Digital Preservation Storage Criteria Standards: An Example of Community-based Good Practice

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The Digital Preservation Storage Criteria were inspired by a community discussion of digital preservation storage at iPres 2015 that recognized a lack of available guidance for organizations that either use or provide digital preservation storage. The working group shared the first version of the Criteria in 2016 with iterative versions released since then that have been informed by community feedback. The Digital Preservation Storage Criteria consists of a set of criteria definitions and a usage guide that elaborates on preservation storage principles. The Criteria usage guide supplements the Criteria with growing set of topical background notes to help users understand and apply the criteria. Topics includes storage costs, understanding organizational and technological independence, and some new ones on policies and documentation.
The working group has been focused on mapping the Criteria to relevant international standards, including ISO 16363, ISO 14721 (OAIS), and several others. This mapping process has highlighted the need for several types of changes to be considered for the next iteration of the criteria that is expected to come out before the end of 2021. These changes to the Criteria and the Usage Guide include the identification of potential new criteria, some revisions and updates for existing criteria, and new topics to add to the usage guide. The working group believes that the addition of references to standards will improve the usability of the Criteria and enable other standards and guidelines to link back to the Criteria.

About the authors:

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Nance McGovern is the Co-chair/founder of SAA's Research Forum, Director of Digital Preservation at MIT Libraries, and Director of the Digital Preservation Management (DPM) Workshops. She has been preserving digital content for more than 30 years. Her research and innovation interests include sustainable digital preservation and radical collaboration for inclusive communities. She is a past president of the Society of American Archives (SAA), was designated a Fellow of the Society, and has a PhD in digital preservation from UCL.