



For the Attention of Cultural Heritage & Memory Institutions

Cultural Digital Heritage at-risk without urgent action

Museums, Archives, Libraries and other organizations with a mandate to preserve historical, artistic, and community records must take urgent action as our cultural digital heritage faces increased risk of extinction.

Without sustained investment in effective digital preservation within the cultural heritage sector, entire periods of digital creativity—including those using flash animations, early web art, community projects—could disappear, with future generations unable to experience the digital works that shaped our era. Personal and community connections preserved digitally may become inaccessible, eroding identity and heritage for families and local groups. Students and researchers would also lose access to primary sources and historical digital materials like oral histories, limiting the understanding of cultural, social and technological evolution. In short, without the concerted effort to preserve these digital materials, future generations are left with a distorted historical record.

A new version of the [Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials](#), published today by the [Digital Preservation Coalition](#), confirms that [Adobe Flash animations and interactive applets](#) are Practically Extinct, with many other relevant entries listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered, underscoring the urgency of digital preservation efforts to counter this potential distortion.

Describing digital preservation as a proven way to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary, William Kilbride, Executive Director for the Digital Preservation Coalition concludes that inaction in the face of impending digital loss is a poor choice:

“Our cultural heritage is no longer just in books, paintings or artifacts, it exists in digital form too. If we fail to preserve these digital expressions, we risk losing entire chapters of our shared history and culture. Digital preservation is the only way to ensure that future generations can understand the creativity, diversity and identity of our time.”

The DPC's *Global 'Bit List' of Endangered Digital Materials—Bit List*—is a powerful call to action from the global digital preservation community. It highlights the digital content most at risk of being lost, based on real-world conditions and expert insight. By clearly identifying both the urgency of the threat and the value of the content, the *Bit List* shines a spotlight on the digital materials that demand immediate attention to ensure their survival.

The Bit List entries relevant to preserving Cultural and Digital Heritage are:

Practically Extinct

- [Adobe Flash animations and interactive applets](#)

Critically Endangered

- [Community-generated content in arts and heritage](#)
- [Digital archives of community groups](#)
- [Exhibition content](#)
- [Legacy research web collections](#)



- [Media Art \(legacy, deceased artists, defunct workshops\)](#)

Endangered

- [Oral histories](#)
- [First Nations Secret/Sacred Cultural Material](#)
- [Legacy video files](#)
- [Orphaned works](#)