

Gigabytes, Terabytes, Petabytes... Now What? An Automated Approach and New Tools for Managing Risks That Threaten Permanent Access.

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Abstract: Institutions from around the world are reporting continued growth in collection sizes reaching not only into terabytes but now petabytes in size. Mitigating risks associated with technology changes like file format obsolescence can be a challenge for any size collection but it becomes even more challenging as our collection sizes increase and archival staff has limited time to develop needed tools and automation approaches.

Through an international collaboration with the National Library of New Zealand, Ex Libris is able to report on an innovation and approach that archives can take to manage and mitigate risks related to digital formats. New tools make it possible to create a test migration and then at the discretion of the archivist, create a full migration, moving at risk digital records to a safe and up to date state while maintaining all provenance.

A library of digital formats will enable professionals to manage at risk formats in a global registry and register different risks for new formats providing an opportunity for the global community to share in their findings and share in the advancements while reducing risk and providing relief from a potentially time consuming, manual approaches.

About the author:

Mike Thuman is the Ex Libris Director, Digital Preservation. He is dedicated to the digital preservation domain and has developed and led educational and outreach symposiums for archives and libraries. He has facilitated workshops and spoken on the subject of digital preservation and permanent access at SAA 2009, American Library Association, Sun Preservation and Archives Special Interest Group (PASIG) and at academic and government institutions in North America.

Mike can deliver OAIS and executive assessments for digital preservation and while working as an IT professional, Mike developed partnership programs and worked on other facets of digital preservation including gathering user requirements for the development of scanners and document imaging systems for digitization and management of electronic records.

He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Summit County Library.