

# ENHANCING SERVICES TO PRESERVE NEW FORMS OF SCHOLARSHIP

**Kate Wittenberg**

*Portico  
United States  
kate.wittenberg@ithaka.org*

**David Millman**

*New York University  
United States  
dsm@nyu.edu  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5028-1101>*

**Karen Hanson**

*Portico  
United States  
karen.hanson@ithaka.org  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9354-8328>*

**Craig Van Dyck**

*CLOCKSS  
United States  
cvandyck@clockss.org  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6277-6013>*

**Susan Doerr**

*University of Minnesota  
Press  
United States  
doer0012@umn.edu*

**Abstract** – The advance in technologies for publishing digital scholarship has outpaced the development of technologies for reliably preserving it. Authors and publishers are creating increasingly sophisticated products without realizing that some of their enhancement choices might put preservability--and valuable scholarship--at risk. The poster describes the in-progress work and findings of a collaboration between preservation organizations, libraries, and publishers that are creating enhanced digital publications. The work aims to identify what can be effectively preserved with existing technologies, and to produce a recommended set of practices to help authors and publishers prioritize and plan their enhanced digital products for maximum preservability

**Keywords** – monographs, publishing, collaboration, preservation

**Conference Topics** – Collaboration: a Necessity, an Opportunity or a Luxury?; Building Capacity, Capability and Community.

## I. BACKGROUND

The advance in technologies for publishing digital scholarship has outpaced the development of technologies for reliably preserving it. Authors and publishers are creating increasingly sophisticated products without realizing that some of their

enhancement choices might put preservability--and valuable scholarship--at risk.

As scholarly communication becomes more complex, publishers are creating digital products that are more than mere proxies for a print original; they offer new types of content and user experience. Features of these new forms of scholarship might include audio and video content embedded within text; interactive, high-resolution images, maps, and visualizations; annotations that can be shared, saved, and further annotated, privately or publicly; non-linear paths of engagement; and custom-built digital publications. Specific examples of this form of scholarship can be found in the Library of Open Access Titles of the University of Minnesota Press [1], which uses the open source Manifold platform, Fulcrum of the University of Michigan Press [2], the digital projects of the Stanford University Press [3], and Open Square of the NYU Press [4].

A single publication on these platforms can potentially include many of the innovations mentioned. Each of these innovations presents preservation challenges; their combination creates an even greater challenge: the need to maintain multiple formats and the connections among them.

While there has been remarkable growth within the digital preservation community in developing shared strategies, practices, and tools, this knowledge has matured around a limited scope of file formats--text, audio, video, and image. With the exception of Web archiving, efforts to preserve complex digital objects have been fewer and smaller in scale. Preservation workflows at scale were designed for simpler objects.

## II. PROJECT SCOPE

The poster presents the in-progress work and findings of a project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The *Preservation Services for New Forms of Scholarship* project consists of two key sets of activities.

### A. *Identify what can be preserved*

The first activity is to determine the degree to which the enhanced forms of scholarship *can* be preserved using existing technologies. This will focus on scalable solutions that can be incorporated into existing preservation workflows. The ideal outcome would be a seamless transfer of enhanced publications to the preservation organizations with sufficient actionable information for recreating the user experience, as well as ensuring that their component bits can be preserved.

### B. *Develop strategies and guidelines*

Iteratively and in parallel with the first activity, the project partners will develop a set of guidelines and current best practices identifying the classes of materials and workflows more likely to lead to successful preservation. The guidelines will describe a set of conventions that can serve as a model for other publishers and, potentially, create an environment in which digital scholarship has a better chance of being effectively and sustainably preserved at scale.

## III. PARTNERS

The project involves collaboration among a group of university presses, libraries, and preservation services who are looking at innovative, effective, and sustainable approaches to preservation of these new forms of scholarship.

The publishing organizations include NYU Press, Michigan Publishing, the University of Minnesota Press, Stanford University Press, and Vega Academic Publishing at Wayne State University.

The preservation service organizations that are participating in the project include CLOCKSS, Portico, and the libraries of the University of Michigan, Duke University, and NYU. The team working on the Emulation as a Service Infrastructure (EaaS) project at Yale University will be consulted for materials demanding either a particular "original experience" or their original software context.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Library of Open-Access Titles, University of Minnesota Press. <https://manifold.umn.edu>
- [2] Fulcrum, University of Michigan Press. <https://www.fulcrum.org>
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