

Evaluation Criteria and Measures for Digital Preservation Practice

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Abstract: This poster presents a set of evaluation criteria and specific measures for the assessment of digital preservation practice. Based on the structured literature review, we extracted seven evaluation criteria specifically applicable to digital preservation practice: including the areas of (1) ability to migrate, (2) preservation completeness, (3) preservation infrastructure, (4) preservation policy, (5) digital archiving methods, (6) institutional support, and (7) costs. In addition, we defined corresponding measures to represent different levels of evaluation criteria, such as exporting capability, data types for migration, presence of preservation policy, types of preservation tools, and others. Those measures consist of multiple formats, including numerical ratio variables, dichotomous variables, likert scale for perception measurement, and identification of types. In an attempt to prioritize the importance of evaluation criteria and to validate the feasibility of measurement, we conducted two-round online surveys with thirty scholar experts and thirty practitioners involved in digital collection services. The survey results revealed that preservation completeness, ability to migrate, and preservation policy were chosen as the three most important criteria. The survey also identified to which extent each measure would be appropriate to represent the belonging criterion. The findings of the study will be useful for digital archiving practitioners to plan and perform the evaluation of digital preservation practice in the field.

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