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The Preservation Planning Workflow: From institutional requirements via experimental evidence to accountable preservation plans

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Summary

The rapid technological changes in today's information landscape have turned the preservation of digital information into a pressing challenge. Many different strategies, i.e. preservation actions such as for example migration or emulation in a variety of flavours, have been proposed to tackle this challenge. However, the decision which strategy to choose, and subsequently which tools and parameter settings to select to implement it, poses a significant challenge.

Preservation planning aids in this decision making process to find the best preservation strategy considering the specific institution's requirements, the planning context and possible actions applicable to the digital objects contained in the repository. This talk will present the Planets Preservation Planning workflow that takes planners through the various stages of requirements elicitation, experimental evaluation and analysis, to the creation of a well-informed and accountable preservation plan. The process fits into the OAIS reference model as well as into current audit and certification initiatives such as the TRAC checklist or the nestor criteria catalogue for trustworthy repositories. The talk will further introduce Plato, a Web-based application that implements this workflow, guiding the experts involved in the planning process, automating evaluation of preservation actions and collecting experimental evidence on the way.

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