
The memory institutions round the globe have put the preservation and access at the top of their agenda. The term 'Preservation' is applied to a wide variety of collection management responsibilities intended to preserve the collection of print and non-print material for future generations. Some interesting strategies being developed to date provide a solution for the short and perhaps mid-term preservation. These strategies mainly include developing standards for storage formats, preservation metadata, legislation and developing reference models for preservation functions or repositories. In spite of these initiatives in the area, real and enduring solutions are not yet available. It is experienced not only in traditional memory organisations but also in broadcasting companies, institutions with audio-visual collections, entertainment industry, business companies and research institutions.

The objective of the present work is to provide an overview of the main issues and requirements, followed by the main developments to date in search for preservation solutions. The work provides brief description of the achievements, available methods and tool for preservation. The book is an edited work consisting of 35 papers segmented in five sections. The first and second section muses on the documentary heritage of India and mirrors the role, effort, and contribution of various international organisations in the preservation process. The 3rd section of the text deliberates on the physical maintenance and preservation of rare artefacts and paper documents. The traditional preservation methods like fumigation, deacidification, lamination etc, widely being adopted, are discussed and equal emphasis is given to some innovative ideas of preservation.
like disaster plans and leaf casting etc. The fourth section charts the
diversity of preservation management for digital documents in the
contemporary information landscape. The themes of the work range
from policy and planning to the challenges of new media and
approach such as emulation, migration, refreshing etc highlighting
their merits and demerits. Besides, technology that enables and
ensures trust in digital objects like digital signatures and persistent
identifiers form part of the text. Some important practical approaches
and metadata initiatives are included in some chapters. Discussion
about various initiatives, systems and Open Source software
development for digital preservation and archiving is given due
weightage in the text along with architecture and model like Open
Archival Information System Reference Model (OAIS). The
subsequent chapter of the section delves upon the copyright issues
pertaining to digital preservation and its implications along with
document description language and file format specifications. Each
article has its own focus of discussion except few of them where
duplication of content or themes could be seen. Every chapter is
provided with a comprehensive list of references, with majority
having link to online websites. The last two chapters of the book are
unique in providing information about queries regarding the
migration of contents of cassettes to hard disk and financial
assistance to voluntary organizations for preservation of
manuscripts/ rare books respectively.
The book is not addressed for digital preservation for professionals,
rather aims at information managers, archivists and librarians, as well
as others in the information and cultural world such as museum
curators and students, who are already acquainted with some of the
problems in digital preservation and need to update their knowledge
and understanding of main issues and current developments in their
respective field. It is not and does not claim to be a practical manual.
However, some chapters may solve specific problems that people
face in a given situation. Overall, the book is a useful introduction to the multi-faceted nature of digital and traditional preservation and explains in varying detail the complexities of some of the issues that preservation encompasses. The book has the advantage of providing a range of views from experts in their given field, but suffers to a degree in terms of focus and continuity of thought. The case studies included in the text are somewhat disappointing. These do not deal in depth the projects or initiatives listed but are more of an introduction to archiving or preservation initiatives. Despite this, it is still valuable for those who are new to the subject and for those who wish to learn more about the current state of affairs, main issues and trends in contemporary digital preservation.

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