

LEVEL UP ON PRESERVATION:

Updating and Mapping the next generation of the Levels of Preservation

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Abstract – This workshop will update the community on the work of the Levels of Preservation (LoP) Reboot Working Group and engage with the participants to gather feedback on our work so far and what form the final product(s) should take. Updating the LoP will require a more dynamic user interface and user experience. Working with the participants, we will create a list of requirements and options for the final products. In addition, the workshop will discuss a methodology for keeping the LoP updated on an ongoing basis.

Keywords – sustainable digital preservation, community practice, preservation guidelines, digital stewardship, technical implementations

Conference Topics – Designing and delivering sustainable digital preservation, building capacity, capability, and community

I. INTENT AND BACKGROUND

The National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) created its landmark [Levels of Preservation](#), Version 1.0 (LoP) guidelines in 2013. The original intent of the LoP was to create a tiered set of recommendations for either preservation practitioners who were just starting out or for those looking to deepen their preservation practice. Not meant as a comprehensive preservation strategy, but rather, a lightweight tool to encourage organizations to think through preservation issues, the LoP are organized into five functional areas that are at the heart of digital preservation systems: storage and geographic location,

file fixity and data integrity, information security, metadata, and file formats. By design, they do not cover policy, staffing, risk, or budgetary considerations, rather they are considered to be a technical implementation of a variety of preservation decisions. Since 2013, various groups and individuals have undertaken the process of amending and extending the LoP; however, these activities have been distributed and siloed from a central body or structure (such as the NDSA) and have not been incorporated into new versions.

To this end, the NDSA launched a **Levels of Preservation Reboot Working Group** whose primary task is to provide the methodology by which this important document can be adapted more readily—taking in the broadest possible feedback in the process. Workshops are one of the critical methods of communication to both share and gather feedback.

This hands on workshop will discuss the revised LoP - new additions, clarifications, and “views” into the guidelines. We have heard that practitioners want to preserve the simplicity of the original LoP while, at the same time, adding various components that will extend them. This poses significant challenges to the expression of version 2.0. This new version will need to take advantage of newer user experience technology to be of broadest possible use. What that might look like and how we could achieve it will be a primary topic for this session. A

secondary component of the workshop will focus on the methodology for updating the LoP going forward so that the guidelines remain relevant and useful as the preservation landscape shifts.

II. OUTCOMES

Participants will be engaged with the new version of the LoP - individual updates from the subgroups and, in particular, how those disparate elements are brought together. In particular, participants will

- Understand, review, and provide feedback on the revised LoP document and how it is actively used as well as a discussion of best practices for adopting and adapting the LoP.
- Discuss how future changes and improvements could be undertaken.
- Discuss the user interaction with the new LoP and what form that could take.

By the time of iPres, the LoP Reboot Group will have combined the data gathered and refined by the subgroups. The revised document will include some possible approaches to how future revisions of the LoP might be undertaken and how successful our approach to linking the various elements together has been.

III. AUDIENCE

Any level of practitioner of digital preservation will find this workshop valuable, from novice to expert, since the LoP encompass the broad spectrum of preservation practice. Of particular value will be different approaches to crafting “views” on the document. Everything from keeping the original grid format to exploring expanded modules for the LoP. This will be the greatest challenge for the LoP Reboot--making a final product that can be of use by any level of preservation practice. Users across disciplines will also help us gauge the effectiveness of the new version and discuss possible ways the LoP can be used by administrators, curators, budget managers, archivists, and preservation experts.

IV. PROCESS AND STRUCTURE

The workshop will be designed to provide a brief overview of the LoP Revision work and then a facilitated group discussion of the currently revised

state. Participants will discuss if there are any additional elements that need to be added or if current elements have the appropriate amount of clarity. After that, small groups will focus on brainstorming the necessary user experience for the new LoP. Part of this discussion may take into account the fact that additional grant funding may be required to execute this vision. Finally, the group will discuss how the LoP should be iterated over time and what that methodology might look like. Participants should leave with a clear sense of what the new LoP will look like, how we might experiment with various “views” into the content, and the means by which community feedback and updating can take place in the future.

- Review and Update [large group]
 - Overview [subgroup leads]
 - Discussion [all]
- User Experience/Interface [small groups - facilitated]
 - UI and final product [small]
 - UI Recap and discussion [all]
- Updating the LoP going forward
 - Discussion of future iteration [all]

Shared note taking and whiteboarding will be critical components to gathering feedback. This method was successfully employed at iPres in 2018 by the LoP team since it provides a transparent communication process to the broader community - both at the conference and remotely.

Getting ongoing feedback from the broadest range of users is critical to updating the LoP. The original survey of interest revealed a large number of non-US practitioners, so iPres is an ideal venue for this type of discussion.