Project Briefing: Preserving New Forms of Scholarship

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Two projects

• Enhancing Services to Preserve New Forms of Scholarship (2018–2020)
• Embedding Preservability for New Forms of Scholarship (2021–2024)
“Enhancing Services” Project Partners
Preserving Digital Scholarship

- Expectations for the preservation of the scholarly record
- New features and forms in digital scholarship

Project Goals

• Determine whether the publications could be preserved in their current form and whether it would be possible to do this at scale

• Use these findings to develop guidelines that will help authors and publishers to make similar publications easier to preserve (and as a side-effect more sustainable)
Guidelines

• 68 Guidelines that apply to a range of cases in digital publishing
• For publishers, platform developers, authors
• None are prescriptive; but all aim to improve and facilitate preservation
Publishing & Preservation

How libraries and archives tend to think about preservation:

- Existing collections
- Process starts from acquisition
- No control or influence over creation
Publishing & Preservation

What preservation means for creators:

• About applying standards and processes to the process of creation
• Can change those standards & processes in order to facilitate preservation
• Can make decisions about content and user experience to facilitate preservation
Creating More Preservable Digital Scholarship

1. Scholars
2. Platforms
3. Publishers
4. Librarians & Preservation service providers
Preservation service perspective

• Community-supported digital archive for scholarly content
• When service was launched: publication = linear text + images
Impact of the guidelines

• Preserve more things?
• Help communicate about preservation challenges
• Start a conversation, collaborate on standards
• Call to action for us - priorities for workflow improvements
Preservation workflow priorities:
Manage large variety and volume of files and links
Preservation workflow priorities:
Identify ways to manage iframe content

By Any Media Necessary | Henry Jenkins, Sangita Shresthova, et al. | NYU Press
https://opensquare.nyupress.org/books/9781479829712/
Preservation workflow priorities:
Improve support for many versions by-design

Version 1 → feedback → Version 2 → feedback → Version 3 → feedback
Preservation workflow priorities:
Add tools to preserve the experience

Web crawl from the outside
Web archive
Preserve code, data, documentation
Web server emulation

Filming Revolution | Alisa Lebow | Stanford University Press
https://doi.org/10.21627/2018fr
Limitations of the guidelines

• Formed from suggestions by preservation analysts based on things already published
• Created without full understanding of implications for publishers
• Untested in the publishing context
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Embedding Preservability goals

1. Test the Guidelines and the general concept of embedding preservation into the publishing workflow
2. Understand the effort, cost, and roles involved in improving preservability of complex works
3. Update the Guidelines to be more usable, evidence-based, and practical in the publishing context
Partner with publishers and platforms that create new forms of scholarship

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Embed a digital preservation team with a publisher throughout the publication’s workflow

- **Learn** about the publisher’s processes and platform
- **Provide support** as publishers select/implement the Guidelines
- **Assess** the Guidelines document
- **Report** out to the larger group for synthesis
Attempt to preserve the final work

- How easy is it to preserve?
- Is there anything that remains a challenge?
- How effective have the interventions been?
Update the Guidelines based on evidence

- Add missing guidelines
- Refine them based on richer understanding of what will work
- Consider format – are there ways to make the document more usable?
Thank you & questions

We welcome your feedback:
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