to being able to find books, you need to be able to bind the books so they don’t fall apart and perform other preservation actions that keeps their pages readable and intact.” PREMIS provides the information to ensure that the object can be preserved - as a sort of digital “binding” - to keep the items, through the metadata, useable over time.

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

Digital Preservation Experts Come Together in Austria

An international conference and workshops held in Vienna, Austria provided many opportunities for digital preservation experts to share and learn about recent preservation and access projects.

The [7th International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects \(iPRES 2010\)](#), held Sept. 19-24, in Vienna, Austria, created a space for digital preservation professionals to gather. iPRES is an annual conference that brings together researchers and practitioners from around the world to explore the latest trends, innovations and practices in preserving our digital heritage. Staff from NDIIPP were well-represented on the conference program.



Austrian National Library.

Separately, members of the International Internet Preservation Consortium participated in productive working group meetings, Sept. 23-24. Presentations from the meetings are available to members on the [IIPC forums](#).

Four digital preservation network organizations also hosted a workshop on national initiatives during iPRES, on September 23. “[Greater than the sums of our parts? Collaboration, cooperation and grand challenges in digital preservation](#)” served as a platform to discuss shared challenges, models for success and ideas for improving collaboration and digital preservation programs within and across borders.



Attendees at the Collaboration workshop.

The full [workshop report](#) and [presentations](#) are now available.

Read more about the [conference](#) and [workshops](#) at digitalpreservation.gov/.



Digital Preservation Pioneer: Nancy McGovern



Nancy McGovern.

Nancy McGovern has been involved in the preservation of digital content since the mid-1980s when she began working with electronic records at the U.S. National Archives.

She observed that, despite the generational shifts in technology, some things remain constant. "Technology continually changes but the fundamental principles of digital preservation don't change much," she said.

From 2001 to 2006, McGovern worked at Cornell University, where she and Anne R. Kenney co-developed the [Digital Preservation Management Workshop](#) for digital preservation managers of any type of digital content at any size or kind of organization. In 2006, she became the Digital Preservation Officer at the [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research](#) but continued managing the workshop series and developing the curriculum.

Read [more](#) about her career and interests at digitalpreservation.gov.

250 Years of Blogging

Robert Darnton, historian and director of the Harvard University libraries, spoke at the Library of Congress on Oct. 15, on a topic explored in his recent work, [The Case for Books: Past, Present and Future](#).

Darnton titled his talk "Blogging Now & Then (250 Years Ago)." He observed that modern technology presents information in "small units that strike our consciousness like rain on a windshield." Blogs, tweets and other Internet sources offer a torrent of fragmented information, much of it focused on scandal and celebrity gossip. Darnton noted there is nothing new about this type of information.

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



Jacques-Christophe Leblon, *Portrait of Louis XV*, 1739, P&P, LC.

Digital Storage, Digital Preservation

Digital storage users and providers from a variety of cultural and research institutions met for two days of presentations and discussions as part of a continuing initiative to find and develop common understandings and possible solutions to common problem sets.



Attendees at the 2010 Designing Storage Architectures for Digital Preservation meeting.

NDIIPP sponsored the [Designing Storage Architectures for Digital Preservation meeting](#), held on Sept. 27-28, in Washington DC. The conference brought together technical industry experts, vendors, IT professionals, owners and managers of digital collections and government data specialists. Presentations from the meeting are [available](#).

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

Announcements

- [The Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative](#) is conducting a survey of digital preservation training needs. The [survey](#) closes Nov. 11.
- [The Library and Archives Canada Local Digital Format Registry \(LDFR\) File Format Guidelines for Preservation and Long-term Access](#) are now online.

Upcoming Event

- [CNI Fall 2010 Meeting](#), Arlington, Va., Dec. 13 - 14, 2010. [Registration](#) deadline is Nov. 12.

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