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Title: **What the Book Got Right, or, Lots Of *Static* Copies Keep Stuff Safe**

The attractive prospect of instant, effortless publication and updating has enchanted digital humanists; it is now the norm for digital editions to be presented in constantly-changing versions. However, this publication model has profound scholarly drawbacks. Steadily-mutating editions are hard to cite, back up, or trust. The Endings project (<https://endings.uvic.ca/>) has tried to bring long-term citability, preservability, and stability to digital editions by re-adopting the traditional publication model that has served us so reliably for centuries: periodic, static, coherent and stable editions, which are never changed, but merely, in due course, superseded by new editions. Discrete editions are also easier to archive because they constitute complete, internally-coherent units. Archiving a fluid edition is a difficult task towards which we can merely gesture by taking periodic snapshots. Furthermore, these snapshots are not the “Lots of Copies” that “Keep Stuff Safe” (LOCKSS; <https://www.lockss.org/>) but random interim states of the evolving resource. Just as the printed book survives in multiple witnesses, scattered via the mechanisms of human acquisition and dispersal, we need “Lots of *Static* Copies” to keep stuff truly safe (LOSCKSS). Rather than controlling our digital edition centrally and updating it constantly, we periodically release serial static editions, each of which can be downloaded, stored on users’ devices and in archives, and cited by release number. The Endings project thus challenges the assumptions that new / instant modes of publication are necessarily better and have succeeded in changing how we build editions (digital or otherwise).

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