

End of Year Highlights

20

23



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WELCOME FROM THE OPEN PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Reflections on 2023

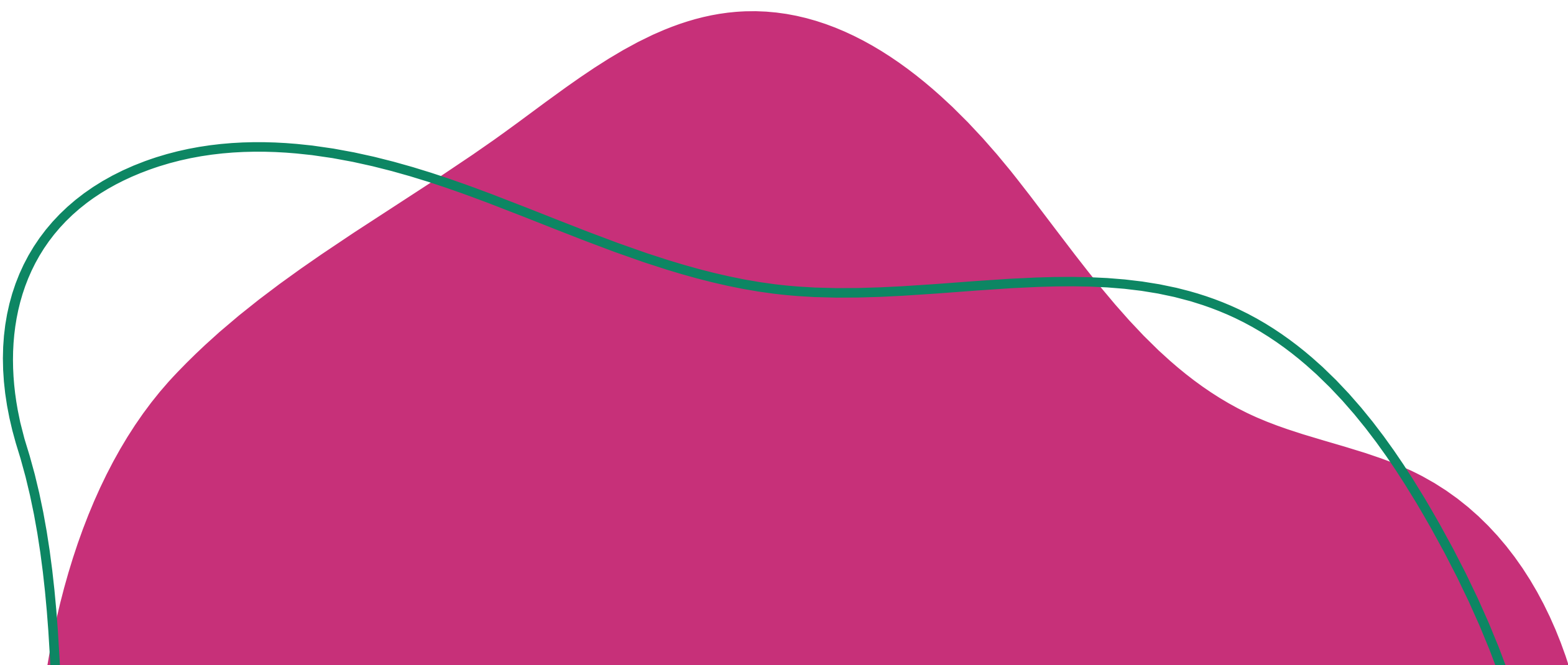
Welcome to the Open Preservation Foundation’s End of Year Highlights. As the digital landscape continues to develop rapidly, our role in preserving data becomes increasingly important and challenging.

Over the past year, the OPF has been unwavering in our commitment to maintain, promote, and make digital preservation tools and projects available to all. Where possible, our endeavours have been collaborative, and we remain advocates for inclusion, innovation, and teamwork when it comes to safeguarding digital assets. We continued to build knowledge-sharing platforms for the community, with popular webinars, movement within our interest groups, great events, increased project efforts, and blog uploads.

In this report, we invite you to explore the milestones, challenges, and triumphs we've encountered in our ongoing efforts to ensure that digital history remains not only intact, but also readily available for generations to come.

Join us as we unravel the narrative of our efforts, woven by the dedication of our small team, the support of our community, the Board of Directors, and the invaluable trust of those who believe in the importance of conserving our digital legacy.

In 2024, we hope to build on what we accomplished in 2023. We are here to act on your discussions and suggestions, enable your ideas, build stronger relationships, and look forward to furthering our goals of open, sustainable digital preservation.



PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE

From our staff and board to our members and the community, OPF is powered by its people.

STAFF

Our team has had small changes this year.

Executive Director Julie Allen is celebrating two years since her appointment. Julie has spent her time shaping the organisation into where it is today. Importantly,

Julie has overseen the recruitment of a new Administrative Officer, Amanda Slotboom, to assist with back-office upkeep and oversee our project timetables.

Georgia became full-time and was promoted from Community Officer to Community and Content Officer this year. She will continue to support our members and the OPF community by facilitating engagement through events and initiatives, and is now responsible for producing our content.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Representatives from our members make up our Board of Directors, who lead the Foundation and set priorities.

In 2023 the Board of Directors provided undeniable support to the OPF team and played an active role in development. Remco van Veenendaal was voted Chair of the OPF Board, and Jeffrey van der Hoeven was voted as Chair of the OPF NL Board.

Anna de Sousa retired from the Board upon moving to a new role, and Sonia Renade joined in her place in the Fall of 2023, representing the UK National Archives.

The Board is made up of volunteers from our members. There are spaces available, so if you have an interest in helping the Board shape the direction of the Foundation, please reach out to get a better understanding of what's involved in the role.

WHO IS THE OPEN PRESERVATION FOUNDATION?

The OPF was established in 2010 to sustain the outcomes of an EU-funded research and development project called Planets.

The primary goal for Planets was to build practical services and tools to help ensure long-term access to our digital cultural and scientific assets. As one of the first organisations of its kind, the Foundation's goal was to build on the project's collaborative, practical approach to advancing digital preservation.

In 2014 the OPF changed its name from the Open Planets Foundation to the Open Preservation Foundation to reflect our evolution and relevance within a growing field.

The OPF operates as an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation, welcoming digital preservation practitioners from around the world to our open source community. Today, collaboration and sustainability remain at the heart of what we do. Our small team serves our members and the community by providing practical digital preservation solutions and facilitating best practice that supports enduring access to digital collections.

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are libraries, archives, solution providers, government agencies and universities from around the world.

OPF has been delivering tools, knowledge, and events to the digital preservation community for over a decade. Our members provide essential support for the work we do, contributing to the greater good of the digital preservation community in the process.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2023

In 2023 the OPF welcomed two members.



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN.

The National Library of Sweden.

The mission of the National Library of Sweden is to collect, describe, preserve and make available everything that is published in Sweden. In collaboration with others, the Library also contributes to an open and efficient infrastructure for research. Their digital collections include Swedish publications, personal archives and other donations – both born digital and digitised. The National Library has archived the Swedish web since 1997 and digitally collected and preserved Swedish publications through The Legal Deposit Act for Electronic Material since 2012.

This report showcases the many exciting initiatives that we are able to deliver because of our members, from developing tools and resources to conducting research and running events.

The Library's lab KBlab enables researchers to perform large-scale analyses of our collections and develops language models and artificial intelligence solutions.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

The National Library is the biggest library in the Czech Republic, housing around 7 million documents. In addition to digital documents created through digitisation, the National Library of the Czech Republic runs a Webarchive, harvesting and archiving the content of the Czech Internet since 2001. They are currently preparing to receive born-digital documents via electronic legal deposit.

OPF ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

The OPF Advisory Group is a member-only forum to update you on our work and give you a greater say on the development of our tools, special interest groups, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The OPF Advisory Group (OAG) is an event which offers a renewed focus on the development and support of core OPF tools, following the retirement of the Product Board. The OAG has enabled us to ensure that our members' needs are well-represented and prioritised. Its interactive approach has opened tool-related discussions to all our members, composed of representatives from libraries, archives, and software providers.

We now have a better understanding of how our tools are used and understood, and clearer expectations of our release schedules and future guidance.

This year we combined our OAG with our Annual General Meeting and held a joint event in the Oodi National Library, Helsinki.

We took this opportunity to formally meet with our members to assess our work and overall performance from the past year from a fiscal and strategic perspective. We were able to receive guidance on prioritising new initiatives, meeting frequencies, and overcoming other challenges through this hybrid event. We invited our members to participate and present to colleagues and the wider community. The six papers ranged from organisational work to digital preservation efforts and theories to specific challenges. We also had demonstrations from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BnF), Preservica, and DualLab on how our tools can be used.

Our fourth OAG will be virtual, and takes place on 31st January 2024.

The [recordings, slides and minutes from our last OAG are available on our website](#), [recordings, slides and minutes from our last AGM are available on our website](#) (member login required).

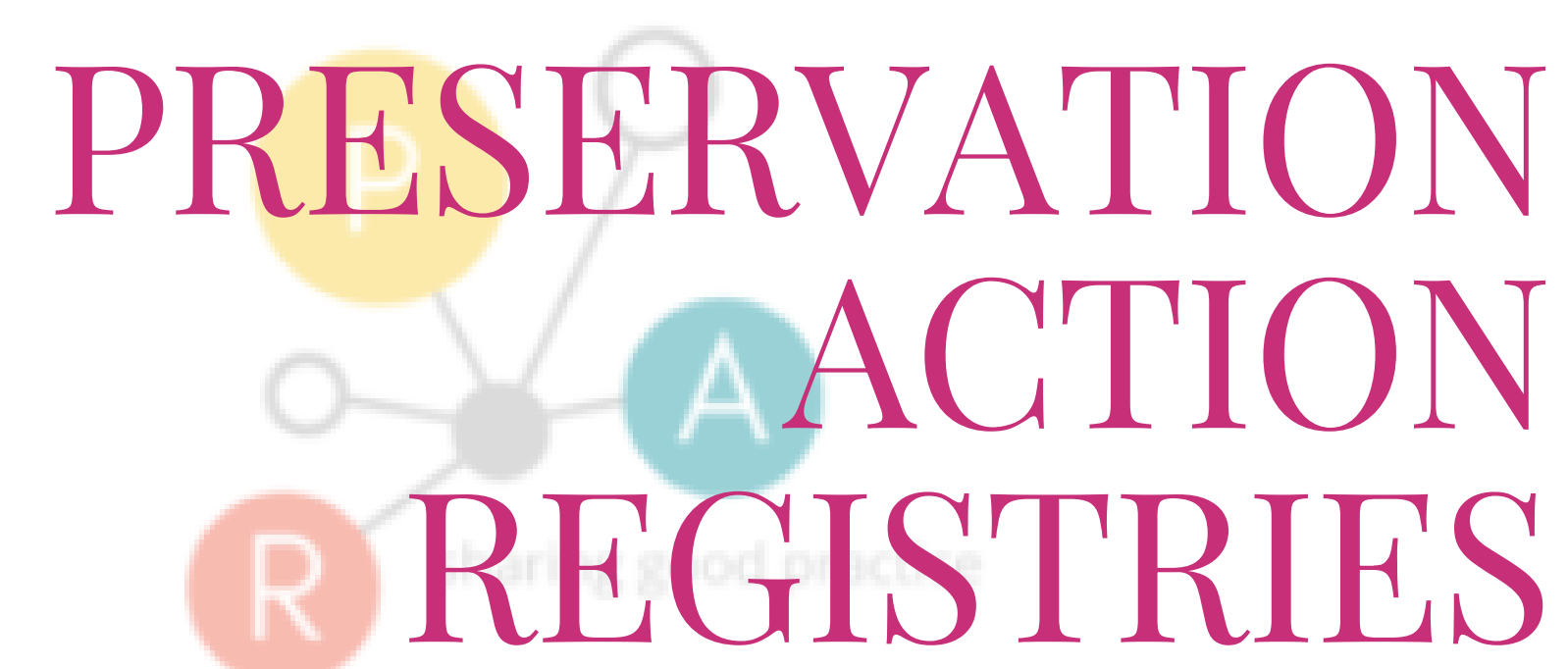
PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

We engage in projects and partnerships that align with our members' priorities and bring benefit to the digital preservation community.



We have worked alongside the Dutch Digital Heritage Network to enhance and release the final version of our VRE. We held a rebrand for an official release in the Spring, and so you may know ViPER by its working title of VRE or Virtual Research Environment. The DDHN held a webinar in June in which we unveiled the fully branded and updated ViPER product, showed you where to get it, how to configure and use it, and then demoed its features.

The official site for ViPER is [here](#).



The Preservation Action Registries (PAR) project works to enable the automated and reproducible exchange of best practices for the digital preservation community. Version 1.2, released in June, provided some updates to the supporting technology stack and minor enhancements. Version 1.3 is currently being developed and will include improvements to search and results ordering. It will be released in the first half of 2024.

ODF VALIDATOR

Initiated from the realisation that there is no available validator that can also detect issues of archival concern for spreadsheets, this year saw the development of the draft Spreadsheet Preservation Specification [here](#). The OpenDocument Format Validator (OPF ODF Validator), which will validate the OpenDocument Format standard version 1.3 and check compliance with spreadsheet file format policies, can be viewed [here](#).

This project developed quickly as a result of collaboration between the Danish National Archives, The Open Preservation Foundation, the National Archives of the Netherlands, and the Estonian National Archives.

The ODF validator is currently undergoing testing by the development partners and code review/improvement by OPF. There will be an official release in 2024.

E-ARK



OPF is a part of the E-ARK Consortium, or EU eArchiving Initiative, who are halfway through a two-year program of work for the European Commission. The OPF staff have been working on reviewing the specifications and developing accompanying validation software as well as the communications, social media, and outreach activities. The eArchiving Summit also took place in October and was a huge success. We are looking forward to working with our E-ARK partners again in 2024 and celebrating its 10th Anniversary.



VERAPDF

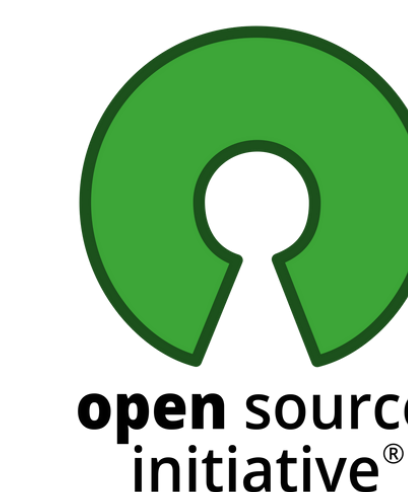
veraPDF is the first open-source PDF/A validator, covering all parts of the PDF/A standards. It was originally developed with funding from the [PREFORMA](#) project (2014-2017) but has since been maintained in partnership between DualLab and the OPF.

Building on the great work done by the PDF Association supported by the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), veraPDF has developed an open-source PDF checker based on the Arlington PDF Model. This application is separate from the veraPDF PDF/A and PDF/UA validator but comprises a very familiar package of GUI and command-line applications.

You can learn more [on GitHub](#). The [README](#) also provides references for further reading.

OUR PARTNERS

Our partnerships with like-minded organisations provide a way to share expertise and coordinate efforts for the benefit of the whole community.



[Learn more about our projects and partnerships.](#)

TECHNOLOGY

We maintain a portfolio of open-source tools that are popular among organisations engaged in digital preservation activities.

Each product in our [reference toolset](#) is made available under an open-source licence to ensure that it can be adopted by anyone who needs it, whether as part of a bespoke digital preservation workflow or embedded in proprietary systems.

With over a decade of experience developing and maintaining open-source software, we champion an open-source approach to help users better understand the software and adapt it to their requirements. We can also better support the long-term sustainability of open source products by focusing effort and resources on development and testing.

2023 PRODUCT DOWNLOADS



19,877



4,188



5,580



24,359

RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS

Version 1.24 of veraPDF was released in June. This release included added support for the processing of PDFs within zip archives, the GUI now has a cancel button to allow the user to halt processing, and the new “progress” parameter enables command-line progress reporting.

JHOVE 1.28 was made available in May, representing a real effort to clear the historic contribution backlog for the tool. We received a large number of fixes and improvements from contributors around the world. We’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to this release. Its major new features include: that all messages have IDs, and we’ve removed the code that allows the creation of new ones without IDs, JHOVE will no longer report duplicate messages, which should yield shorter reports, and several improvements to the PDF module, many of which address files that caused loop or overflow errors.

November saw the release of jpylyzer 2.2, an ‘action packed release’. This release included support for [High Throughput JPEG 2000 \(HTJ2K\)](#) and its associated JPH file format.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND OUTREACH

We facilitate opportunities for discussion and practical collaboration on issues that are important to our members.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The International Comparison of Recommended File Formats (ICRFF) Working Group is an offspring of the AIG. The comparison was originally created by Aadi Kaljuvee at the National Archives of Estonia. The resource was further developed by former AIG member Asbjørn Skødt of the Danish National Archives when carrying out file format assessments. The group has already published an overview of recommended file formats of various organisations, which has recently undergone its bi-annual update and now has updates from 28 institutions worldwide.

We recommend anyone interested in starting a new working group or interest group to get in touch. We encourage you all as members to make the most out of this community and work together to address your digital preservation challenges. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help facilitate your ideas.

This year the OPF are thrilled to have become a member of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA). We join their 275 other members from universities, government and non-profit organisations. As their members are also encouraged to participate in NDSA activities, we joined two interest groups in 2023.

We assisted in organising the NDSA Digipres conference in St Louis in November, taking part in the Conference Program and Awards Committees! The conference was a great success, with a wide range of speakers and attendees, and we look forward to continuing support for the virtual conference in January.

The NDSA Storage Survey Working Group began in the autumn. This longitudinal survey has been run three times, with the last survey published in 2019. We will continue our participation throughout 2024.

WEBINARS

Our webinar series showcases the work of expert speakers from across the digital preservation community.

In 2023, we welcomed 19 speakers from 11 countries to share their work on a range of topics, including tool development, file format debates, surveys on digital curation tools, and the sector as a whole. Again, we have seen record audience numbers at our webinars over the past year.

Our Community and Content Officer, Georgia Moppett said,
“It’s been a real pleasure to have such an interesting and varied webinar program. We are grateful for each of our speakers and presenters for joining us this year. Thank you for your cooperation and insights.”

In an effort to attract and encourage new conversations, we held multiple panels this year. In February we hosted ‘Do unacceptable file formats exist?’ to bring together different viewpoints, and discuss topics like favourable formats and preferences, how to manage a multitude of formats, authenticity, and possible solutions. In late October we hosted a panel called ‘Turning Strategy into Action: Using a Toolbox of Activities for Community Sustainability Planning’, which discussed the development and use of the It Takes a Village (ITAV)_toolkit, for open-source software (OSS) initiatives. We also hosted ‘The 87% Missing Report and Digital Preservation Advocacy’, which was presented by three international panellists from the Software Preservation Network. As of December 2023, this final webinar is available on our YouTube channel for the community to view.

In 2024 we hope to continue having an inclusive and varied mix of presenters. Our members receive priority registration and access to speaker slots, as well as exclusive use of our extensive archive of recordings.

We encourage everyone to participate in the OPF webinar series and present their work. Anyone is welcome to do so. You are also welcome to post on our community blog.

Sharing your work with us is a great way to expand your network, exchange ideas and best practices, and get valuable feedback from a friendly community of like-minded colleagues.



12
WEBINARS



19
SPEAKERS



1039
ATTENDEES

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE OPF?

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on membership fees to develop our open source tools and related materials.

Gold >£50m*	Silver £10m – £50m*	Bronze < £10m*
£10,000 per year	£5,000 per year	£2,500 per year

* Recommended level of membership based on your organisation's annual operating budget.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on membership fees to develop our open source tools and related materials. As a member, you'll have access to a variety of benefits, such as helpful guidance and support, the chance to work and learn collaboratively with a network of international colleagues, and opportunities to influence product roadmaps and shape the direction of the Foundation. We also offer exclusive access to our webinar archive, individual tech clinics with one on one support, and participation in our OPF Advisory Group.

However, OPF membership is about more than this: it's an opportunity to commit to the future of preservation by supporting open software and standards for the benefit of the international community.

Organisations of all types and sizes can become an OPF member and support our work. We offer different membership options, each one providing varying levels of support and opportunities to get involved.

DONATE TO HELP PRESERVE DIGITAL HERITAGE

At OPF, our commitment to safeguarding digital heritage is driven by the generosity and support of individuals and organisations. Your contributions are important as they enable us to foster innovation and evolve alongside the rapidly changing technological landscape. As we work to continue maintaining access to our tools, your contributions assist us in doing so.

Every donation, regardless of size, contributes directly to our efforts to maintain, protect, and share our collective digital legacy. Your support reinforces the foundation upon which we build a bridge between the past, present, and future.

How to Donate?

- Visit [our website to make a secure online donation](#) using your credit card or PayPal.
- We welcome in-kind donations through our Technical Contributor membership scheme. Through this, you can help support our work, providing time and resources instead of paying full membership fees. This can be providing development efforts for our reference toolset, supporting maintenance efforts, or delivering OPF webinars and workshops on open source tools that are used by our members.

Your generosity is fundamental to the success of our mission. Together, help us continue to safeguard and celebrate the richness of digital heritage.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OPF?

A message from OPF's Executive Director, Julie Allen.

We would like to emphasise our ideas and objectives for 2024 as we consider our milestones and accomplishments from this year. With your help, we hope the Open Preservation Foundation will continue to expand as we remain committed to developing universal standards and solutions for the long-term preservation of digital assets.

We are in a great position to embrace new tools and technologies. A significant portion of our work is focused on upholding our commitment to leading the community while making sure we are flexible and responsive to the developing landscape of digital content.

Our focus extends beyond preservation and we are looking at ways to make our tools and information more accessible and inclusive.

We hope to strengthen partnerships with institutions, communities, and experts so we can continue to pool knowledge, resources, and expertise, and amplify our collective impact on preserving digital culture. A new member campaign is being designed to increase the number and diversity of our member groups and help to support new projects.

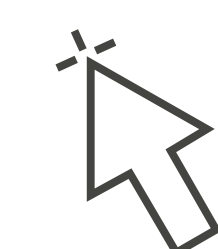
We set the groundwork this year for a new strategy that will enable us to meet our members' changing needs going forward. We look forward to sharing this with you soon. We plan to meet the challenges ahead with enthusiasm, knowing that each potential hurdle presents an opportunity to further our mission and deepen our impact. We welcome you to join us as we continue this journey.



Julie Allen, Executive Director



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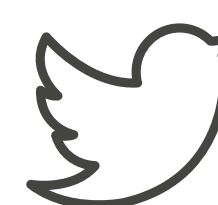
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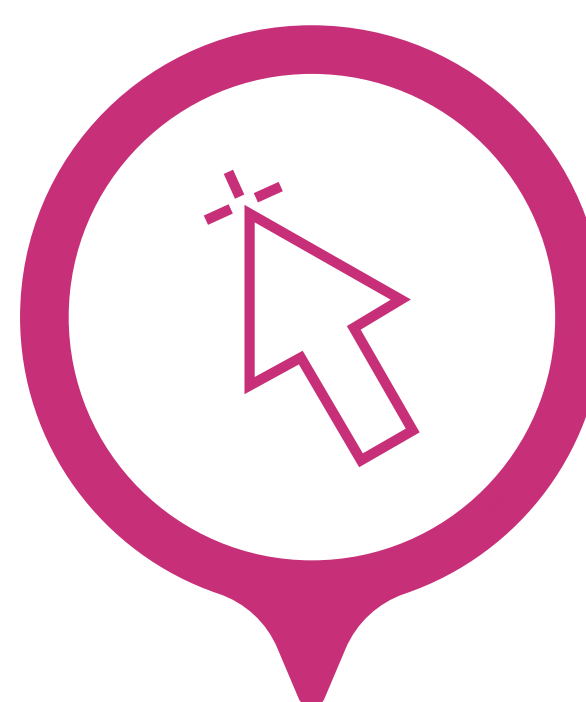
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github.com/openpreserve



1,266
MEMBERS



66,603
VISITS



3,921
SUBSCRIBERS



2,868
FOLLOWERS