



Beyond 'One Size Fits All'

A tiered model for digital preservation

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Umar Qasim, Sharon Farnel, John Huck
University of Alberta Libraries (UAL)

The context

- Digital preservation is a challenging task
 - Rapid technological change
 - Exponential increase in digital content
- Meeting this challenge requires extensive resources - financial, human, technical
- Cultural institutions must make choices about implementing preservation strategies

Beyond 'One Size Fits All' ...

- Objective - select preservation strategies based on characteristics of resources
- Tiered Assessment Model - digital resources assessed and ranked according to three factors
 - Type of resource
 - Archival responsibility
 - Projected preservability

Type of Resource

- Nature of the resource
- In descending order of priority
 - Collections of strength
 - Locally created, born digital resources
 - Other locally digitized or purchased resources
 - Licensed resources with perpetual access rights
 - Externally created resources of great value and significance to the institution

Archival Responsibility

- Risk involved in not undertaking certain preservation actions
- In descending order of risk level
 - Sole responsibility
 - Shared responsibility
 - Third-party responsibility

Projected Preservability

- Likelihood that a resource will be accessible and usable in the long-term
- Considers adoption, openness, transparency, stability, interoperability
- In descending order of predicted preservability
 - High
 - Medium
 - Low

Implementing the Tiered Model

- Resources assessed and ranked according to the three factors
- Required preservation level assigned
 - Preservation levels reflective of number and type of bundled preservation operations (e.g. normalization, migration, etc.)

Preservation Strategies	Gold Plan	Silver Plan	Bronze Plan
Bit Preservation	✓	✓	✓
Core Metadata	✓	✓	✓
Virus Checks	✓	✓	✓
Multiple Copies	✓	✓	✓
Integrity Checks / Checksum	✓	✓	✓
BagIt File Packaging	✓	✓	✓
Unique and Persistent Identifiers	✓	✓	
Normalization	✓	✓	
Characterization and Validation Checks	✓	✓	
Extended Metadata	✓	✓	
Migration	✓		
Full Metadata	✓		
Media Refresh	✓		

Preservation levels at UAL

- Number of preservation levels and operations bundled in each depends on local context
- Levels
 - Gold
 - Silver
 - Bronze

The Value Matrix

- Helps determine level of preservation
- Overall score = aggregate of scores for three factors
- Preservation level based on overall score
 - 90% or above = Gold
 - 60% - 90% = Silver
 - 60% or below = Bronze
- Scores used as a guideline; final decision made by digital preservation team

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An Example

- Western Canadiana resources held in Special Collections
 - Collection of strength
 - Locally digitized to highest standards
 - Local preservation only
- High individual scores = high overall score
- Preservation level = Gold

In Summary ...

- Tiered Assessment Model for assessing and ranking digital resources
- Designed to be simple and flexible
- Allows for localized implementation

Thank you! Questions?

Umar Qasim
umar.qasim@ualberta.ca

Sharon Farnel
sharon.farnel@ualberta.ca

John Huck
john.huck@ualberta.ca