

# **Tracing the Evolution of Imaging in Libraries and Archives: A Look at Professional Preservation Discourse via Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture**

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In 2022, *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture* marked its fiftieth anniversary. Begun in 1972 as *Microform Review*, the journal was devoted to the management of microform collections in libraries and archives, including reformatting of deteriorating books, periodicals, and documents. Over the next five decades, the publication's title and focus changed three times (*Microform & Imaging Review* in 1996, *Microform & Digitization Review* in 2010, and *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture* in 2013) to accommodate the rapidly changing landscape of imaging and eventually included more general articles on preservation work. What started as a journal aimed primarily at technical services librarians with responsibilities for microform collections evolved into a publication with a much broader scope and readership. Today, the journal is devoted to the field of cultural heritage preservation writ large. It serves as an interesting record of preservation discourse over a period of significant growth and change.

One of the most significant events that *PDT&C* chronicles is the transition from the use of microform to digital technologies as tools for preservation and access. This presentation will tell the story of this evolution using the lens of text analytics to pinpoint milestones in preservation, identify key figures and events, and reveal discursive patterns. The research uses data drawn from titles, abstracts, and keywords of articles published in *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*. The presentation provides an overview of the methodology and early results of research, with an eye toward expanding this research to include similar data from other key professional communication channels.

## **About the author:**

**Karen F. Gracy** is a professor at the School of Information of Kent State University. Her work has appeared in publications such as *Library and Information History*, *JASIST*, *Archival Science*, *American Archivist*, *Journal of Library Metadata*, and *Information and Culture*. Dr. Gracy's scholarly interests are found within the domain of cultural heritage stewardship, which encompasses a broad range of activities such as preservation and conservation processes and practices, digital curation activities that consider the roles of heritage professionals and users in the lifecycle of objects and records, as well as knowledge representation activities such as definitions of knowledge domains, development of standards for description, and application of new technologies to improve access to cultural heritage objects. She is the editor-in-chief of *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*.