



The Digital Preservation Awards 2026: Nomination Pack (DPA26A)

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1. Introduction

The Digital Preservation Awards were established by the Digital Preservation Coalition in 2004 to celebrate the excellence and innovation necessary to secure our digital legacy.

In 2026, **seven** awards will be presented for initiatives completed between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2026:

- **The Award for Collaboration and Cooperation**, celebrating significant collaboration across institutional, professional, sectoral and geographical boundaries which have had a demonstrable and positive impact on digital preservation. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.
- **The Award for Research and Innovation**, recognizing excellence in practical research and innovation activities. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.
- **The Award for Teaching and Communications**, recognizing excellence in outreach, training and advocacy. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.
- **The Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation**, encouraging and recognizing student work in digital preservation. The prize includes attendance at an international conference, a trophy and a certificate.
- **The Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy**, celebrating the practical application of preservation tools to protect at-risk digital objects. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.
- **The Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third sector**, encouraging and recognizing the adoption of digital preservation tools and approaches in institutions which are not explicitly memory institutions. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.
- **The Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity**, celebrating efforts that support and maintain critical infrastructure for digital preservation services and systems, ensuring the integrity and resilience of digital preservation workflows. The award includes a cash prize of £1000, a trophy and certificates.

In addition, the DPC will award the '**DPC Fellowship**' to an individual in recognition of a substantial, generous and distinguished contribution to securing our digital legacy. Nominations are not sought for DPC Fellowship. Instead, the membership of the DPC will be invited to make confidential recommendations of individuals they think meet this description.

The Digital Preservation Awards promote, encourage and celebrate the widest possible participation in digital preservation, defined in the broadest possible terms. The judges therefore call on everyone involved in digital preservation to help them promote, publish, discuss and disseminate the awards



The awards are open to all. The Judges seek entries from all organization types, across all sectors – public, private, for-profit and non-profit and there is no restriction to whether the nominee is a member of the DPC. The awards are international in scope and may reflect work carried out anywhere in the world.

The Judges seek to inspire diverse nominations so if organizations are uncertain whether their projects meet the terms of the awards they are encouraged to apply, allowing the Judges the freedom of assessing them on merit. Although the nomination procedure is fixed, the criteria against which each nomination will be assessed are only for guidance. Multiple nominations from the same institution are welcome and previous nominees are welcome to apply provided they meet the criteria. A single nomination can be entered into multiple categories provided the criteria are fully met for each.

The judges particularly seek nominations from agencies and individuals who are new to digital preservation, and warmly welcome nominations from under-represented communities whose voices have not been heard within the digital preservation community before now and whose perspectives if amplified would challenge or change established practice.

Application is by self-nomination and is a two-stage process. Nominees must complete the online nomination form (using the offline form DPA26B as an appendix to this pack for preparation) and submit it by 0900 (BST/CET) on Tuesday 5 May 2026. (See Section 8: 'How to Enter' for more details).

Finalists will then be selected by the Judges and should be available to attend online interviews scheduled for the week commencing 13 July 2026. The Awards will be presented at the Digital Preservation Awards ceremony on 15 October 2026. Venue details will be published on the DPC website.



2. Overview

The Digital Preservation Awards celebrate the excellence and innovation that will help to secure our digital legacy.

Created in 2004 to raise awareness about digital preservation, the Digital Preservation Awards provide a rare opportunity to engage in high-profile advocacy, articulating nuanced messages about how and why one might engage in digital preservation. They enable the DPC, acting on behalf of the global digital preservation community, to endorse and celebrate outstanding work which may go unrecognized by others, and which may be little known among the senior managers of the agencies sponsoring this work. Therefore, nominations which have received recognition through other schemes such as the NDSA Excellence Awards are unlikely to be recognized again by the Digital Preservation Awards.

In its early iterations (2004, 2005, 2007 and 2010) the DPC sponsored a single award under the auspices of the Conservation Awards. In 2012, to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Coalition, the DPC organized the Digital Preservation Awards under its own mandate, offering 3 awards. In 2014 a further 2 awards were offered and, in 2016, the DPC Fellowship was established. In 2020 a new category was added to celebrate collaboration. This year the DPC is delighted to introduce a new category: the Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity.

Now in 2026, The Digital Preservation Awards offer:

- **The Award for Collaboration and Cooperation**, celebrating significant collaboration across institutional, professional, sectoral and geographical boundaries which have had a demonstrable and positive impact on digital preservation since the last prize round (i.e. completed between August 2024 and July 2026). The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's institution.
- **The Award for Research and Innovation**, recognizing excellence in practical research and innovation since the last prize round (i.e. completed between August 2024 and July 2026). The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's institution.
- **The Award for Teaching and Communications**, recognizing excellence in outreach, training and advocacy since the last prize round (completed between August 2024 and July 2026). The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's institution.
- **The Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation**, encouraging and recognizing student work in digital preservation completed in the period August 2024 to July 2026. The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating institutions, and a travel grant covering the costs of attendance at an international conference in 2027.



- **The Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy**, celebrating the practical application of preservation tools to protect at-risk digital objects (completed in the period August 2024 to July 2026). The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's institution.
- **The Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector**, encouraging and recognizing the adoption of digital preservation tools and approaches in an organization that is not explicitly a memory institution, completed between August 2024 and July 2026. The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's organization.
- **NEW The Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity**, celebrating efforts that support and maintain critical infrastructure for digital preservation services and systems, ensuring the integrity and resilience of digital preservation workflows. Because this is a new award there is no 'start date', but the tools or services referred to in the application have to have been operational between August 2024 and July 2026. The prize in this category consists of a trophy to be retained by the recipient, certificates for participating individuals, and a cash prize of £1000 payable to the lead nominee's institution.
- **The DPC Fellowship Award**, in recognition of a substantial, generous and distinguished individual contribution to securing our digital legacy. Nominations are not sought for DPC Fellowship. Instead, the membership of the DPC will be invited to make confidential recommendations of individuals they think meet this description. The prize in this category consists of a trophy and certificate and lifetime honorary personal membership of the DPC.

In addition, winners and finalists will receive a print quality logo for reproduction on websites or stationery. All nominees will receive practical commentary on their nomination including comments from the 'public vote'. Informal feedback suggests that this commentary has been widely re-used by nominees in grant applications and curricula vitae.



3. Criteria and Conditions

a) The Award for Collaboration and Co-operation

The Award for Collaboration and Co-operation celebrates significant collaboration across institutional, professional, sectoral and geographical boundaries which have had a demonstrable and positive impact on digital preservation. It is presented to the group, movement, partnership or initiative that, through shared understanding, common vision and collaborative effort, the Judges believe has had a beneficial impact on digital preservation which is greater than the sum of its parts.

The Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple judging criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.
- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Submissions may describe many kinds of collaboration. Examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive. The Judges anticipate that nominations in this category will match the criteria for other awards too: so nominees are encouraged to submit for more than one award.

- An international or inter-continental partnership which has delivered demonstrable mutual benefit or capability, particularly between partners in the developed and developing world.
- a collaboration between public institution(s) and community groups or leaders that has reduced the barriers to digital preservation and enabled the safeguarding of at-risk digital content which would not have been possible otherwise.
- a jointly managed and co-owned service, registry, technical framework or application which lowers the barriers to digital preservation between multiple contributing partners.
- a task force or working party that has advanced the implementation and quality of practical digital preservation.



- a cooperative effort across sectors, agencies or professions that would not otherwise have collaborated, and which has advanced knowledge or capability in digital preservation.

Nominations for the Award for Collaboration and Co-operation must meet the following conditions:

- The project must have a recognizably complete form between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026
- A joint nomination for a minimum of two collaborating or co-operating partner institutions
- All nominations must complete the online nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation)
- All nominee parties must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- Nominee must have been contributors to the project being nominated.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by letters of support.
- Nominees must be prepared to present their work online.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



b) Award for Research and Innovation

The Award for Research and Innovation celebrates significant technical or intellectual accomplishments which practically lower the barriers to effective digital preservation. It is presented to the project, initiative or person that, in the eyes of the Judges, has produced a tool, framework, standard, service, or approach that has (or will have) an impact in securing a sustainable future for our digital assets.

Recognizing rapid innovation in this field, the Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple judging criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users.
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.
- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community.
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Submissions may describe many kinds of outcome. Examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- a tool, infrastructure component, protocol or technical approach which has improved the long-term access to digital objects.
- a shared service, registry, technical framework or middleware application which lowers the barriers to digital preservation.
- a report, standard, case study or other publication which has advanced the implementation and quality of practical digital preservation.
- a project, collaboration or working party which has tested or developed a particular digital preservation strategy or approach.
- a body of work that has progressed from initial ideas to fully functioning and embedded practice.
- an innovative approach to problem solving which has a distinctive capacity to solve multiple practical problems.
- An original dissertation or thesis submitted in support of a research degree at doctoral level.



Nominations for the Award for Research and Innovation must meet the following conditions:

- The project must have a recognizably complete form between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026
- Joint nominations are accepted.
- All nominations must complete the nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation)
- All nominees must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- The nominee must have been a lead contributor to the project being nominated.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by a letter of support.
- Nominees must be prepared to deliver an online presentation of their work.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



c) Award for Teaching and Communication

The Award for Teaching and Communication celebrates significant efforts to empower workforces or engage policy makers with the skills and information they need to make digital preservation a practical reality. Any effort that helps build capacity in digital preservation skills and competence falls into scope for this award. It is presented to the project, initiative, team or person that, in the eyes of the Judges, has produced training resources, a curriculum, or campaign that have (or will have) the greatest impact in securing our digital legacy, or undertaken empirical research that will evidently support the development of capacity in digital preservation.

Recognizing rapid innovation in this field, the Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple judging criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.
- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Submissions may describe many different kinds of activity. Some examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- a publication or training resource which has made the theory and practice of digital preservation accessible to a wider audience.
- an ongoing training program or degree.
- a project which has researched and reported on training needs.
- a mentoring or exchange program that builds confidence in digital preservation or connection between practitioners
- initiatives that have helped build capacity for digital preservation at any level within an organization or sector
- a campaign to change or influence policy.
- a service that supports digital preservation practitioners access the skills they need.



- a curriculum or model curriculum that embeds digital preservation thinking within professional or academic practice.
- an analysis of training needs in digital preservation.
- an analysis of labor market trends in digital preservation.
- a guide or standard which enables or improves the quality of digital preservation.
- initiatives that encourage or enable management support for digital preservation activities.

Nominations for the Award for Teaching and Communication must meet the following conditions:

- The project must have reached a recognizably complete form between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026.
- Joint nominations are accepted.
- All nominations must complete the nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation).
- All nominees must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- The nominee must have been a lead contributor to the project being nominated.
- The nomination may have been carried out anywhere in the world and should demonstrate how outcomes are being shared across the digital preservation community.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by a letter of support.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



d) Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation

The Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation celebrates impressive work by any student which lowers the barriers to digital preservation. It is presented to the student that, in the eyes of the Judges, has produced an essay, course work, project report or dissertation that is recognized as having an impact in securing a sustainable future for our digital assets. Note that doctoral level studies which demonstrate original research should normally be submitted to the research and innovation category.

The Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple judging criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.
- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Effort required by the project.
- Extent to which the outcome has been demonstrated to exceed elementary course requirements.
- Significance of digital objects in question.

The Judges are keen to encourage nominations from all levels of study. The quality of the submission will be weighed against the level of qualification gained so that outstanding undergraduate coursework can be assessed against self-directed postgraduate research. Many forms of submission are encouraged provided they have been submitted for assessment during a recognized curriculum. Some examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- A thesis for a postgraduate degree below doctoral level.
- A dissertation.
- An essay.
- A report outlining a portfolio of practical work.
- A poster, video or other multi-media work.
- A series of blogs or other creative uses of social media.
- A solution to a technical or organizational problem developed during studies.

Nominations in this category must be submitted by Heads of Departments or program conveners for the relevant course of study. Only one nomination will be permitted from each institute of higher education or research. Although the prize will be awarded to the student, the institute must lead the nomination. The online nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this



form for preparation) must be accompanied by the piece of original work being submitted (or a link where that is more appropriate).

Nominations for the Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation must meet the following conditions:

- Individual and group work can be submitted as appropriate.
- All nominations must complete the nominations form (see appendix one).
- Nominations must be made in the name of a higher education or research institute, but the student(s) originating the work must be clearly identified.
- The nominee must have been a program convener or head of department to the project being nominated.
- Only one nomination will be accepted from each institution.
- The student(s) originating the work must have been registered for a recognizable degree or equivalent program at the nominating institution.
- The work submitted must form part of the normal assessment requirements of the program for which the student(s) are registered.
- The student(s) must be aware of the nomination and should be available to participate in the nomination process.
- Formally, the work should have been submitted between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026. However, recognizing that the submission and grading of work and graduation can be an extended process, the Judges will offer some discretion about dates.
- At the discretion of the Judges, materials submitted in the pursuit of research degrees may be transferred to the Research and Innovation category.

Depending on the volume of nominations received, this award may be assessed by a separate panel.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline with link to or copy of original work.
- Judges to review nominations based on nomination forms and devise short list.
- Judges to consider next steps including co-opting a sub-committee chaired by DPC.
- DPC members vote based on 'long description' in nomination form.
- Judges review original work submitted with nomination.
- Judges prepare thematic questions for interview.
- Judges communicate thematic questions to nominees.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



e) Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy

The Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy celebrates the practical application of preservation skills and tools to protect at-risk digital objects (completed in the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2026). It draws attention to concrete efforts to ensure important elements of our contemporary digital memory remains available to future generations. It need not involve particularly innovative work but must illustrate a clear understanding of the risks that digital objects face and the reasons for ensuring they are properly managed. It should be an exemplar case study in why preservation matters, and it must be capable of being described in terms that are readily understood.

Recognizing the rapid development of this field, the Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.
- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

This is intended to be a very extensive topic and submissions may describe many kinds of activity. Some examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- The creation of a web archive.
- The emulation of a computer game.
- The collection and safeguarding of the personal digital archive of a noted public figure.
- A procedure to safeguard the corporate archive of an agency or foundation with significant public impact.
- The development and safeguarding of a community archive.
- The preservation of an email archive.
- The curation and re-use of a scientific data set.
- Good practice that ensures long-term access to a digitized collection.
- Exemplary use of a preserved digital collection which validates preservation actions.



Nominations for the Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy must meet the following conditions:

- Joint nominations are accepted.
- All nominations must complete the nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation)
- All nominees must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- The nominee must have been a lead contributor to the project being nominated.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by a letter of support.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- An archive generated or preserved under extraordinary conditions or social, political, economic or institutional upheaval.

Formally the project should have been completed between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026, but Judges will offer some discretion about the completion date of the project. Nonetheless the action must be sufficiently current in order that the case for preservation can be understood by a wide audience.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



f) Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector

The Judges acknowledge that digital preservation is a concern for all and are concerned that case studies of good practice from commercial or industrial settings as well as charities and not-for-profit agencies are all too rare. It is noted that such agencies are not generally motivated to share their experiences, while activities that may seem relatively mundane can have a profound impact on creating and extending new kinds of business or new kinds of interactions between stakeholders.

For example, the exploitation of 'big data' has driven innovation in the economy while the clever deployment of legacy digital assets has opened up a 'long tail' of commerce. Regulators concerned with lifecycle management of real-world assets recognize the need for digital preservation as hard evidence of compliance, while patent lawyers protect their clients with the presentation of authoritative evidence of novelty. Non-governmental agencies and charities collect and preserve archives from their clients and stakeholders, acting in some cases as the archive of last resort where no other exists. These and other innovations require practical preservation measures to be sustainable. The Judges wish to celebrate these activities, showing that digital preservation is not merely a concern for public institutions.

The Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce Industry and the Third Sector encourages and celebrates the development of digital preservation in agencies that would not traditionally consider themselves to be memory institutions. This could include any business or agency across all sectors where the preservation of digital collections is not the core remit for the agency. It includes, but is not limited to healthcare, legal, finance, insurance, construction and infrastructure, retail, manufacturing and distribution, media and broadcast. Charities, non-governmental organizations and social enterprises are also encouraged to apply in this category.

The award is presented to the project, initiative, business, agency or person that, in the eyes of the Judges, has provided the best example of steps that have been taken to safeguard and exploit its own digital legacy, ensuring that it remains accessible in the long term.

Recognizing rapid innovation in this field, the Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.



- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Submissions may describe many kinds of outcome. Some examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- any action which exemplifies good practice in the preservation of business data.
- any action which exemplifies good practice in the use of preserved data, and which validates preservation actions.
- a practical implementation which has advanced the theory, practice and understanding of digital preservation outside of memory institutions.
- a project or case study which has tested, developed or applied to a particular digital preservation strategy or policy in a commercial, charitable or industrial setting.
- any initiative which has helped the preservation of digital objects for re-use in an industrial charitable or commercial environment, with obvious benefits to the business or its clients.
- an innovation which has changed how the business community, or third sector perceive or undertake digital preservation.
- a service or toolkit that enhances a whole industry or sector.
- a body of work that has progressed from initial ideas to fully functioning and embedded services in an industrial, commercial or charitable setting.

Nominations for the Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Industry must meet the following conditions:

- The project must have reached a recognizably complete form between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026
- Joint nominations are accepted.
- All nominations must complete the nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation)
- All nominees must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- The nominee must have been a lead contributor to the project being nominated.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by a letter of support.
- The nomination must not be led by vendors of digital preservation solutions, though can include them as partners.



Formally, the project should have been completed between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026, however Judges are expected to offer some discretion about the dates of project completion. Nonetheless the action must be sufficiently current in order that the case for preservation can be understood by a wide audience.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



g) Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity

The Judges acknowledge the effort and celebrate the commitment of individuals and groups who work to maintain core infrastructure that support digital preservation workflows and tools. Their work is necessary considering the many changing threats and dependencies on which our tools and services depend; their work brings significant benefit across the digital preservation community, especially when solutions are shared and promoted freely; their work is enhanced when supported by an active community of practitioners and participants. New tools and technologies are eye-catching, winning plaudits for innovation and creativity, but a fascination with the new can also lead to solutionism. It can draw attention and resources from the vital work of fixing and maintaining tools and services which have been proven over time. This award seeks to address that imbalance, promoting and celebrating the maintenance. In doing so the award further draws attention to the sustainability of digital preservation tools and services, encouraging practitioners to collaborate, re-use and renew rather than re-invent.

It is a paradox of any digital preservation tool that it is subject to the same forces of obsolescence that it seeks to address. The question therefore arises how do we guard from obsolescence the tools that guard us from obsolescence? The operational environments of digital preservation are constantly in flux. Sometimes this is the result of changes in system requirements, introduced as a consequence of planned upgrades and developments of technology platforms. Sometimes it will be result of changes in how data is created or submitted. On other occasions it is the result of external threats such as when cybersecurity assessments find vulnerabilities that need strengthened. Whatever the reason, constant maintenance and attention to detail are essential for resilience.

The Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity is open to developers in any context. It could be an ad-hoc community or team that has adopted a particular tool or product, it could be a more formally described 'service owner' or team with responsibility for part of a digital preservation workflow. It could be a single developer who maintains a particular code base, or who has contributed generously to the work of others. The call includes, but is not limited to community-maintained infrastructures, such as open-source tools, registries, or shared technical resources that are used across the digital preservation community.

Recognizing rapid innovation in this field, the Judges do not wish the criteria to be restrictive. Nominations will be considered which best fit the description given above. To this end, the Judges will begin their assessment of nominations against simple criteria which they may choose to weight accordingly:

- Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs.
- Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users
- Clarity of purpose.
- Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed.



- Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles.
- Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered.
- Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community
- Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field.
- Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance and environmental impact.
- Assessment of quality by peers.*

*'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting mechanisms open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Submissions may describe many kinds of outcome. Some examples are given below but they are not intended to be prescriptive:

- any initiative which exemplifies the maintenance of an existing digital preservation tool.
- long-running shared services or community infrastructure
- any initiative that improves or adapts an existing tool for a new purpose.
- the design and delivery of a product roadmap over successive iterations, with demonstrable enhancements to the scope or quality of digital preservation workflows
- the new release of an established tool
- a body of work that has progressed over several years in relation to a tool, service or registry
- long running and sustained success in the delivery of digital preservation services, demonstrating a commitment to maintenance and resilience

Nominations for the Award for Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity must meet the following conditions:

- The project must have reached a recognizably complete form between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026
- Joint nominations are accepted.
- All nominations must complete the nomination form (see DPA26B for offline version of this form for preparation)
- All nominees must be clearly identified on the nomination form.
- The nominee must have been a lead contributor to the project being nominated.
- Institutions may lead multiple nominations to this award.
- Nominations must be supported at senior management level within the nominees' institutions, demonstrated by a letter of support.
- The nomination must not be led by vendors of digital preservation solutions, though can include them as partners.

Because this is a new award there is no 'start date', but the tools or services referred to in the application have to have been operational between August 2024 and July 2026. The judges are expected to offer some discretion about the dates of project completion. Nonetheless the action



must be sufficiently current in order that the case for preservation can be understood by a wide audience.

Procedure for this category:

- Nomination form to be submitted by the deadline.
- Judges reserve the right to move appropriate nominations into this category.
- Judges to review nominations and agree finalists.
- Judges to devise short thematic questions for finalists.
- Judges to communicate questions to finalists.
- Finalists invited to submit a 3 minute 'lightning' video outlining the key elements of the nomination.
- Finalists invited to attend an online interview with Judges.
- DPC members vote.
- Judges make final determination against all criteria, including DPC member vote.



4. General provisions

The following provisions apply across all categories of the Awards:

- The Judges' decisions are final.
- Any attempts to influence the Judges will result in disqualification.
- All nominations must be submitted on the relevant nomination form.
- The judging criteria published for each award are for guidance: the conditions are not negotiable.
- With the exception of the student award, institutions are welcome to make multiple nominations, even if these end up in competition with each other. The Judges welcome the opportunity to judge between them.
- Where appropriate, a nomination can be submitted against multiple categories provided a convincing case is made.
- The Judges may change the category of a nomination.
- Judges may not lead nominations. They must declare their interests at the start of each meeting and must leave the room during consideration of the relevant nominations.
- The staff of the DPC cannot apply, and contractors cannot nominate work which was initiated and funded directly by the DPC.
- Projects involving the DPC and DPC staff can be nominated but DPC activities must not be the reason for the nomination.
- The DPC will only name finalists. Nominations will remain confidential.
- All nominees will receive feedback.
- Details of finalists will be used only for the purposes of publicizing the Awards. By submitting a form, nominees signify their consent to such publicity.
- Nominees should make an explicit statement in their application about whether or how AI has been used in the writing of their application.
- The Judges will not use AI to assess nominations, though reserve the right to use AI tools to support translation and communications.



5. Schedule

Entrants for the Digital Preservation Awards must submit a nomination by 0900 (BST/CET) on Tuesday 5 May 2026. Brief, individual extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances and should be sought ahead of the deadline. The overall deadline will not be extended (see Section 8: 'How to Enter' for details). These will be evaluated, and finalists decided by the Digital Preservation Judging Panel Meeting in May 2026.

Once announced, finalists will then be required to do the following:

- Submit a 3-minute lightning video outlining the key elements of the initiative. More details will be provided at this stage.
- With the exception of the Student Award, attend an online interview with the Judging Panel week commencing 13th July 2026, explaining the importance of the initiative the field of digital preservation.
- Provide good quality visual material – at least three hi-res jpeg images (e.g., project team, location shots, screen shots, products) – of the project to be used in publicity material relating to the Award and/or the Awards ceremony.

Only finalists will be asked for full details of their projects.

The following gives an outline of key dates:

- **19 March 2026** Launch of the Digital Preservation Awards 2026
- **2 April 2026** Second call for nominations
- **23 April 2026** Final call for nominations
- **5 May 2026** Nominations close; entries checked and distributed to judges
- **26 May 2026** First Judging Panel (Shortlisting)
- **8 June 2026** Finalists announced and invited to presentation
- **8 June 2026** Online voting for finalists opens
- **6 July 2026** Online voting closes
- **Week commencing 13 July 2026** Second Judging Panel (presentations and interviews with finalists)
- **15 October 2026** Awards presented



6. Judges

The judging panel will consist of not less than ten individuals representing a range of interests from within the DPC membership and awards category sponsors.

The Judges shall appoint a chair with the responsibility to confirm the independence and integrity of the judging process. Each category will be chaired by a specified judge who will assist in presenting the award and will oversee award in that category. The final decision resides with the whole judging panel. In addition to participating in the judging, DPC will provide secretarial functions and scrutiny of rules.

The panel will select winners based on the following evidence: the original nomination; the detailed description of the project; the presentation from the finalist; question and answer with finalists. One criterion – Assessment of Quality by Peers – will be measured for finalists via an online poll of the DPC membership. The judges shall decide the weight given to this criterion before they have seen the results of the poll.

The Judges are required to declare at the start of the Judging Panel meeting, any interest in projects under consideration. Declarations are recorded. During the meeting, anyone having an interest in or direct connection with a nomination will leave the room for that discussion and the result will not be reported until the final stages of the meeting. The results of scores taken from the agreed criteria from each individual judge are recorded and collated into a spreadsheet for comparison.

7. The Winners

Winners will be announced at the Digital Preservation Awards ceremony on 15 October 2026. Venue details will be published on the DPC website.



8. How to Enter

All nominees should read the Nomination Pack (DPA26A) and submit their nominations using the online submission form (DPA26B). A copy of the form is included at the end of this document to help with preparation. Submissions must include the following:

- **An indication of the awards category for which the nomination is being made.**
Please indicate the awards category for which the nomination is being made. The same nomination may be made to multiple categories if the criteria is fully met for each. Please note that Judges reserve the right to move nominations into the category they think fits best.
- **A brief summary of the project of no more than 100 words. This wording will be used on publicity material and should be as concise and clear as possible.**
The summary text should be written for a lay audience and as accessible as possible – imagine it being reproduced in a newspaper report of winning the award. This is likely to be included on the website and in other communications if you are selected as a finalist.
- **A project description of no more than 1000 words, setting out the nature and purpose of the project, and why it is considered to be a potential Award-winner. The project should demonstrate leadership and advancement in the digital preservation arena.**
This longer, more detailed text will be used by DPC members and the Judges to assess nominations in the members' vote. It is in this description that nominations should be more expansive and assume more knowledge, bearing in mind the diversity of the Coalition and its partners. You may include images and diagrams, although these should be genuine visual aids that help clarify the concepts described in the text. An over-abundance of diagrams may be considered suggestive of a text that needs to be improved.

Diagrams are not included in the word count. You may also include hyperlinks, although please note that the Judges are instructed to assess nominations purely on the merits of the evidence presented to them in the nomination forms (and for finalists, in the subsequent interview). Therefore, you should not require Judges to follow a hyperlink or expect that they will.

Information included in Section four: Supporting Statements can and should be repeated in the Long Description as the two have different functions. The Judges will have access to the complete nomination form and therefore any text repeated between the two. However, finalists will be presented to a vote of the members of the DPC and voters will be given the long description as part of the ballot paper without the supporting statements from Section Four. Furthermore, it is our expectation that our designated contacts in DPC members will cascade the long descriptions through their own organizations so that the vote is cast as a



corporate decision. Therefore, we recommend that the long description is written for a lay audience.

Bear in mind when writing both the Summary and Long Description that:

a) the DPC will receive a large number of applications and so good writing will help your application stand out; and

b) Judges come from a range of backgrounds including technology experts, business managers, archivists and academics. Whilst expert in their own fields they may not be expert in dealing with your concerns. It will therefore help the nomination if you are clear and concise with your language.

- **A brief account of how the nomination meets each of the key criteria**
- **Up to three images good quality illustrating the project/team or individuals are requested. These may also be used for publicity at finalist stage.**

Examples of good images to be included are: team photos, project logos, location shots, photos of any products associated with the nominations – particularly in use, process diagrams (without too much text). These should be provided as hi-res jpegs.

- **The nomination should also be accompanied by a letter of support from a senior manager within the institution.**

The reason we seek senior management approval is to allow for appropriate internal advocacy and, to a lesser extent, to ensure we do not receive competing nominations from the same institution or project. A senior manager may be anyone within your organization's management team, in a position more senior than your own. The letter could be a scanned copy of referral or an email – as long as the senior manager in question is made aware of your work and is happy to support it.

The Judges have been very clear in welcoming all kinds of applications, including personal contributions undertaken outside of an institutional framework. Therefore, the absence of a letter of support should not become a barrier to submission e.g., in the case that the project was undertaken in a personal capacity, with no institutional affiliation.

Please use the offline form DPA26B for a checklist of items you will need to enter the awards and come to the online submission form with all of the information you need prepared, and to hand.

Please submit nominations using the online submission form by 0900 (BST/CET) on 5 May 2026. Brief, individual extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances and should be sought ahead of the deadline. The overall deadline will not be extended.



9. Eligibility and other Frequently Asked Questions

- **Scope**

The judges will assume a broad definition of digital preservation: projects which describe themselves with specialist terms like ‘conservation’, ‘continuity’, ‘curation’, ‘legacy’, ‘permanent accessibility’, ‘sustainment’ or ‘sustainability’ will be eligible so long as they can demonstrate that they are working towards securing our digital legacy. Typically, digitization projects will not be eligible unless they offer a specific deliverable that will improve long term access to the digital estate. The judges’ decision will be final, and no discussion will be entered into.

- **Deadline**

Brief, individual extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances and should be sought ahead of the deadline. The overall deadline will not be extended.

- **Who can apply?**

The awards are open to all. They seek to include entries from all organization types, across all sectors – public, private, for-profit and non-profit and nominees do not need to be a member of the DPC. The awards are international in scope and the project may have been carried out anywhere in the world; judges will be looking to see how results and lessons learned are being shared with the wider digital preservation community so that they may also learn from the efforts undertaken. Nominations must be supported by senior management within your institution and nominations based on an external grant or commission should be supported by the grant giving agency or commissioning agent. Joint nominations are welcome from individuals or teams working in the public or private sectors, though a single point of contact must be agreed. There is no fee to enter the Digital Preservation Awards.

- **Do I need support from my manager?**

Yes. The purpose of the Digital Preservation Awards is about raising awareness about digital preservation. By seeking the approval of management, we are asking you to undertake a modest amount of internal advocacy. For the purposes of the student award, the course convener or head of department is effectively the senior manager. Please address your letter of Support to the Judging Panel.

- **Why is there a timeframe?**

The Awards are given for initiatives that were completed between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026, though judges will be asked to use their discretion in the admittance of nominations which have been completed outside that period. NB: although the completion date should fall between the dates given, work may have begun at any date.

- **What can we submit?**

Any project or initiative which has contributed to securing our digital legacy. By ‘project’ we mean any sustained and unified effort that works towards a discrete and definitive outcome. This might include the development and delivery of innovative services or a single program of work. Pilot projects and full-scale projects can be submitted though nominees may wish



to signal the relationship between them. Combinations of projects which happen to operate in the same sphere, but which have no structural linkage should be avoided and large or complex projects are encouraged to concentrate on specific deliverables which can be more readily understood. Small projects with modest outcomes are particularly encouraged to apply because impact will be assessed in proportion to the total resource expended.

- **Can I use AI tools to help draft or translate my nomination?**

Yes, but for transparency you must tell us what tools you used and how you used them.

- **Will you supply travel grants to attend the ceremony?**

We are currently fundraising for this and will confirm once we get closer.

- **Will you give feedback about our nomination?**

Yes. All nominees get feedback from the judges and shortlisted candidates will also receive feedback from their peers gathered from the public vote. The feedback will always be constructive, and the judges encourage nominees to append these comments to their professional and organizational CVs.

- **Can we promote the fact that we have submitted a nomination, been shortlisted or have won an award?**

Yes, we actively encourage you to do so. Where possible we will help you by providing supportive quotes or photography and will make time for press calls. The awards are run to engage the widest possible community in digital preservation, so we call on everyone interested in the awards to help raise their profile.

- **Can I ask your advice about completing my nomination form?**

Yes, but we reserve the right to publish that advice on the FAQ section of the Digital Preservation Awards Website to ensure that any points of clarification are available to all. We will keep such advice anonymous. There is a comment function on the FAQ section of the website that you can use to ask questions.

- **Can I nominate someone for the DPC Fellowship Award?**

DPC members will be formally invited to submit their nominations for the Fellowship Award with the online vote in June 2026. Members should include their nominations as part of the voting card, or email their nominations to angela.puggioni@dpconline.org and we will collate a list for the Judges' consideration in July. At this stage, the judges will also submit their own nominations if not already made and a winner will be decided by the judges only, from this list.

Responses to further questions submitted will be collated and published on the DPC website: <https://dpconline.org/events/digital-preservation-awards/eligibility-and-faqs>



10. Roll of Honor

- 2024 **Collaborative models of care: preserving Australian First Nations digital cultural heritage**
Winner of the International Council on Archives Award for Collaboration and Cooperation
- 2024 **Improving access to and sustainability of the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)**
Winner of the Digital Repository of Ireland Award for Research and Innovation
- 2024 **Study group Bits and Bots for building digital skills**
Winner of the Dutch Digital Heritage Network Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2024 **Preservation of digital records: the case of Wikimedia Mexico**
Winner of the CLOCKSS Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2024 **NHS research records: Reducing Risk**
Winner of the Research Data Alliance Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector
- 2024 **DDLD – living archive**
Winner of The National Archives (UK) Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2024 **Gladys Kemboi**
The DPC Fellowship
- 2022 **ARCHIVER Project**
Winner of the International Council on Archives Award for Collaboration and Cooperation
- 2022 **The effective preservation of archaeological virtual reconstructions**
Winner of the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) Award for Research and Innovation
- 2022 **Learning through doing: building digital preservation skills in Wales**
Winner of the Dutch Digital Heritage Network Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2022 **sasha arden with 'Access to Artistic Content on CD-ROMs'**
Winner of The National Archives (UK) Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2022 **National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation Digital Preservation Program**
Winner of the Research Data Alliance Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector
- 2022 **Archiving Reproductive Health**
Winner of the Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2022 **PREMIS Data Dictionary and related resources**
Winner of the DPC 20th Anniversary Award



- 2022 **Neil Beagrie, Adrian Brown, Dr. Denise de Vries, Nancy Y McGovern, Prof. Zhang Xiaolin**
The DPC Fellowship
- 2020 **NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation Revision Project**
Winner of the International Council on Archives Award for Collaboration and Cooperation
- 2020 **Levels of Born Digital Access**
Winner of the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) Award for Research and Innovation
- 2020 **Digital Records Curation Programme**
Winner of the Dutch Digital Heritage Network Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2020 **Lotte Wijsman**
Winner of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2020 **UNHCR Records and Archives**
Winner of the DPC Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector
- 2020 **UK Web Archive: celebrating 15 years**
Winner of The National Archives (UK) Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2020 **Micky Lindlar**
The DPC Fellowship
- 2018 **ePADD, Stanford University Libraries**
Winner of the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) Award for Research and Innovation
- 2018 **Jennifer Allen, Matthew Farrell, Shira Peltzman, Alice Prael and Dorothy Waugh; The Archivist's Guide to Kryoflux**
Winner of the DPC Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2018 **Anna Oates, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Winner of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2018 **Crossrail and Transport for London, Archiving Crossrail**
Winner of the Open Data Institute (ODI) Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector
- 2018 **IFI Irish Film Archive, IFI Loopline Project**
Winner of the National Archives Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2018 **Barbara Sierman**
The DPC Fellowship
- 2016 **NCDD and NDE, 'Constructing a network of nationwide facilities together.'**
Winner of the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) Award for Research and Innovation



- 2016 **The National Archives and The Scottish Council on Archives: ‘Transforming Archives/Opening Up Scotland’s Archives.’**
Winner of the NCDD Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2016 **Dr Anthea Seles, University College London and ‘The Transferability of Trusted Digital Repository Standards to an East African context.’**
Winner of the DPC Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2016 **HSBC, ‘Global Digital Archive System (GDA)’**
Winner of the DPC Award for the Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Industry
- 2016 **Amsterdam Museum and Partners, ‘The Digital City revives: A case study of web archaeology.’**
Winner of the National Archives Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2016 **Brewster Kahle, Internet Archive**
The DPC Fellowship
- 2014 **The University of Freiburg and partners with ‘bwFLA Functional Long-Term Archiving and Access’**
Winner of the OPF Award for Research and Innovation
- 2014 **Alasdair Bachell from the University of Glasgow with ‘Game Preservation in the UK**
Winner of the DPC Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation
- 2014 **Adrian Brown for his ‘Practical Digital Preservation: a how to guide for organizations of any size’**
Winner of the NCDD Award for Teaching and Communications
- 2014 **University of Manchester for their ‘Carcenet Press Email Archive’**
The DPC Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- 2012 **Archaeology Data Service**
Winner of the Decennial Award for An Outstanding Contribution to Digital Preservation
- 2012 **Digital Preservation Training Program**
Winner of the for Teaching and Communications
- 2012 **The PLANETS Project**
Award for Research and Innovation
- 2010 **The Los Alamos National Laboratory and Old Dominion University for the Memento Project.**
- 2007 **The National Archives for the PRONOM and DROID projects.**
- 2005 **PREMIS – the Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies Working Group.**
- 2004 **The National Archives, The Digital Archive project.**



Appendix 1: Offline copy of the Digital Preservation Awards 2026 Nomination Form (DPA26B)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 09:00 UTC ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026

SECTION ONE: AWARD(S) APPLIED FOR:

- Collaboration and Co-operation
- Research and Innovation
- Teaching and Communication
- Most Distinguished Student Work
- Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
- Most Outstanding Digital Preservation Initiative in Commerce, Industry and the Third Sector
- Resilience, Maintenance and Continuity

SECTION TWO: INFORMATION ON NOMINEE(S)¹

Name of nominee (for student award this should be the head of department or program convener)

Postal Address

Contact name/address (if different from above)

Telephone Number

Email Address

¹ Please see DPC's Privacy Policy for details on how we hold and manage personal data:
<https://www.dpconline.org/privacy>



Media/PR contact details (for student award this should be institutional media contacts)

Submission supported by (name and designation of senior executive that has championed this nomination). *Please ensure that a letter of support is included with this nomination form.*

How did you find out about the Digital Preservation Awards?

SECTION THREE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATION

Title of initiative: this short title will appear on the ballot paper and certificate

Date of initiation (Month/Year)

Date of completion (Month/Year, this should be between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026)

Summary of the initiative (up to 100 words).

This short description will be used within publicity material for the awards. Care should be taken to ensure it is accessible to a lay audience.

Organization(s)/individual(s) commissioning the initiative

Names of team members (for student award list the students who completed the work)

Location of project



Web links

Long description (up to 1000 words)

This should set out clearly and concisely the key points of the work and the main achievements. It will be used in publicity materials, so care should be taken to ensure that it is written for a lay audience.



SECTION FOUR: SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

Nominees are invited to review their projects against the criteria for the awards.

Assessment of audience needs and fit to their needs: who are the audience for this work and how did you establish their needs? (up to 100 words)

Significance of objects preserved from the perspective of likely users: what kinds of digital object have been (could be) preserved. Why are they significant and to whom? ² (up to 100 words)

Clarity of purpose? What problem did you set out to fix and why did you want to fix it? (up to 100 words)

Effectiveness of the methodology used or developed. What methods did you use? Is there anything you would have liked to do differently? (up to 100 words)

Exemplary or innovative application of digital preservation tools or principles. What existing insights or experience from the digital preservation community influenced your work? (up to 100 words)

Clarity and practicality of benefits delivered: what were the practical outcomes for others? How have you measured them? (up to 100 words)

² The judges would like to know if/why the content you are preserving would be of interest to the public? Is it recognizable as having belonged to someone of scientific, cultural or historic importance for example? Is it the first of a kind? Did it herald a change in scientific, historic or cultural process? E.g. David Bowie's email collection, the first data produced by the Large Hadron Collider.



Extensibility of benefits delivered and impact on the digital preservation community. How have others responded to your work. How have you enabled them to benefit too? (up to 100 words)

Longevity (or expected longevity) of contribution to the field? How will the project and its outputs be useful for the longer term? (up to 100 words)

Cost of the project in terms of effort, finance, and environmental impact: what resources did the project require? This could refer to human effort, financial investment, and environmental impact. (up to 100 words)³

Assessment of quality by peers: how have others reacted to your work? (up to 100 words)

This criterion, 'Assessment of quality by peers' will be measured by online voting open to DPC members. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

³ This criterion was introduced by the judges in 2010 as a mechanism to help compare large well-funded projects with small unfunded ones. In principle, the former would always deliver more impact than the latter, which if followed to a logical conclusion would mean that only large projects would ever win the award. This is to be avoided. In practice therefore, the judges want to assess how much time and effort you used. It includes also consideration of the environmental impact of the project because the Judges will favor those where the environmental impact has been considered and managed. The category is entirely about the resources used to develop the solution, not the effort that the solution might save once deployed. You may choose to illustrate the latter point under the 'Clarity and practicality of benefits' section.



SECTION FIVE: CHECKLIST

Please confirm that you have:

- Completed form DPA26B, ready to complete the online submission.
- A supporting letter from management
- Up to three images to be used for publicizing the nomination should it become a finalist.