Beyond 'One Size Fits All'
A tiered model for digital preservation

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The context

• Digital preservation is a challenging task
  o Rapid technological change
  o 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
  o Collections of strength
  o Locally created, born digital resources
  o Other locally digitized or purchased resources
  o Licensed resources with perpetual access rights
  o 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
  o Sole responsibility
  o Shared responsibility
  o 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.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preservation Strategies</th>
<th>Gold Plan</th>
<th>Silver Plan</th>
<th>Bronze Plan</th>
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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
  o 90% or above = Gold
  o 60% - 90% = Silver
  o 60% or below = Bronze
• Scores used as a guideline; final decision made by digital preservation team
## Preservation Strategies

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An Example

• Western Canadiana resources held in Special Collections
  o Collection of strength
  o Locally digitized to highest standards
  o 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?

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