

# Long-Term Management and Preservation of Digital Information

## dg.o2005 Birds of a Feather Session

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### ABSTRACT

The goal of this Birds of a Feather session is to bring together interested individuals to discuss topics relating to digital preservation. Possible areas of discussion include the specific applicability of the NSF DIGARCH awards to government concerns; methods for identifying evolving needs relating to long-term information management issues; and descriptions of relevant projects in this area. Attendees will have the opportunity to share experiences and insights and form a community of interest pertaining to long-term management and preservation of digital content. The basic objective is to outline areas of particular interest relating to managing and preserving digital information.

### Categories and Subject Descriptors

C.0 GENERAL; System architectures, Systems specification methodology

### General Terms

Management, Design, Economics.

### Keywords

Digital preservation, data, migration, security, trustworthy, infrastructure, life cycle.

### 1. SESSION DESCRIPTION

Management and preservation of digital content is a vital issue for government at all levels. Government agencies are rapidly accumulating very large quantities of information in digital form that must be maintained in a trustworthy manner and kept

accessible for long periods of time. A significant percentage of this information has value that warrants enduring retention for scientific research, cultural heritage studies, and government services and accountability. But there are presently few reliable methods for actively managing content across the digital life cycle. Because this content is typically fragile, volatile, and highly dependent upon specific hardware and software, it is at risk for disappearing or becoming unusable as technology changes. There is an urgent need to develop new tools and methodologies to ensure that valuable digital information is effectively managed for as long as it is needed—which in some cases is permanently.

A number of organizations have taken steps to address this need. Congress asked the Library of Congress (LoC) to lead an effort to develop a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP). Together, LoC and the National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored a Digital Archiving and Long-Term Preservation (DIGARCH) research grants program (see: <http://snipurl.com/dok7>). NSF has just recently awarded funds to several proposals under this program.

This session will bring together interested individuals to discuss topics relating to digital preservation as it pertains to electronic government. Possible areas of discussion include the specific applicability of the DIGARCH awards to government concerns; methods for identifying evolving needs relating to long-term information management issues; and descriptions of relevant projects in this area. Attendees will also have the opportunity to share experiences and insights and form a community of interest pertaining to long-term management and preservation of digital content. The basic objective is to outline areas of particular interest for improving our capabilities to manage and preserve digital information.