Every Institution Has Its Own Story—Preserve Yours!

Did you know that a typical research university’s digital files are at risk of becoming unavailable in the near future because of file-format obsolescence and rendering applications that become unusable (usually 5-15 years after their release)?

Are you concerned that these risks could put your institution in breach of regulations by research funders, auditors, and other authorities?

How can you identify and deal with these risks before it’s too late?

Ex Libris provides a solution that automatically identifies and resolves these risks of obsolescence. Rosetta is the world’s leading solution designed for the long-term preservation of digital objects. Although many institutions have systems in place for storing and managing digital objects, such systems are not always designed with preservation in mind.
Digital resources—such as websites, social media, learning objects, and research data—are often more difficult to preserve than physical collections because of the rapid pace of change in the digital world. According to the Digital Preservation Coalition, digital preservation is “the series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary.”¹ Another popular definition notes that digital preservation “combines policies, strategies and actions to ensure access to content that is born digital or converted to digital form regardless of the challenges of file corruption, media failure and technological change. The goal of digital preservation is the most accurate rendering possible of authenticated content over time.”²

The enormous, rapidly growing quantity of born-digital content poses significant scaling issues for digital preservation. Today, almost all top European universities, including the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the École Polytechnique, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Manchester are collaborating in or running digital preservation initiatives. For examples of digital preservation projects at leading institutions, see http://www.dpconline.org, http://www.casparpreserves.eu/, and http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu/.

The economic aspects of digital preservation are clearly challenging. With the significant investment involved in digital preservation programs, institutions must be meticulous in estimating the costs of staffing and data ingest, management, and storage. Because the fruits of digital preservation will benefit primarily future generations, current policy makers may well have difficulty garnering support for the required investment. Universities, however, are likely to be an exception, given their mandate to “support scholars to produce scholarship, and...support libraries to preserve that scholarship and make it accessible over generations.”³

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Digital preservation means more than just backups and disaster recovery. The Ex Libris Rosetta digital preservation system alerts you to risks and enables you to set migration and emulation rules for different types of data. As a result, human intervention is rarely needed for genuine long-term preservation of your files. With Rosetta, your institution can manage digital entities end to end—from submission to dissemination. Using the system’s rule-based workflow engine and open architecture, you can develop unique plug-in tools and applications to customize the system’s ingest, management, preservation, and delivery processes.

Rosetta is an integrated solution with one central repository, which can be synchronized with many other applications that your institution is running. Locally installed, Rosetta can be scaled up and down according to your institution’s needs.

“The development of Rosetta has its roots within the digital heritage community, and a clear understanding of the community’s needs is manifest in the entire product. Rosetta’s sophisticated preservation planning methodology, the scalability of the solution, and the integration of a format library—which enables us to add and manage formats and to identify risks for all formats—were crucial factors in our decision to adopt this solution.”

Dr. Matthias Töwe, head of digital curation at ETH-Bibliothek (ETH Zurich)
Connecting Past, Present, and Future

With its broad experience addressing the needs of the academic world, Ex Libris is the ideal partner to help scholarly institutions provide long-term access to data.

Institutions around the world using Rosetta

Rosetta is a proven product and is now in use at institutions worldwide, including the following:

- Bavarian State Library. Main project: digitization of books
- Goportis Consortium (ZBW—Leibniz Information Centre for Economics; German National Library of Science and Technology [TIB Hannover]; German National Library of Medicine [ZB MED]). Main project: preservation of audio-visual media
- ETH Zurich, a Rosetta development partner. Main project: preservation of research data
- Saxon State and University Library Dresden (SLUB). Main projects: preservation of cultural heritage material and publications by Saxony’s universities
- Binghamton University. Main project: preservation of special collections
- University of Utah. Main project: preservation of cultural heritage collections

To find out more about Rosetta for your library, please contact your local Ex Libris office or distributor:

http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/World