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Title

Update from the UC Libraries Digital Preservation Working Group

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Digital Preservation: A Systemwide Update

UC Libraries Digital Preservation Working Group

October 23, 2025

Presented by: Elizabeth McAulay, Sue Chesley Perry, Emily Lin

Outline

- History of Systemwide Approach to Digital Preservation
- Work of the Current Digital Preservation Working Group (April 2024 - October 2025)
- Summary of the Gap Analysis
- Landscape of Digital Preservation Frameworks
- Introduction to the UC Libraries Framework
- Discussion – Questions, Ideas, Challenges

History of UC Libraries Systemwide Digital Preservation groups



Digital Preservation Working Group Overview

Term: April 2024 - October 2025

Deliverables:

- 1) Digital Preservation Framework
- 2) Gap Analysis of Digital Preservation at the UC Libraries
(evaluating current state with possible desired states)

Digital Preservation Working Group Members

- Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez (UCI)
- Mark Buchholz (UCR)
- Susan Chesley Perry (UCSC)
- Erika Johnson (UCSB)
- Emily Lin (UCM)
- Eric Lopatin (CDL)
- Elizabeth McAulay (UCLA)
- Eric Nebeker (UCD)
- Lisa Nguyen (UCSF)
- Sibyl Schaefer (UCSD)
- Hannah Tashjian (UCB)

Digital Preservation - Definition of this Discipline

“Digital preservation combines policies, strategies and actions to ensure access to reformatted and born digital content regardless of the challenges of media failure and technological change. *The goal of digital preservation is the accurate rendering of authenticated content over time.*”

Digital Preservation - Definition of this Discipline

Please note:

Digital preservation is ***more than digital storage.***

It is a ***continued way of behaving as an organization*** to actively maintain digital collection assets.

Gap Analysis

Previous Gap Analysis:

- [2020 UC Digital Preservation Strategy Working Group Phase 2 Report](#)

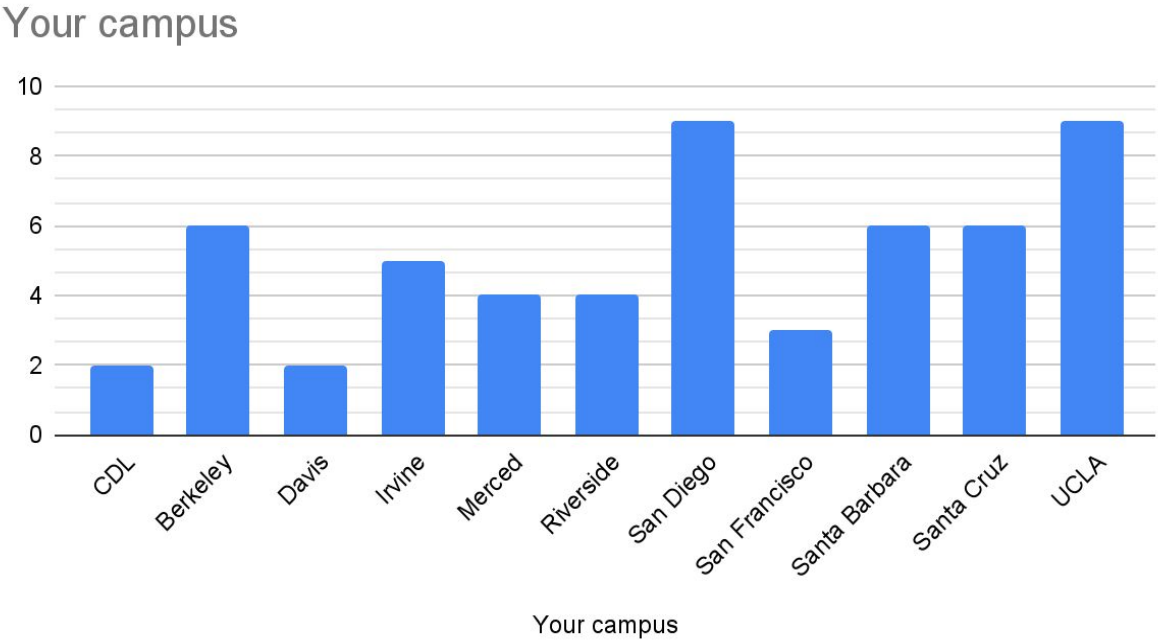
Current analysis based on:

- Digital Preservation Coalition [Rapid Assessment Model](#) (DPC RAM)

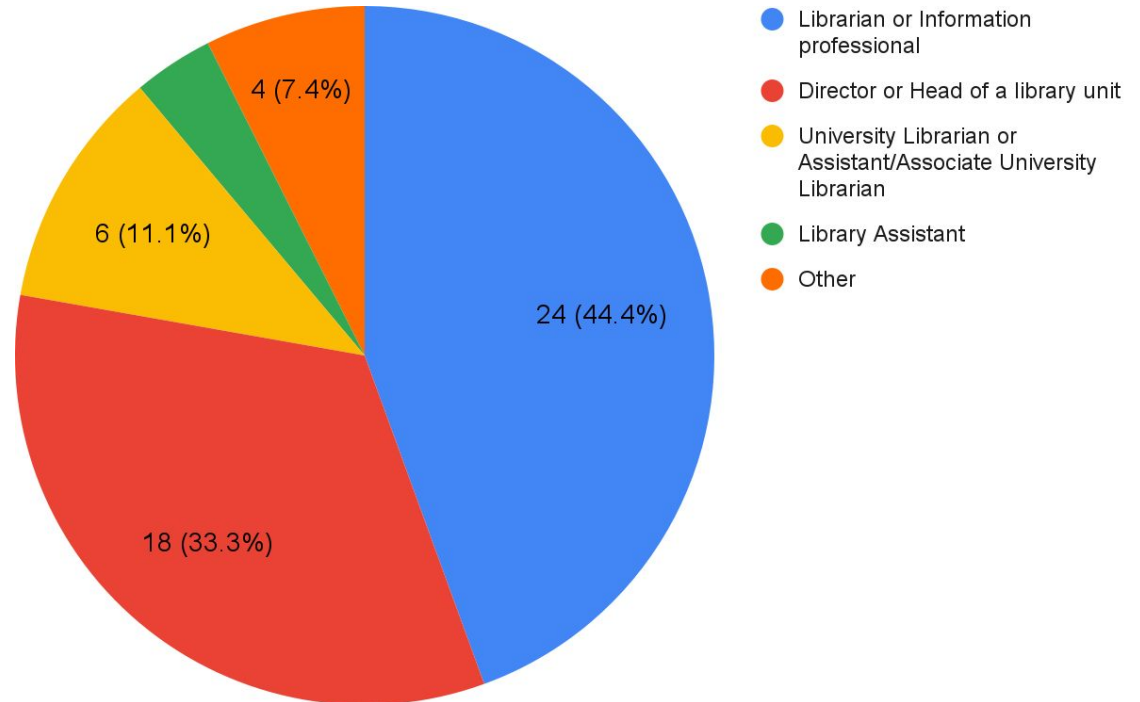
Organizational capabilities: resourcing, policy, and support

Service capabilities: acquisition, bitstream preservation, and access

Demographics of Survey Participants



Roles of Survey Participants



1. Organization Viability

Governance. Organizational structure. Staffing, Resourcing.

Gaps:

- **Coordination and communication with library administration**
- **Coordination and communication across departments**
- **Dedicated budgets for digital preservation**

2. Policy and Strategy

Documented policies, strategies, procedures, scope.

Gaps:

- **Established, written policies: collections development policy, retention schedules, digital preservation policy/strategy**
- **Communication about those policies**

3. Legal and Ethical Policies

Managing the legal, social, and cultural rights and responsibilities.

Gaps:

- **Documentation of policies**
- **Proactive management of legal and ethical issues digital preservation practitioners face**

4. IT capability

Technical infrastructure, facilities, and capabilities

Gaps:

- **Coordination between IT providers and digital preservation practitioners**
- **Understanding of workflows and policies between IT operations and library curatorial processes**

5. Service capabilities - Acquisition, transfer, and ingest

Acquire or transfer content. Ingest digital materials into a digital repository

Gaps:

- **Automated processes**
- **Integrated systems**

6. Service capabilities - Bitstream Preservation

Processes for ensuring the integrity and storage of the digital content

Gaps:

- **Training around digital preservation system functionality**
- **More detailed communication about the UC Libraries' preservation system's (Merritt) processes regarding basic bitstream preservation and content replication.**
- **Greater attention to risk assessment and validation**

7. Service Capabilities - Content Preservation

Processes that preserve the meaning, usability, and functionality of the digital content organizations hold over time.

Gaps:

- **Documenting technical dependencies**
- **Plans for migrating file formats as older formats become obsolete**

8. Metadata Management

Processes to create and maintain sufficient metadata to support preservation, discovery, and use of preserved digital content.

Gaps:

- **Processes for enhancing metadata throughout the lifecycle of digital content**
- **Developing an exit strategy for migrating metadata**

9. Discovery and Access

Processes to enable the discovery of digital content and provide access for users.

Gaps:

- **Exit strategies for system migration**
- **Collecting and responding to information on user experience**

Conclusion

Needs:

- Increased investment in policy infrastructure
- Dedicated staffing
- Cross-departmental collaboration
- Inclusive systems planning and development
- Consistently-understood definition of digital preservation across the system
- Greater alignment between administrative leadership and front-line practitioners
- Better communication between library units and central IT services.

Opportunities:

- Shared expertise
- Shared system: Merritt
- DPC RAM is repeatable. Let's do again in two years and measure our improvement!

Digital Preservation Framework Model

- Developed by digital preservation leaders Anne Kenney (Cornell) and Nancy McGovern (MIT), v. 3.1, 2016
- An outline of model components encouraged as a community standard
- Adopted and adapted by dozens of academic research libraries
 - Including UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz
- Digital Preservation Framework == Digital Preservation Policy

Model Framework Components

- **Purpose**
- **Mandate**
- **Objectives**
- **Scope**
- **Operating Principles**
- **Roles & Responsibilities**
- **Selection & Acquisition**
- **Access & Use**
- **Challenges & Risks**
- **Institutional Commitment**
- **Audit & Transparency**
- **Framework Administration**
- **Definitions**
- **References**

Digital Preservation Framework Model

- Presents a high-level perspective of an organization's program
- Reflects current, not future, capabilities of the program
- Provides links to documents containing more detailed and frequently-updated documents
- Specifies the approval and maintenance process for the framework

7 Attributes of a Trusted Digital Repository

- **OAIS compliance**
- **Administrative Responsibility**
- **Organizational Viability**
- **Financial Sustainability**
- **Technological and Procedural Suitability**
- **System Security**
- **Procedural Accountability**

Example Digital Preservation Policy Frameworks

UCSC	UCSD	U. of Washington	Yale
• Summary • Definition • Principles • Levels of Preservation • Criteria for Preservation	• Introduction • Scope • Principles • Levels of Preservation • Key Characteristics of Digital Objects for Preservation • Partnerships & collaboration • Roles & Responsibilities • Acknowledgements	• Introduction • Mandate • Principles • Scope - Content Sources - Content Types - Preservation Strategies • Challenges • Roles and Responsibilities	• Overview • Scope, Applicability, Audience • Digital Preservation Strategy • Commitments • Principles • Supporting Digital Preservation Policies • Appendices

Our Draft UC Libraries Digital Preservation Framework



Highlights of the Framework

Reminder - this is an almost-submitted draft. Endorsement by DOC and CoUL are required.

- Lays a foundation
- Sets a scope – does not include licensed or broadly owned digital content
- Clearly acknowledges campus libraries are primary agents of digital preservation

Challenges Ahead

- We don't have a shared service or program at the UC-level
- So, we will need to determine a way to work collaboratively
 - Leveraging existing expertise
- Building a working community
- Navigating changing budget priorities and scarcities

Questions for us as UC Libraries Together

How many of you are involved in or concerned about digital preservation of your collections?

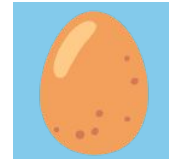


What comes first? 🐣

Funding, staffing ?



Or a policy?



What's your blocker?

1. Not my job
2. Not anyone's job
3. Too many other things to do
4. So misunderstood - still trying to explain the problem
5. IT doesn't get *it*
6. ALL OF THE ABOVE

What questions do you have for us?

Resources for Standing Up for Digital Preservation

