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CALL FOR PAPERS**Special Issue on Digital Preservation**

Digital media have become the dominant way that we create, shape, and exchange information. Unlike paper, however, we have very limited abilities to ensure that today's digital information will be accessible in 10, 50, or 100 years. This poses a challenging threat of ending up with a gaping hole in our scientific and cultural record unless we act now. Meeting this challenge requires profound research and evaluation in a range of directions.

While there have been many projects over recent years which have explored aspects of digital preservation, there are still many challenges for any organisation which is charged with the development of building and maintaining sustainable processes to guarantee very long term access to substantial collections of digital assets. The amassing of significant amounts of data in private, personal digital libraries, adds another layer of complexity and requirements to potential solutions, as does the only rudimentary understanding of what future users will actually expect from long-term electronic repositories.

Two fundamental approaches have been proposed for maintenance of long term access to digital assets: roughly speaking, these focus on either changing the object itself (migration) or on changing the environment within which the object is accessed (emulation). With the increasingly wide range of types of digital assets which need to be preserved, it is already clear that no single preservation strategy will prove suitable for all types of technology and interim techniques as well as combinations gain importance.

Although a certain amount of work has been undertaken on the theoretical background to planning preservation strategies, there is insufficient understanding of the processes and their effects on the individual asset in the long run. The characterisation of those properties of a digital asset which are significant in the context of preservation actions is an essential step both in automating preservation actions and in evaluating their effectiveness after the event in meeting specific preservation strategies.

Recognizing the importance of research in this area, the International Journal on Digital Libraries is organizing a special issue on Digital Preservation. The primary focus of this special issue will be on high-quality original unpublished research, case studies as well as implementation experiences and survey articles in the area of digital preservation.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- selection/appraisal strategies for digital objects
- different preservation strategies and their evaluation
- cost models and managerial aspects
- formulation and evaluation of preservation plans
- metadata for digital preservation
- authenticity of digital objects
- characterisation of digital assets
- studies on future use of digital assets
- case studies from large-scale preservation activities
- legal aspects of digital preservation strategies



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Instructions for submitting manuscripts:

Manuscripts must be written in English and should include a cover page with title, name and address (including e-mail address) of author(s), an abstract, and a list of identifying keywords. Please indicate that you are submitting to the special issue on Digital Preservation. Manuscripts must be submitted directly to the guest editors by email.

Important Dates:

June 30, 2006	Due date for submission of manuscripts
October 15, 2006	Notification of acceptance/rejection
November 30, 2006	Due date for final version
April, 2007	Tentative date for publication of Special Issue

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About the Journal:

The aim of JDL is to advance the theory and practice of acquisition, definition, organization, management and dissemination of digital information via global networking. In particular, the journal will emphasize technical issues in digital information production, management and use, issues in high-speed networks and connectivity, inter-operability, and seamless integration of information, people, profiles, tasks and needs, security and privacy of individuals and business transactions and effective business processes in the Information Age.

More information about the journal can be found at <http://civic.rutgers.edu/~jdl/>