



APA Benefits

The APA is a membership organisation for those with an interest and responsibility in digital preservation, ensuring the preservation, access and re-use of one of your most valuable assets - data.

Why join?

There are very many good reasons why you should join:

- **access to extensive expertise in all aspects of digital preservation** of all types of digital objects, with many of the key authors of the OAIS Reference Model and developers of tools and services which have been tried and tested across all types of documents and data
- **a combined voice** to influence and access funders, policy and decision makers
- **a hub for exchange of cross-disciplinary information, services and tools** between members which include major national libraries, national and international scientific research laboratories, archives and other networks of organisations
- **networking with other organisations that are facing similar problems**
- **promotion and mediation of the services and expertise you can provide** by the marketing of member services and products globally
- **a coherent approach to digital preservation** which addresses not just the technical, organisational and legal issues but also the demand to justify the resources needed
- **a quality mark for training** through a training curriculum based on this coherent approach and providing opportunities for members to promote their own specialized training programmes
- **advice from experts in audit and certification of digital repositories**, including the developers of several levels of audit and certification, from monitored self-audit to full ISO audits and help in choosing the right level of audit and certification for your organisation
- **shared resources and networking within an organisational and social infrastructure** - we say "digital preservation - too big an issue for any single organisation - we must work together"
- **incubating projects for international funding** which implement our strategic plans and which: have gathered information about requirements and plans for preservation from thousands of users; prototyped and assembled evidence about effectiveness of tools, infrastructure and processes for preservation; collected success stories of exchange, preservation and re-use; are creating sustained preservation e-infrastructure and accumulating evidence about the effectiveness of preservation tools
- **help in preparing for the new era in preservation** to respond to the increasing demand that preservation activities integrate into organisations and systems (which, for public research, may be global) for providing benefits - economic, societal or patrimonial.
- **convenient access to the global networks of expertise** which are being created in related areas
- **APA conferences** showcasing and outlining the new developments in digital preservation based on the latest research, software tools and training with special concessions for members.