

# 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

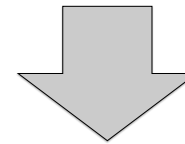
- Fragility of media
- Damages & corrupts easily from exposure to heat, humidity, airborne contaminants, faulty reading and writing devices.

### 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.

