

Artefactual Systems Inc. company information

Artefactual Systems is a privately owned company incorporated in the Province of British Columbia. Our expertise and interests are in open-source, open-standard technologies for archival collections and digital repositories. The company was incorporated in January 2000 and has been providing archives technology and digital preservation consulting services since that time. Artefactual provides a comprehensive suite of consulting, development, technical support and hosting services, but we are best known for our two open-source software tools, the Archivemata digital preservation system (www.archivemata.org) and the AtoM online access system (www.accesstomemory.org).

Our clients consist almost entirely of archives, libraries and museums. Within the EU, our development partners have included National Library of Wales, Borthwick Library at the University of York, the Mills Archive Trust, Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum für Informationstechnik Berlin, the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona, Archives de France and the Archiefschool at the Hogeschool Van Amsterdam. Our North American development partners have included City of Vancouver Archives, University of British Columbia Library, Yale University Library, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the Museum of Modern Art (Manhattan), Harvard Business School, Simon Fraser University and the University of Alberta. Original seed funding for Archivemata was provided by UNESCO's Memory of the World Subcommittee on Technology and for AtoM by the International Council on Archives. Today the company employs sixteen people full-time and is sustained entirely by client contracts. More information about the company is available on our website at www.artefactual.com.

Archivemata is an integrated suite of open-source software tools designed to ingest and preserve digital objects in conformance with the Open Archives Information System reference model. Archivemata implements the OAIS functional areas of ingest, data management, preservation planning and archival storage, and produces highly interoperable, self-documenting Archival Information Packages. The Archivemata Format Policy Registry is a technological framework for implementing rules-based format identification, validation, metadata extraction and format normalization. Together, Archivemata and the Format Policy Registry provide a highly flexible technology framework which would benefit greatly from the addition of the PreForma toolset to include format-specific conformance and validity checking.

Archivemata was an early adopter of ffv1, LPCM, and Matroska within the context of audiovisual preservation, and includes it in its set of default FPR format policies. In 2011 Archivemata utilized a specification of ffv1 and lpcm in matroska within a normalization strategy for handling born-digital video. Archivemata supports efforts to increase the credibility and standardization of ffv1 and matroska for preservation use through MediaArea's plan, which includes facilitation of standardization work and the development of tools to enable more comprehensive archival control.