

## COOPERATION PARTNERS

### LIBRARIES

- The British Library
- The National Library of the Netherlands
- Austrian National Library
- The Royal Library of Denmark
- State and University Library, Denmark
- Czech Republic National Library
- State and University Library Göttingen

### ARCHIVES

- The National Archives of the Netherlands
- The National Archives of England, Wales, and the United Kingdom
- Swiss Federal Archives
- The Austrian Audiovisual Research Archive

### UNIVERSITIES

- University at Cologne
- University of Freiburg
- HATII at the University of Glasgow
- Vilnius University Faculty of Communication
- FernUniversität in Hagen
- University of Urbino
- University of Minho

### TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

- ARC Seibersdorf Research GmbH
- IBM Netherlands
- Microsoft Research
- Tessella Support Services Plc

### OTHERS

- Austrian Federal Chancellery
- Austrian Computer Society
- Austrian Chamber of Commerce
- Ludwig Boltzmann Institute Media.Art.Research.
- Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities, Italy
- Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Italy
- National Research Council (CNR), Italy



## Vienna University of Technology

Institute of  
Software Technology and Interactive Systems  
Information & Software Engineering Group

## Digital Preservation

[www.ifs.tuwien.ac.at/dp](http://www.ifs.tuwien.ac.at/dp)

### Further Information

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## DIGITAL PRESERVATION

Digital Preservation – the process of keeping electronic material accessible and usable for longer periods of time – has turned into one of the most pressing challenges within the digital library community. Long-term archiving of digital material is a highly complex and diverse matter. This is partially due to rapid changes and ongoing developments in file formats. At the same time, hardware and information technology infrastructure are subject to constant changes, making the task even more difficult.

A wide variety of institutions and individuals from countless fields have a strong interest in keeping their digital objects accessible and usable over the next decades. Libraries and museums are increasingly digitising their holdings or even holding born-digital content. Insurance companies, the car and aviation industries as well as pharmaceutical companies and others have a strong interest in preserving their data, simulation models, or studies over time. Private users who want to keep their photo, audio, or video collections accessible are a prime target audience. Some institutions may even be required to keep copies of their documents due to legal constraints. For others, providing digital content is a central part of their business model. Basically, an enormous range of material is worth being preserved for different purposes, leading to vast numbers of differing preservation requirements.

Research in Digital Preservation tackles these challenges by addressing the whole life cycle of digital objects as well as their surrounding organisational and technical environment.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

A core area of activity is **Preservation Planning**, i.e. specifying and evaluating preservation plans according to the particular requirements of stakeholders. Our approach builds on Utility Analysis and a thoroughly defined workflow for reaching informed and accountable decisions on which preservation solution to adopt. **Preservation Requirements Analysis and Specification** is central to this approach. Requirements are elicited and organised in a tree structure called objective tree. The preservation planning tool **Plato** automates the planning procedure and supports the decision process. To achieve this, we are integrating distributed services for preservation action and characterisation and developing best-practice models.

Apart from requirements for institutional settings, **Personal Archiving** is gaining importance to serve the preservation needs of private users and small offices. We are also working towards analysing and concretising the reference model for an **Open Archival Information System**.

A further stronghold of digital preservation research is **Web Archiving**, where we are active in research on building web archives as well as analysis and mining of web archive data.

Another field of activity is **Training**, wherein we are working towards better education possibilities in this interdisciplinary domain. This includes the development of curricula for digital preservation at universities as well as continuing education in terms of workshops and seminars for professionals.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

### PLANETS (Permanent Long-term Access through Networked Services)

Integrated Project  
IST FP6-033789  
May 2006 – April 2010  
<http://www.planets-project.eu>



### Digital Preservation Europe (DPE)

Coordinated Action IST FP6-034762  
April 2006 - March 2009  
<http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu>



### DELOS Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries

IST FP6- 507618, 2004-2007  
<http://www.delos.info>



### Nestor Kompetenznetzwerk Langzeitarchivierung

Cooperating partner in qualification and education



### Working Group on Digital Preservation

Austrian Computer Society  
<http://www.langzeitarchivierung.at>



### Austrian Competence Network Digital Preservation

ÖSTERREICHISCHES WISSENSNETZWERK  
DIGITALE LANGZEITARCHIVIERUNG

### Austrian Federal Chancellery

Preservation of government records

### Austrian Chamber of Commerce

Preservation of born-digital photographs