Email Preservation Together:

The ePADD Open-Source Software Community

DPC Clinic

May 13, 2026

What we'll cover today

- Introduction to ePADD
- Shared Discovery Module
- Searching for sensitive information
- Redacting messages
- Experiments with AI
- Project sustainability
- Wrap up & resources

Introduction to ePADD

Project Funders

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Mellon Foundation

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

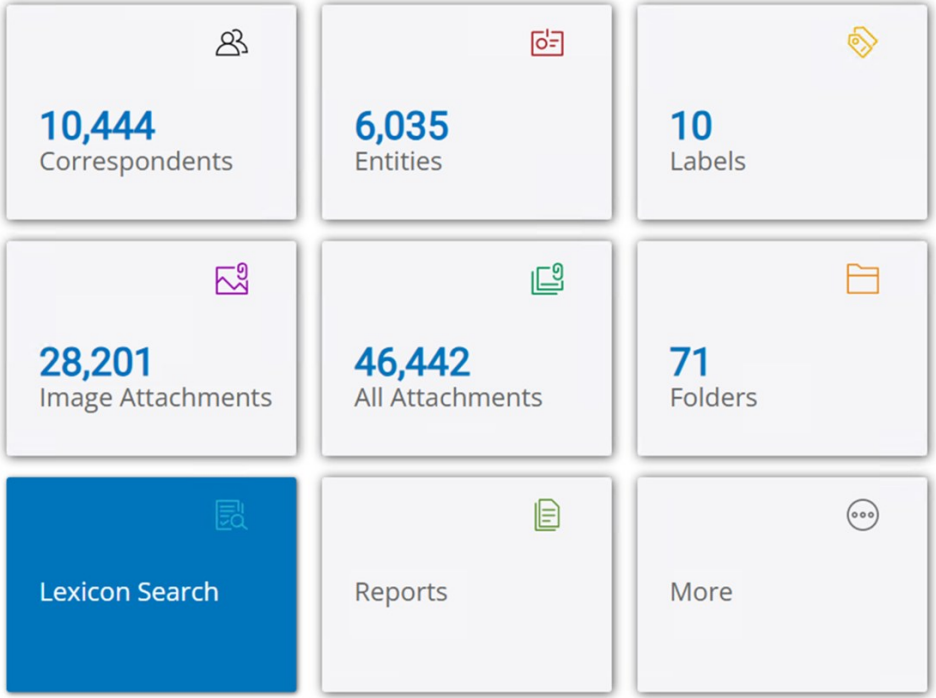
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

Stanford LIBRARIES

User Community

British Library
Brown University
California Inst. of Technology
Canadian Centre for Architecture
Center for Jewish History
Columbia University
Duke University
Emory University
Fordham University
Getty Research Institute
Harry Ransom Center
Harvard University
Indiana University - PUI
Mass. Inst. of Technology
Museum of Modern Art
National Library of New Zealand
New York Philharmonic
New York University
Princeton University
Rockefeller Archive Center
Royal Library of Copenhagen
Smith College
Smithsonian Libraries and Archives
Stanford University
Tufts University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, LA
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Copenhagen
University of Illinois – UC
University of Manchester
University of Minnesota
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Warwick
Wildlife Conservation Society
92NY, NYC

Searching for Sensitive Information



Searching for Sensitive Information

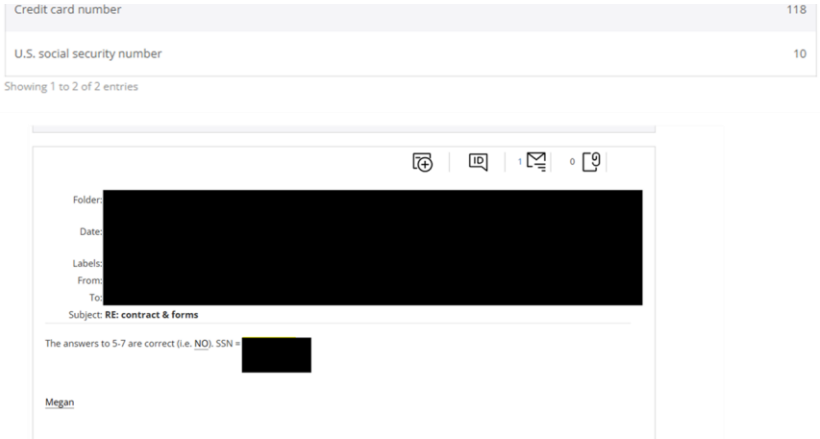
Lexicon	Number of Categories
persona.environmental.artist.projects.stanford	50
sentiments	42
sensitive	9
persona.academic.administrator.sensitive.duke	8
sensitive-ccca-german	8
persona.composer.nypl	6
persona.faculty.uci	4
persona.writer.theater.nypl	4
sensitive-cca-french	4
persona.author.princeton	3
persona.microbiologist.uiuc	3
persona.journalist.activist.politics.and.travel.ucb	2
regex	2

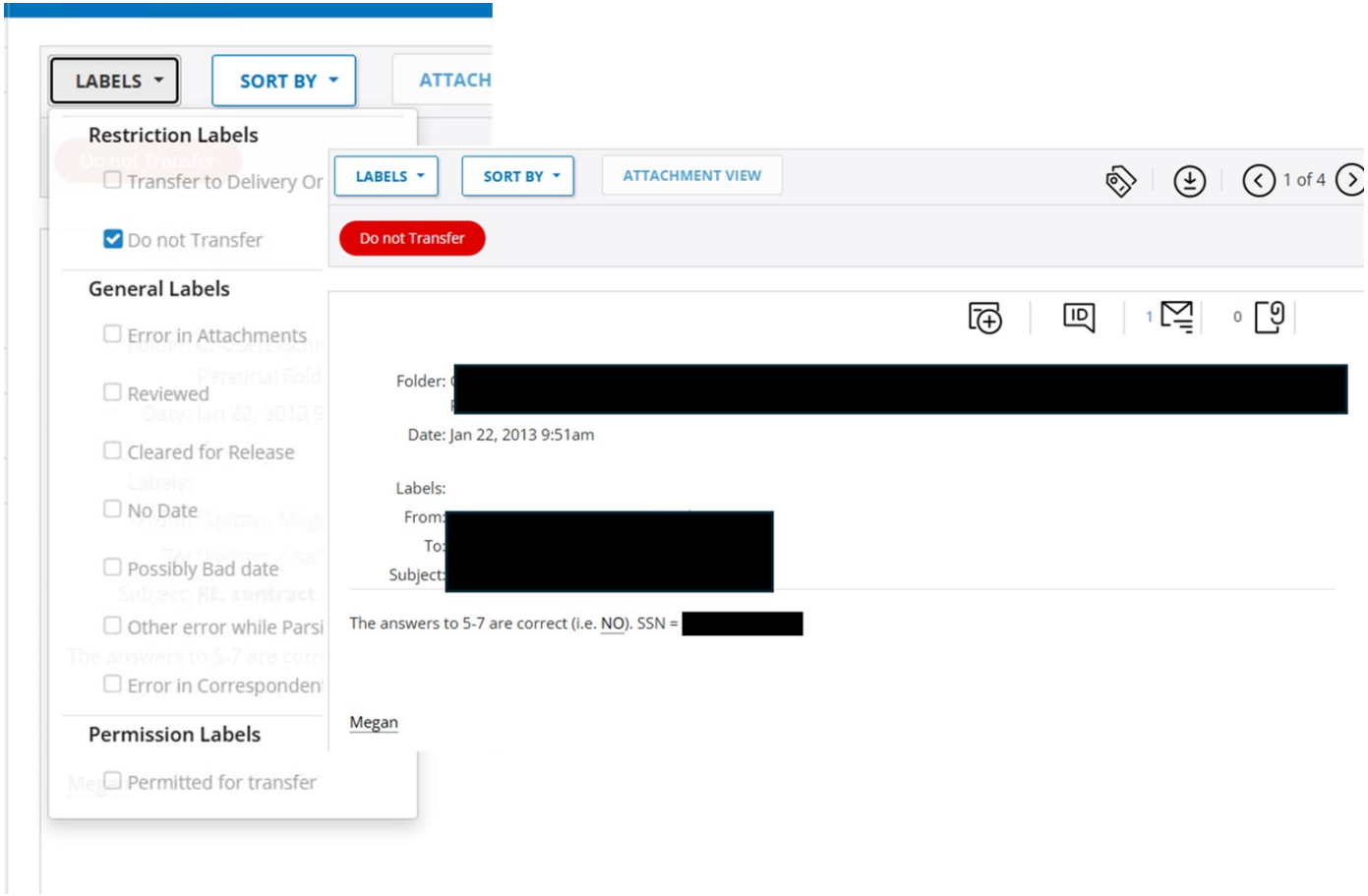
Searching for Sensitive Information

Search:

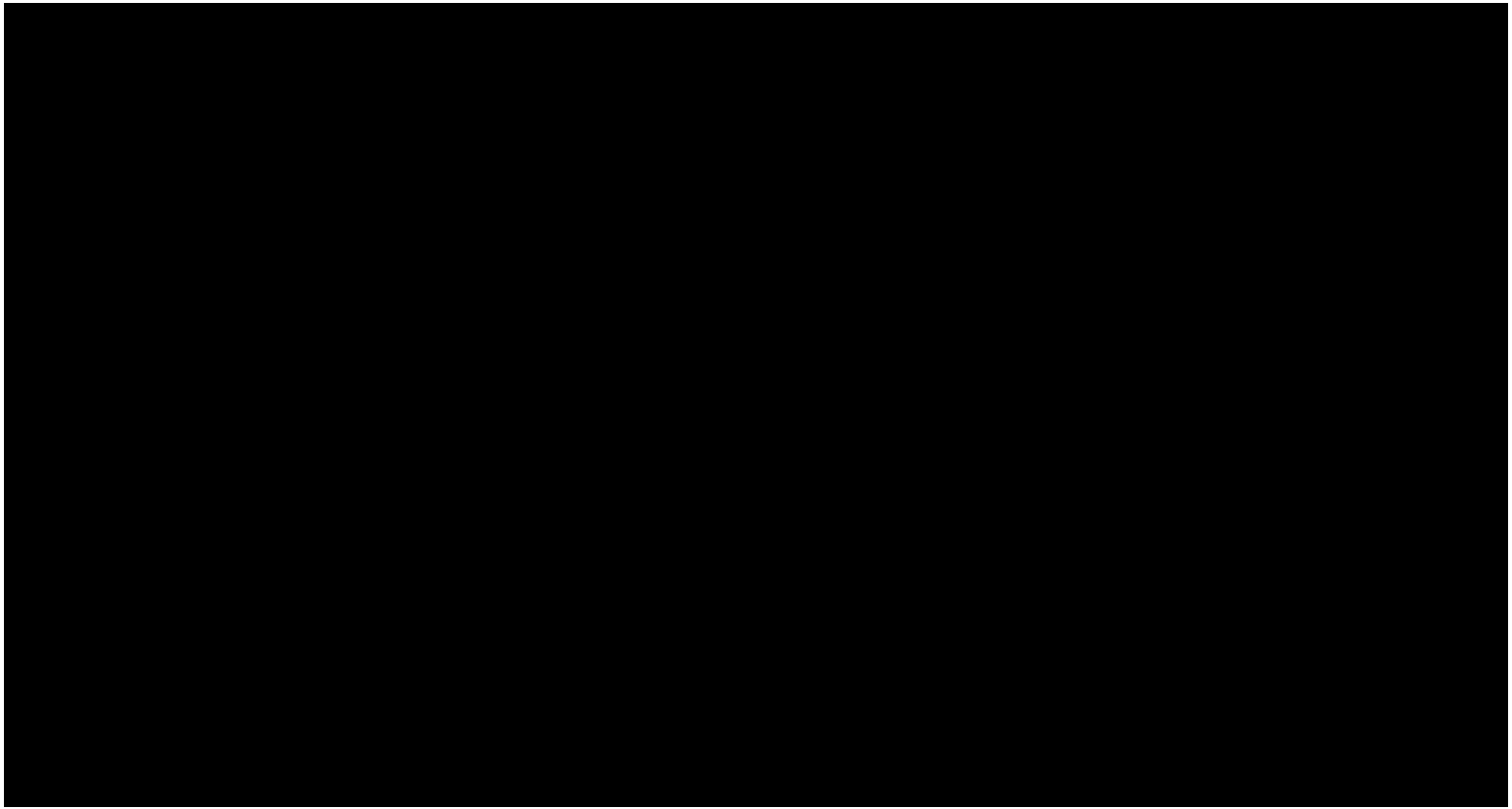
Lexicon category	Messages
Credit card number	118
U.S. social security number	10

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

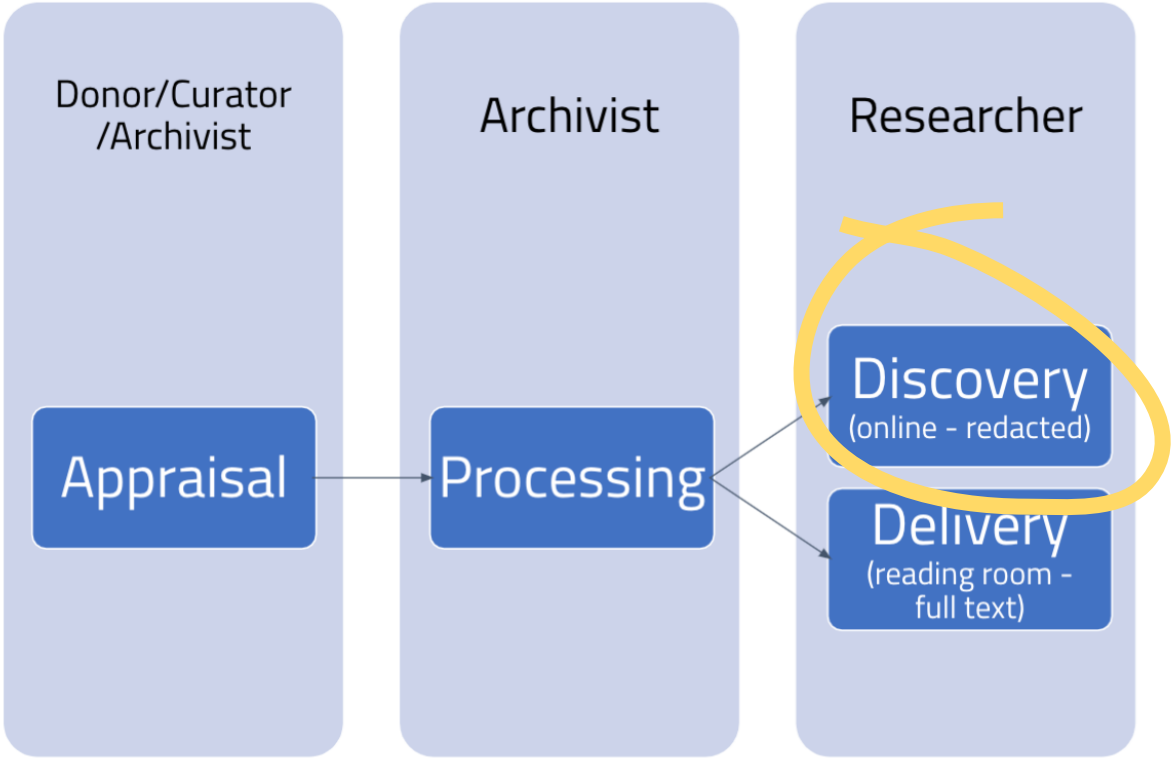



LABELS
SORT BY
ATTACH
Restriction Labels
Transfer to Delivery Or
Do not Transfer
General Labels
Error in Attachments
Reviewed
Cleared for Release
No Date
Possibly Bad date
Other error while Parsi
Error in Corresponden
Permission Labels
Permitted for transfer
LABELS
SORT BY
ATTACHMENT VIEW
1 of 4
Do not Transfer
1
0
Folder: [redacted]
Date: Jan 22, 2013 9:51am
Labels:
From: [redacted]
To:
Subject:
The answers to 5-7 are correct (i.e. NO). SSN = [redacted]
Megan

Message Redaction - Demo



Shared Discovery Module



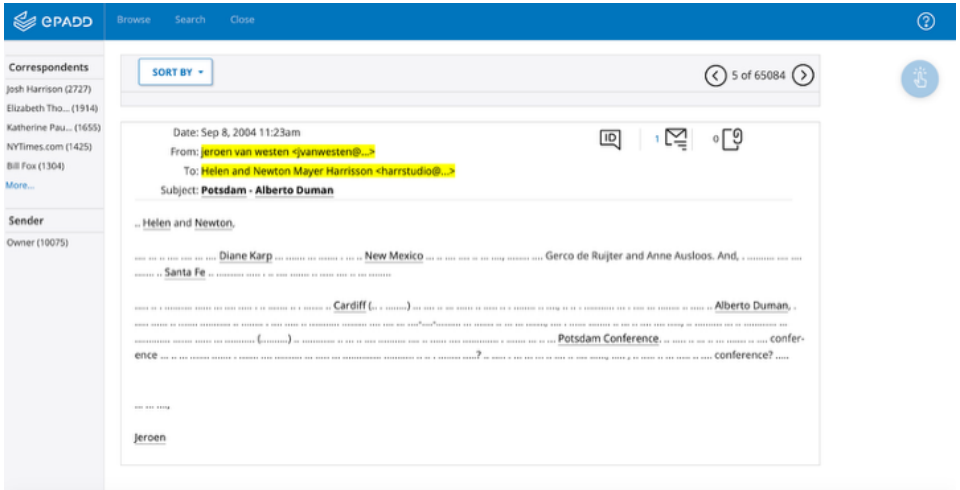
Shared Discovery Module

What is there?

- Collection metadata (similar to finding aid frontmatter)
- Redacted email headers
- Names of correspondents
- Extracted entities

What is *not* there?

- Full text of messages
- Full email addresses of correspondents
- Attachments (not even filenames)



Shared Discovery Module

Shared version of Discovery Module that any institution can contribute to

- Hosted at epadd.stanford.edu
- How to contribute:
  - Contact us at epadd_project@stanford.edu
  - out the ePADD Shared Discovery Module Collection Contributors user guide: https://bit.ly/3uNpUcN

AI for Email Appraisal and Analysis

Plug in your model of choice

Local Setup (Llama):

- Dedicated library PC with powerful GPU
- Running Ollama for using local LLMs

- Pros:
  - No data sent to third parties
  - Full control over models
- Cons:
  - Requires local hardware & maintenance
  - May have lower performance compared to large cloud models

Cloud Setup (ChatGPT):

- ePADD sends data to cloud API

- Pros:
  - Access to powerful, latest models
  - No local hardware required
  - Easy to scale
- Cons:
  - Data leaves your institution
  - Potential privacy & sensitivity concerns
  - API costs might occur

ePADD | Import

About this Archive

Name of Archive Owner

John Doe

Primary Email Address

Question to AI

What is the sentiment of each email from -1 to +1?

Possibly Bad date

1 0

Folder: D:\Jeb Bush1\JebEmails mboxfull\08 August 2002 Public.pst\August 2002 Public -2-\Top of Personal Folders\

Date: Aug 28, 1956 12:43am

Labels:

From: "Dr. Arnhilda Badia, PhD" <badiaa@fiu.edu>

To: jeb@jeb.org

Subject: **acto**

Jeb:

Tengo una idea. Podemos hacer una conferencia de prensa en la que tú estés con Carlos para presentar el cheque de $100,000 que pasó en la Legislatura para comenzar el Jose Marti Scholarship Endowment. ¿Tú crees que puedas venir antes del dia 10 de septiembre? Avísame para organizar el acto.

Arnhilda

Annotation

Score: +0.6 Reason: The message is constructive and upbeat, proposing a collaborative public event around funding and coordination, with a polite and forward-looking tone.

Mildly offensive attachment

1 1

Folder: b.eml
Date: Jan 29, 2026 5:06pm

Labels:
From: Weird Kid Software <emailchemydemo@weirdkid.com>
To: Jochen Farwer <jochen.farwer@manchester.ac.uk>
Subject: **Please Purchase Emailchemy**

Jochen Farwer | Software Developer | Red M.6 (Main Library) | The University of Manchester Library | Oxford Road | Manchester | M13 9PP |

Annotation

The image contains a classical statue with partial nudity; however, it is recognized as a culturally significant artwork in a public setting. No sexual or offensive intent is detected. The content is safe.

Limitations & Next Steps for AI Integration

Limitations

- Large email archives take a long time to analyse

Next Steps

- Allow users to analyse a subset of emails within an archive
- Make model integration (e.g. ChatGPT) user-friendly

ePADD and AI tools for Appraisal

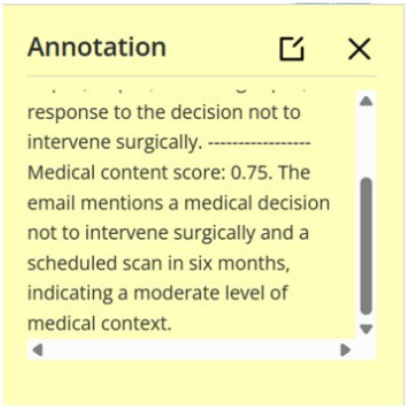
Challenges

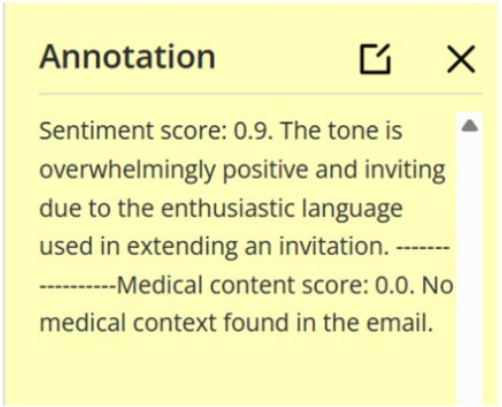
- Sensitivity review and regulatory environment
- Volume of records to be appraised

Appraisal Experience

- Manual individual appraisal - 1 week to review and label approximately 1300 email messages
- Can AI for an initial classification speed things up?

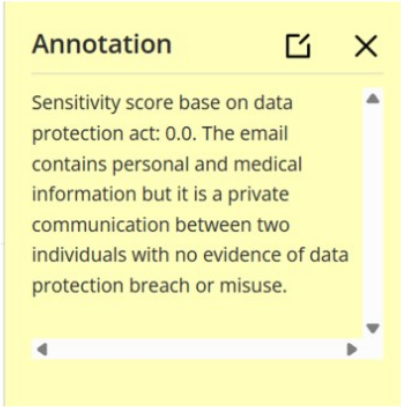
Sentiment and Medical Data Analysis

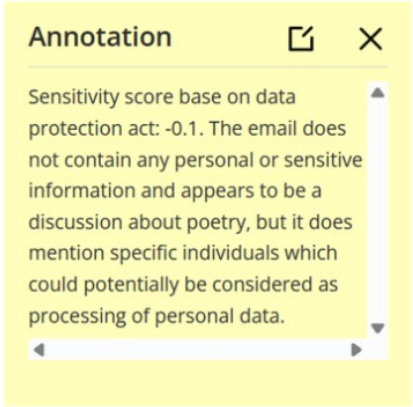




Label	Type	Messages
Possibly neutral sentiment (score between -0.6 and +0.6)	General	487
Possibly very positive sentiment (score > 0.8)	General	447
Possibly containing medical information	General	254
Possibly positive sentiment (score > 0.6)	General	136
Possibly negative sentiment (score < -0.6)	General	33
Possibly Bad date	General	0
Possibly very negative sentiment (score < 0.8)	General	0

Application of Data Protection Act





Neutral sensitivity score X	General	766
Error in Correspondents	General	19
Very neg. sensitivity score X	General	10
Very pos. sensitivity score X	General	8
neg. sensitivity score X	General	7

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

Lessons Learned

- Value in exploring as a way forward for appraisal of large volumes of email
- Lack of consistency and reliability is still a risk

Next Steps

- Create a very detailed and specific appraisal rubric
- Thoughts and suggestions on AI for email appraisal and processing are welcome!

Project Sustainability

Previous model

- Development supported by grant funding, with ad hoc investments in maintenance and enhancements
- 2023: Code and Steering Groups launch; Dev work sustained through Manchester team (with some short-term investment from Harvard)
- Community contributions peppered throughout

Project needs

- Resilience to personnel changes - support not anchored in a single person or supporting institution
- Assurance of basic maintenance, security, and stability
- Maintain open-source (and hopefully broaden, strengthen contributor community)
- Low to no cost, or flexible/optional costs

Current plan

- Partnering with the Open Preservation Foundation (~Fall 2026 transition)
- Will address needs:
  - Maintain a stable code base
  - Strengthen our contributor model
  - Anchor our governance and broaden our base
- If you aren't already a member, consider joining OPF!

Get Involved with ePADD

- Eager to support the sustainability of ePADD?
  - Join the Steering Group: https://www.epaddproject.org/community/steering-group
- Interested in making technical contributions to ePADD?
  - Join the Code Group: https://www.epaddproject.org/community/code-group
- Want to learn more about email preservation?
  - DPC Technology Watch: Preserving Email - http://doi.org/10.7207/twgn21-08
  - DPC Novice-to-Know How: https://dpc.getlearnworlds.com/course/n2kh-email
- Curious about seeing ePADD in action?
  - How-to videos: https://www.epaddproject.org/resources/videos
- Ready to get started using ePADD?
  - Download the software on Github: https://github.com/ePADD/epadd
- Already using ePADD and want to talk with others?
  - Join the ePADD Google Group: https://groups.google.com/g/epaddusers