



DPN Endowed Preservation System

The Digital Preservation Network (DPN) began with a big challenge and big ideas on how to best meet that challenge – how do we ensure that the digital content coming from academia, cultural heritage organizations and the research enterprise and the born-digital content that is collected today is available for the next generation of scholars and beyond? The initial DPN project team was tasked with developing a preservation system to protect digital content against natural disasters, human errors, technological failures, and institutional failures.

Threat	Solution
Natural disasters, fires, floods, etc.	Content replicated around the country
Human error, accidental deletion, malicious activity	Content registered and checked for fixity on a regular basis
Technological failure that could occur with homogenous technology architecture	Content preserved in repository infrastructures with different technology stacks
Institutional failure	Registration of the content with a third-party and deposit agreements that specify a chain of custody
Loss of funding to support preservation	Payment for long-term preservation at the time of deposit supported by an endowment for long-term support

Designed to meet these challenges, the Endowed Preservation system offers the “gold standard” for institutions that need to ensure the future availability of their most valuable assets. Examples of collections that members have deposited into the system in recent months include:

- Richard Feynman’s lectures on Physics (Cal Tech)
- 306,253 items from the Online Archive of California (California Digital Library)
- Scholarship by Tufts faculty published in open access journals (Tufts)
- Marine background and plume aerosol measurements off the coast of California, Scripps CO2 Program Data and Information about bees (UCSD)
- Audio files from Explorer I and VII from the James Van Allen Collection (University of Iowa)
- Documentation of Kansas agriculture (Kansas State)
- Historic newspaper collections (Kentucky)
- The Michigan Daily (a student newspaper) and survey data that was carried out in 2015 as a part of the ongoing Progetto S'Urachi, an archaeological project that aims to understand daily life around the monumental Bronze Age tower of S'Urachi during the later occupation of the landscape over the course of the 1st millennium BCE. (Michigan)
- The papers of authors Rudolfo Anaya and Tony Hillerman (New Mexico)
- Historic Utah postcards and the Teton Dam Disaster Oral History Transcripts and Tapes (Utah State)
- Large collections of theses, dissertations, and oral histories (many institutions)

Because of the diligence and commitment of DPN members, future scholars are guaranteed access to this scholarship. Losing these and other resources would be a terrible loss for humanity.

How to participate with the Endowed Preservation System

The first step is to become a DPN member. Members may deposit 5TB annually into the Endowed Preservation System as a benefit of membership (with no additional charge). If a member wishes to deposit more than the 5TB that comes with the annual membership, they may do so for a one-time fee to guarantee twenty years of preservation. This fee is determined and specified in member's annual deposit agreement and is calculated at the lowest cost possible. The original cost for an additional TB of preservation was initially set at \$6,000 in 2015, but as of 2018, it has been lowered to \$2,750.

When content is deposited into the System (via DuraCloud Vault, APTTrust, or the Texas Preservation Node), the deposit is registered, checked for fixity and replicated in three locations around the U.S. into one of the DPN Nodes (Chronopolis, Texas Preservation Node, APTTrust, or HathiTrust). The preservation of the deposited content is supported over a twenty-year period by the fees set aside at the time of deposit.