**What is preservation?**

Preservation is a core function of a digital library and it ensures accessibility over a long period of time. It involves keeping the digital library collections relevant by updating the format or technology required for access. Digital preservation is type of archiving method concerned with application of strategies like software or hardware emulation to ensure object remains useful despite software or hardware obsolescence.

**What is a preservation policy?**

A preservation policy for a digital collection sets the preservation responsibilities that the library must adhere to and helps staff make decisions while undertaking tasks that impact a collection.

**Components of preservation policies for digital libraries**

* Scope, goals and aim of preservation project
* Preservation methods and timeline
* Linked preservation metadata
* Personnel involved

**Activities involved in preservation:**

* Defining minimum digital preservation requirements
* Developing and managing shared large-scale storage systems
* Data-redundancy arrangements for back-up
* Creating documentation for information about strategies
* Offering consulting, workshops etc. for information dissemination

**Sample digital library preservation policies**

* University of Texas, Austin: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/vprovost/policies/pres_policy.html>
* University of Massachusetts, Amherst: <http://www.library.umass.edu/assets/aboutus/attachments/University-of-Massachusetts-Amherst-Libraries-Digital-Preservation-Policy3-18-2011-templated.pdf>
* National library of Australia: <http://www.nla.gov.au/policy-and-planning/preservation-policy>

**Useful Links**

* Digital Preservation, Library of Congress: <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/>
* Digital Preservation Coalition: <http://www.dpconline.org/advice/preservationhandbook/introduction/definitions-and-concepts>
* NEDCC Digital Preservation Policy Template <http://www.nedcc.org/resources/soda/downloads/SoDAExerciseToolkit.pdf>
* ALA Preservation Policy: <http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/01alaprespolicy>