

Digital Preservation of Audiovisual Content

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How can digital audiovisual collections be efficiently managed, so files: - don't get lost - do keep their correct relationships with other files - do maintain their technical integrity? The unfortunate fact is that digital carriers become obsolete even faster than analogue carriers did -- in five to ten years. Further, in place of generation losses, from copying, we now face losses caused by changing the encoding method. Digital archives require continuous maintenance, and failure of maintenance could be far more catastrophic than for shelf-based archives. There is technology for digital preservation, largely developed for electronic documents rather than for audiovisual content. This paper will review the existing technology, and set out the specific problems --and possible solutions -- for the digital preservation of audiovisual content. The new (January 2009) EC project in this area, PrestoPRIME, will be discussed.