Preserving Digital Materials
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What are digital materials?
- Digital copies of digitized materials
- Born digital files
- Digital records of institutions.
- Examples include text-based files, image-based files, sound-based files, web-page based files

What are the preservation Issues?

Technology Obsolescence
- Machine dependency to be read
- Rapid changes in technology outdates pre-existing machines & software resulting in unreadable files.

Physical Deterioration
- Fragility of media
- Damages & corrupts easily from exposure to heat, humidity, airborne containments, faulty reading and writing devices.

Legal Issues
- Intellectual property rights (IPR)
- Refreshing, emulating, migrating can infringe IPR unless permitted by copyright holder or law.

Preservation Precautions
- Stable, safe storage
- Controlled environment
- Regular refreshment cycles onto new media
- Make preservation copies
- Handle properly
- Transfer to standard storage media
- Use standard files and media formats
- Detailed metadata documentation

Preservation Strategies

Migration
- Transferring digital materials from a previous operating hardware/software to the most current systems.

Emulation
- Imitate older operating hardware/software systems on the most current operating systems.

Technology Preservation
- Preserve previous operating hardware/software systems to run out-dated digital materials.

Convert to Analog Format
- Convert digital materials to a more stable long-term media such as Microfilm.