

2020



END OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

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2020 IN REVIEW

The Open Preservation Foundation was established in 2010 to maintain an open, practical, and sustainable approach to advancing digital preservation. From delivering a vibrant programme of knowledge-sharing activities, to participating in cutting edge projects, and providing a sustainable home for widely-used digital preservation tools and resources, 2020 has been one of the OPF's busiest years yet. We are proud that the work we do today is still guided by the principles on which we were founded.

The fact that 2020 marks our tenth anniversary is a testament not only to our own achievements, but also to our members' steadfast dedication to advancing digital preservation. Our community of members grows year on year, and we continue our efforts to expand this network with the understanding that a wide-reaching membership base enables us to best serve our community.

Around the world, efforts to tackle one of the most significant global events in recent years have demonstrated the importance of community both within and beyond our workplaces. At OPF, we have always strived to be a leader in international connectedness. While the past twelve months have brought many challenges, they have also presented opportunities for the digital preservation community to come together. Launching a new website, hosting our biggest ever hackathon, and organising a two-day conference means that many of our most significant achievements in 2020 have the effect of strengthening our ties with one another.

In 2021, we look forward to refreshing our strategic plan: refining our priorities and setting new agendas to align with an evolving field and bringing us closer to achieving our vision of open, sustainable digital preservation.



Charlotte Armstrong
Project Officer



Becky McGuinness
Community Manager



Martin Wrigley
Executive Director



Carl Wilson
Technical Lead



Martin Speller
Project Manager

KNOWLEDGE SHARING & BEST PRACTICE

Supporting the digital preservation community through knowledge sharing is a core part of our work. We continually strive to improve our established activities as well as identify new initiatives.

A NEW LOOK FOR OPENPRESERVATION.ORG

We started our tenth year with an ambitious project to redesign our website (openpreservation.org). Our aim was to create a clear, accessible site with a straightforward structure to help users find the content they need. We carried out research with our members and the community to determine requirements.

The digital preservation community can enjoy easy access to popular content such as our community blogs and product information. We also introduced new features such as a comprehensive [resources page](#) and a dedicated [member area](#).

Our new website positions OPF for the future. We encourage you to explore the site and learn about the many ways that the Foundation supports the digital preservation community and discover the [benefits of becoming an OPF member](#).

488
PARTICIPANTS

831
REGISTERED

18
POSTS

3504
READS

WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

The OPF webinar series which showcases digital preservation tools, projects and case studies, has attracted an increasing number of participants from organisations around the world. As part of our efforts to improve the accessibility of our content, we have started adding captions to our webinar recordings.

This year we've featured the PRONOM Research Week, the Preservation Action Registries initiative, the Integrated Preservation Suite at the British Library, and more!

Please **[contact us](#)** if you would like to present your work in an OPF webinar, or if you have suggestions for topics or speakers that you would like to see featured. **[Sign up to our mailing list](#)** to find out about our upcoming webinars.



OUR COMMUNITY BLOG

As we celebrate OPF's 10th birthday, we also celebrate 10 years of our [community blog](#)! Sharing knowledge and learning from one another is fundamental to approaching digital preservation and our blog offers a central place to share your stories and join discussions. Take a look through the past blog posts to discover valuable experience through case studies, project news, tool comparisons, event summaries and more.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the blog so far. This resource is open to everyone and we invite you to share your practice with the community.

[Subscribe to our blog](#)
[Sign up for an account to publish a blog](#)



DIGITAL PRESERVATION COMMUNITY SURVEY

We believe that understanding the community we serve and focusing effort on shared priorities enables us to have the greatest collective impact.



The results provide important insights into the changing needs and priorities of our digital preservation community and they help inform OPF's ongoing efforts to develop open standards and software.

We explored some of the results in more detail in our webinar, which is now available to view on our [YouTube channel](#).

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the 2020 digital preservation community survey!

[Read the full report and download the data.](#)



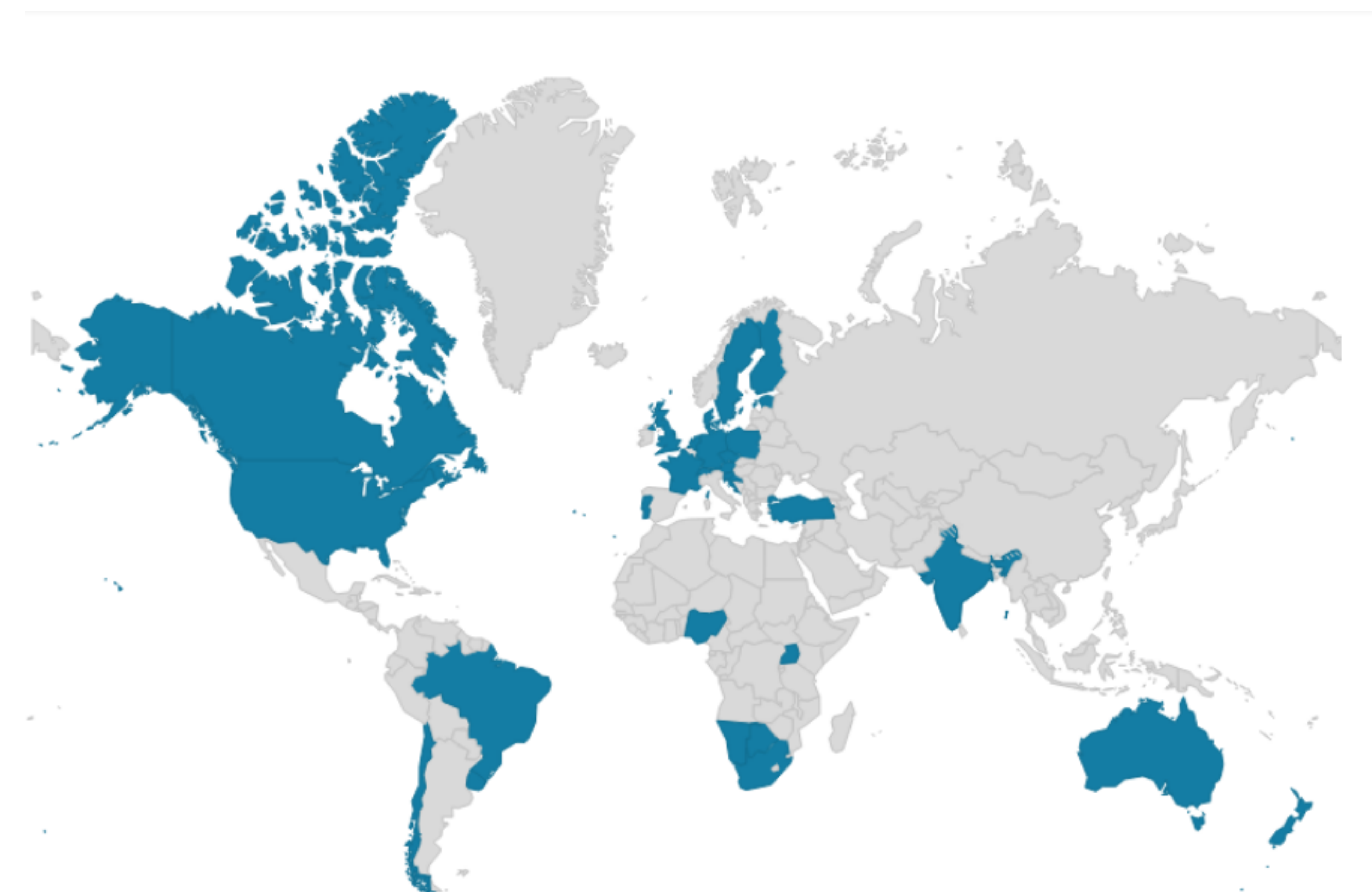
98 organisations from 31 countries responded to our 2019/20 digital preservation community survey. First carried out in 2015, the survey was designed to capture community approaches to digital preservation, identify the tools you rely on, which resources you use to support your work, and any gaps.

We launched the survey on world digital preservation day in November 2019 and it ran until February 2020. It was open to any organisation working in digital preservation, no matter their size or level of experience.

This year's survey explored a range of topics from staff roles and budgets to standards, approaches to open source, and more!



Digital preservation hot topics



Map of survey respondents

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF OPEN, SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL PRESERVATION

OPFCON celebrated ten years of the Open Preservation Foundation with presentations, lightning talks, posters and panel discussions on the theme of open, sustainable digital preservation.

The conference was originally scheduled to take place at the Austrian National Library in Vienna on 10 June, but the event was transitioned online in response to the growing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this was a difficult decision, OPFCON was a fantastic celebration of the digital preservation community and their resilience during a time of crisis!

If you couldn't make it or just want to revisit the event, our [OPFCON resources page](#) contains the recordings, slides, collaborative notes, and more!

“The ten year anniversary of OPF provided a reason to put the whole field in context, talk about past efforts and projects and really give a great overview of how we arrived at where we are now with international digital preservation work...”

2
DAYS

31
COUNTRIES

241
ATTENDEES

28
CONTRIBUTORS

“That was a monumental effort and having it move to a virtual event still captured some of the excitement that would have existed in Vienna. Just a shame we couldn't all celebrate in person!”

The success of OPFCON was owed in no small part to the behind the scenes work of our members and others friends in the community. Our member working group provided invaluable guidance and support that helped to produce a truly special celebration of the Foundation's tenth anniversary. Other OPF members played a part by live-tweeting and leading the discussion in the collaborative notes. Finally, OPFCON could not have taken place without the generous support of our sponsors.



The audience voted for their favourite contributions in three categories:

BEST PAPER

Leontien Talboom, University College London and the National Archives, UK
Accessing the intangible: the constraints faced by digital preservation practitioners when making born-digital material accessible

BEST LIGHTNING TALK

David Clipsham, The National Archives, UK
The future of PRONOM: a review

BEST POSTER

David Cirella, Yale University Library
CD-ROM Preservation: Acquisition, validation, and access by way of proprietary file formats, legacy software, and language support

BUILDING A SHARED COMMUNITY

The OPF community brings together individuals and organisations from around the world who share our vision and values. We work hard to continuously grow this community and ensure its sustainability for the benefit of all. In 2020, it has been more important than ever to ensure that these efforts are guided by the principles of openness, access, and inclusion.



2185
SUBSCRIBERS



2516
FOLLOWERS



832
FOLLOWERS



109
MEMBERS

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

In response to a growing interest in tackling inequality and underrepresentation in digital preservation from our members and the wider community, we have teamed up with the Dutch Digital Heritage Network to establish a new working group focussing on diversity and inclusion.

The group is still in its early days, but we are excited to have made the first steps towards creating a space to come together and discuss areas of concern, consider what we can do better, and work together to promote the work of underrepresented groups and address barriers to participation in the international community.

ARCHIVES INTEREST GROUP

The OPF Archives Interest Group (AIG) has been continuing their work exploring the significant properties of spreadsheets. In February, members of the AIG from Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, and the UK gathered at the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen for some quality face-to-face time. This included some hands-on work categorising the functions and behaviours of spreadsheets, as well as some initial planning for a stakeholder analysis and a final report to wrap up the project.

The trip concluded with a tour of the archives, dinner in Copenhagen, and a celebratory beer with the prize money from their iPRES 2019 Best Poster Audience Award! The remainder of this money was donated to the International Red Cross.

The AIG has been joined this year by Lotte Wijsman who is an Archival and Information Studies student at the University of Amsterdam and intern at the National Archives of the Netherlands. Her focus has been on a study to determine which spreadsheet properties are deemed significant by stakeholders. Lotte's work has been well received by the AIG and was awarded The National Records of Scotland Award for the Most Distinguished Student Work in Digital Preservation.

The AIG plan to complete their report on the Significant Properties of Spreadsheets in 2021, before looking to new and exciting projects!



February 2020 brought the AIG together from Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands and the UK for a meeting at the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen.

COLLABORATION

As one of our core values, collaboration is an essential part of our approach to developing practical solutions and best practice, delivering benefits to the whole community.

SPRING HACKATHON

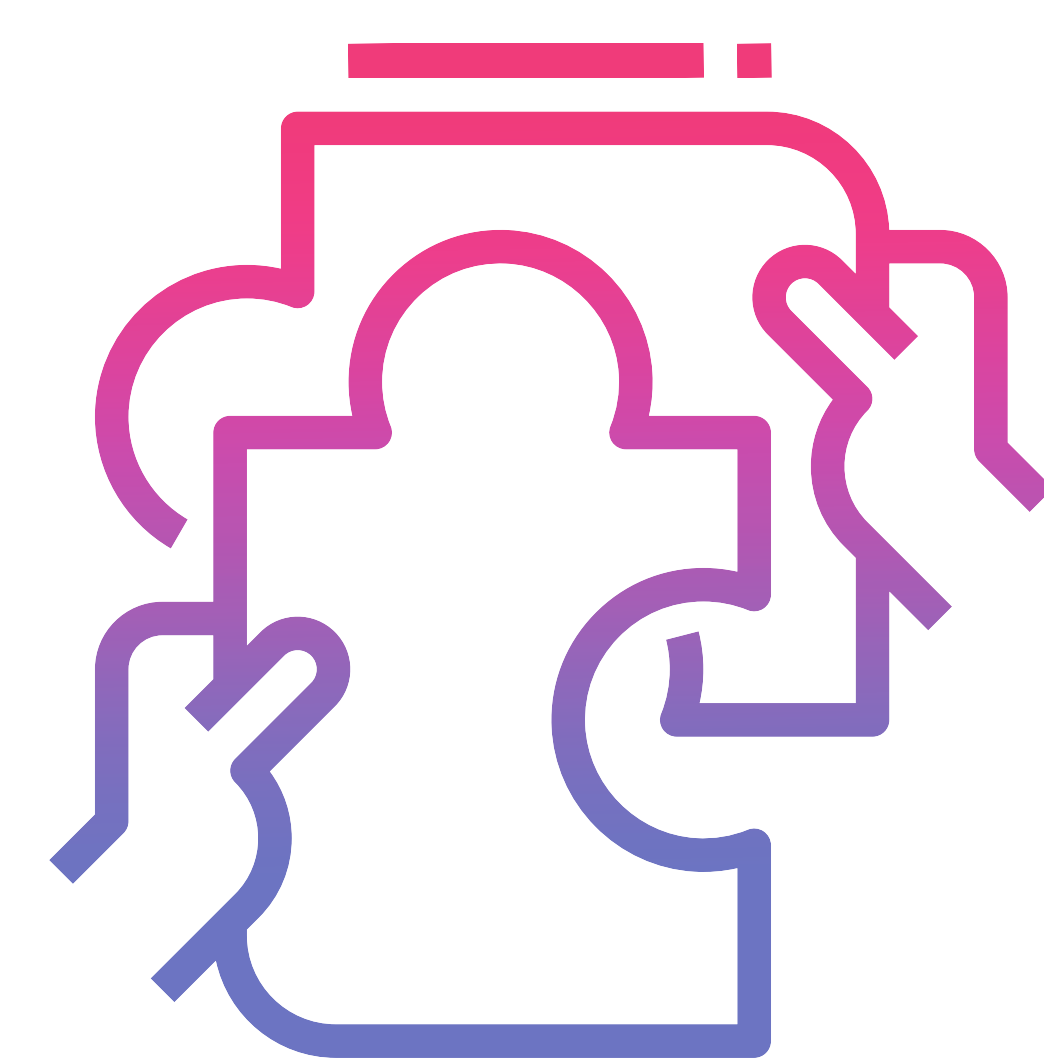
This Spring we ran our biggest ever online hackathon! Over a period of six weeks, we were joined by over 30 contributors in 10 countries to enhance open source digital preservation tools and documentation relied on by the digital preservation community.

The hackathon offered a variety of tasks to cater for different skills, experiences, and interests, grouped in three themes: development, documentation and research.

As well as delivering meaningful contributions to open source software, the hackathon presented opportunities to collaborate with international colleagues, get hands-on experience with tools, deep dive into file formats, and improve and translate documentation, making it more accessible.

We received nearly 50 pull requests on GitHub with code changes and new work continued to arrive even after the hackathon had officially closed. We are working through all the contributions, many of which will be a part of the next JHOVE release in 2021.

Thank you to everyone who took part!



“I had been pondering how I could introduce my colleagues to work collaboratively in an international setting when I learnt about the OPF Hackathon! The dedicated small tasks that benefit all of us as preservation tool users was the perfect introduction!”
- Karin Bredenberg, Sydarkivera

OUR PARTNERS

We collaborate with like-minded organisations to serve our community and advance digital preservation. 2020 has seen the strengthening of our relationships with partners around the world.



“The documentation part of the OPF Hackathon was impressive, with well-prepared task sheets and a good use of tools for collaboration including communications, translations and textual work..., the most important benefit for me was the exchange during the weekly calls.” - Merle Friedrich, Technische Informationsbibliothek

Would you like to get involved? There's no need to wait until the next hackathon! Whether you log an issue, suggest an improvement, or provide a fix or enhancement as a GitHub pull request, We welcome contributions to any of our products. **Find us on GitHub** or **send us an email** at any time!

TECHNOLOGY

We maintain a set of widely adopted digital preservation products. Together, they form a reference toolset for digital preservation which can be adapted for use in different organisational workflows.



Latest release: 1.16 (May, 2020)
2020 downloads: 13,587



Latest release: 2.0.0 (November 2019)
2020 downloads: 2321



Latest release: 1.24 (March, 2020)
2020 downloads: 2641



Latest release: 1.4.0 (January 2020)
2020 downloads: 6195

THE FUTURE OF THE OPF REFERENCE TOOLSET

To help us manage a growing number of products and ensure they are fit for purpose for the long term, we have developed a programme of work to enhance the OPF reference toolset. The goal is to enable users to easily adopt our products and incorporate them into their workflow.

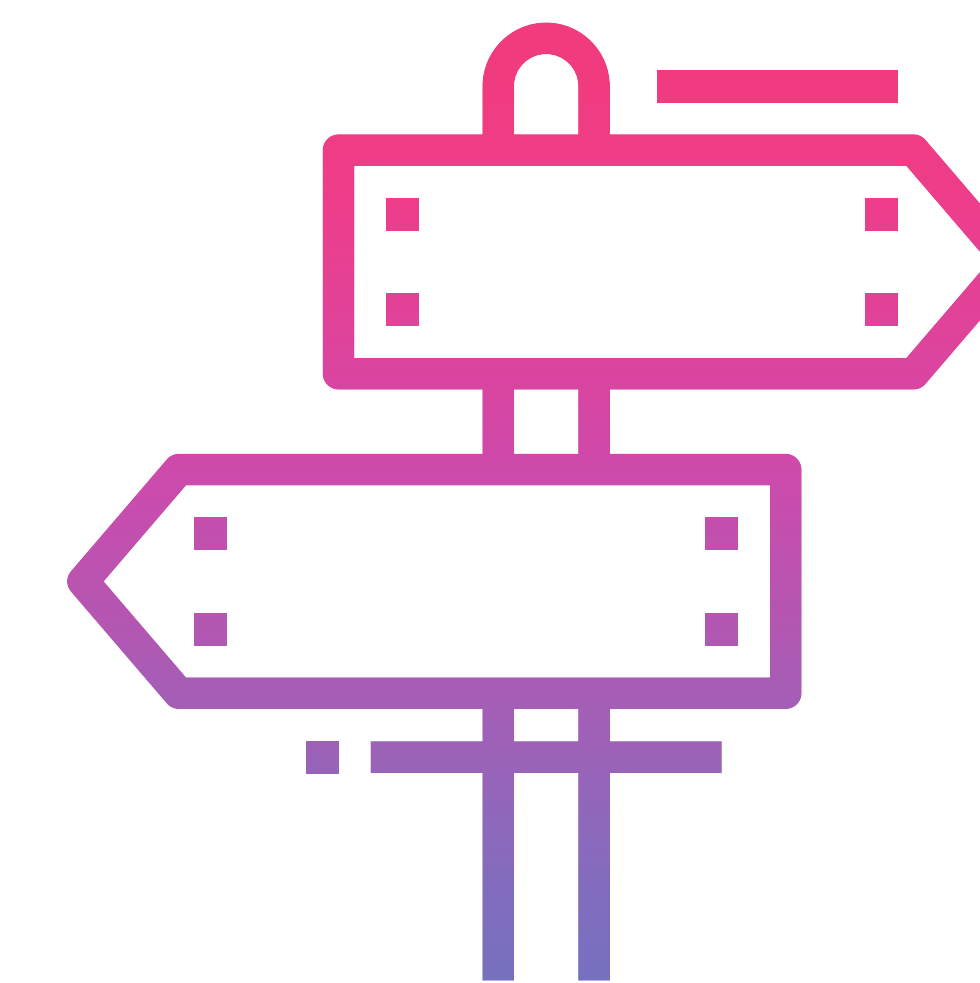
We plan to consolidate the number of different elements in our reference toolset and provide a single user interface for our products.

Our approach is to create consistency across the toolset and provide a solid foundation on which to build new functionality. In the future, we will offer users a flexible choice of modules and make it more straight-forward to integrate other tools.

By reducing the amount of redundant code and separating out old project infrastructure, we aim to minimise maintenance overheads while taking forward functional, sustainable products.

OUR PRODUCT BOARD

The OPF product board is a select group of our members who govern the roadmap for the reference toolset. They meet every two months to approve our development priorities, give feedback on strategic changes and influence the adoption of new tools.



To help ensure that our members' needs are well-represented and prioritised, it is important that this group reflects the organisational diversity of our membership. The product board currently comprises representatives from libraries, archives, and software providers from around the world.



Karen Hanson
Portico



Johan van der Knijff
Koninklijke Bibliotheek



Thomas Ledoux
Bibliothèque nationale de France



Merle Friedrich
Technische Informationsbibliothek



Peter May
The British Library



Jack O'Sullivan
Preservica



Tomasz Parkola
Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe



Sarah Romkey
Artefactual Systems

SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

An experienced yet neutral leader in open source digital preservation, we choose to participate in cutting edge projects and initiatives at the forefront of digital preservation.



Preservation Action Registries (PAR) is a collaborative initiative that provides a mechanism for sharing good practice in digital preservation across the community. The software is still at pre-production stage, and at present, it comprises a feature rich API, an endpoint browser and prototype implementation spanning the digital preservation systems of Preservica, Archivematica and Arkivum.

2020 has seen the transfer of PAR stewardship from Jisc, who provided initial funding for the initiative, to OPF. Going forward, we will provide independent technical oversight and coordinate a programme of activities to expand community knowledge of and involvement in PAR through webinars, workshops, and hack events.

We have been working with the Dutch Digital Heritage Network to create a Virtual Research Environment (VRE) for preservation tools. Developed with the aim of lowering barriers to using and testing digital preservation software, the VRE is essentially a “plug and play” research environment that allows users to sample tools such as veraPDF without installing the software on their own machines.

The VRE project team have used ansible roles with vagrant to automate the production of the virtual environment, which currently contains six tools: Apache Tika, Droid, JHOVE, veraPDF, MediaInfo and ffmpeg/Handbrake. Version 1.0 of the VRE is now available for download. [Learn more.](#)

“In developing the Virtual Research Environment for preservation tool, we could fully rely on the expertise of OPF.” - Marcel Raas, VRE Project Coordinator

“OPF leads the validation task. This is extremely important for compliance and conformance testing, and enables archives, data producers and software providers to demonstrate that their products conform to the E-ARK specifications. The OPF’s wealth of experience and skills really make a difference in extending our reach...

OPF is a much-valued member of the E-ARK3 Consortium!” - Janet Anderson, E-ARK Project Coordinator

E-ARK3 is the third iteration of a project that is working to develop the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)’s eArchiving Building Block. The OPF team works as part of the pan-European E-ARK consortium to deliver specifications, software, training, and knowledge to support digital archiving



RATOM

The Review, Appraisal and Triage of Mail (RATOM) project is working to identify entities present within emails and email attachments and develop the capability to redact materials containing potentially sensitive information.

The project is led by the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in partnership with the Division of Archives and Records of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. OPF carries out independent code reviews for the project.

[Learn more about our projects.](#)

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board represents the voice of our members and plays an important role in setting the Foundation's priorities and plans for the future.

This year, two new board members were elected by our members: Jeffrey van der Hoeven from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and Yannick Grandcolas from the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

At the same time, we said goodbye to Barbara Sierman after five years on the board and three years serving as chair. Barbara was awarded an OPF lifetime personal membership award in recognition of her contributions over this five-year period.

One of our goals this year was to increase the visibility of the board's work. OPF members now receive a monthly summary of the board's activities.

To accommodate our board members' busy schedules, we have implemented a new structure which allows our board members to assume the role of chair for a three-month period, taking on a specialist project or area of strategic focus.

The first Chair under this new model was Jisc's Paul Stokes, who served between September and November and dedicated his time in office to advancing the business case for OPF membership.

Remco van Veenendaal will take over the position in January and will be focusing on OPF's approach to software adoption.

The OPF team would like to extend their thanks for the British Library's Peter May (Deputy Chair), who took on the duties of the chair in the interim period between June and September.

MICKY LINDLAR AWARDED DPC DIGITAL PRESERVATION FELLOWSHIP

OPF director Micky Lindlar is known by many as an important figure in digital preservation. On World Digital Preservation Day, they were presented with the prestigious DPC Fellowship in recognition of their generous and distinguished contribution to our field. Digital Preservation Team Lead and Technical Analyst at TIB – Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology, Micky has published widely and leads by example in sharing open and accessible research on common digital preservation challenges, technologies and solutions. [Read more.](#)

“To me, OPF is so much more than JHOVE, veraPDF and webinars – it is a vital international network of peers who understand my problems and solutions. As an OPF Director since 2012, I'm proud to have pitched in a little bit to shape OPF into what it is today.” - Micky Lindlar.



Back in January, we welcomed our board to the OPF offices in Leeds for a training session and meeting about our programme of activities for 2020.



David Clipsham
The National Archives,
UK



Yannick Grandcolas
Bibliothèque nationale
de France



**Jeffrey van der
Hoeven**
Koninklijke Bibliotheek



Max Kaiser
Österreichische
Nationalbibliothek



Micky Lindlar
TIB – Leibniz Information
Centre for Science and
Technology



Peter May
The British Library



Paul Stokes
Jisc



Remco van Veenendaal
Nationaal Archief

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

.Our members are at the heart of everything we do. 2020 has seen the continued growth of our membership, making the OPF community stronger and more connected than ever.

A REFRESHED MEMBERSHIP MODEL FOR 2020 & BEYOND

Alongside our website redesign project, we restructured our membership model to better meet the needs of our existing and prospective members. The new, streamlined model presents four membership categories and associated benefits to suit organisations at all stages of their digital preservation journey. The new model is set out on [our website](#) and is accompanied by a [new membership brochure](#), which is available in six languages with thanks to volunteer translators from the British Library.



OUR FIRST VIRTUAL AGM

Our first ever virtual AGM brought together a record number of members to conduct the Foundation's official business and celebrate our achievements from the past twelve months. We also shared our vision for the future of the OPF reference toolset and our hopes to address issues of diversity and inclusion in the digital preservation community. 2020's AGM was certainly a memorable one, but we look forward to meeting face-to-face with our members again in future years.

PERSONAL LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

This year, we introduced a new award to recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution to the OPF and our community.

The awards were launched at our Annual General Meeting in June as part of our tenth-anniversary celebrations. The first recipients of the awards were:

“Having established the organisation over a decade ago and serving as its first Board President, I'm really proud when I look over its accomplishments and see the strong team that leads the OPF today.”



Adam Farquhar



Barbara Sierman

“I'm very honoured with the award, and grateful to have contributed in making OPF an important player in the field of digital preservation. OPF is in a strong position to support an enthusiast community in sharing knowledge, developing tools and bringing the profession of digital preservation forward. I wish OPF a prosperous future.”

“It was an honor to be a founding member of the OPF and to guide it through some of its formative years – and now a great pleasure to see how it has become a sustainable organization that so well serves the digital preservation community.”



Ross King

BECOME A MEMBER

As a not-for-profit foundation, we rely on membership fees to develop our reference toolset and offer a diverse programme of activities to support your work. Becoming an OPF member not only gives you access to a range of benefits – it is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive contribution to the field.

By joining us, you are endorsing our efforts to develop open standards and software, helping to secure our continued position as a neutral and trustworthy body in the digital preservation landscape, and taking your place within a community that is committed to ensuring our global digital legacy.

Membership is open to all types and sizes of organisation. We offer four different membership options, each one providing varying levels of support and different opportunities to get involved.

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.

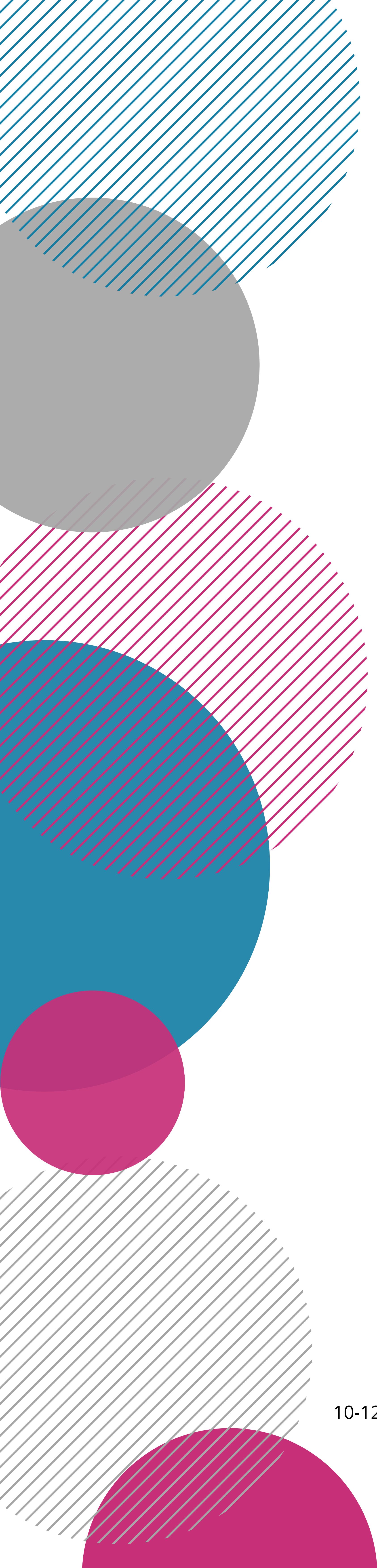
Our **technical contributor** members help support our work, providing time and resources in lieu of a membership fee. This can be providing development effort for our reference toolset, supporting our product board, or delivering OPF webinars and workshops on open source tools that are used by our members.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
- Arcsys Software
- Artefactual Systems
- Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal
- Bibliothèque nationale de France
- Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg
- British Library
- CSC - IT Centre for Science
- Det Kgl. Bibliotek
- Digitales Archiv Nordrhein-Westfalen
- Dual Lab
- Ex Libris
- Digital Preservation Network of the German
- National Subject Libraries
- Harvard Library
- International Atomic Energy Agency Archives and Records Management Section
- Jisc
- Koninklijke Bibliotheek
- Nasjonalbiblioteket
- Nationaal Archief
- Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision
- Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
- Portico
- Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe
- Preservica
- Rahvusarhiiv
- Riksarkivet
- Rigsarkivet
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The National Archives, UK
- Yale University Library



FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.OPENPRESERVATION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



Open Preservation Foundation
10-12 East Parade, Leeds, LS1 2BH, United Kingdom
info@openpreservation.org

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