



END OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

20

21

CONTENTS

- 2 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR
- 3 MEMBERSHIP
- 5 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
- 7 PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS
- 9 KNOWLEDGE SHARING & OUTREACH
- 11 PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE
- 13 TECHNOLOGY
- 15 ACCOUNTS
- 17 WHAT'S NEXT FOR OPF?
- 18 STAY IN TOUCH

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Reflections on 2021 from David Clipsham, current chair of OPF's Board of Directors.

It has been another busy and successful year for the Open Preservation Foundation, full of webinars, blog posts, software releases and more.

I've especially enjoyed our recent 'Blog Of The Week' posts on Twitter, revisiting many of the blog posts published through the OPF over the past eleven years. It's a real testament to the diversity of thought, and the generosity of the Digital Preservation community that so many individuals have contributed their words over the years.

It has been a year of transition for The Foundation. We have bid farewell to Martin Wrigley and Martin Speller, and welcomed Darren Dignam as our new Systems Administrator.

In December we welcomed Julie Allen to the fold as our new Executive Director. Julie brings a wealth of strategic leadership experience and a proven ability to enhance the value of membership services. Myself and the board are delighted that Julie has joined us and we look forward to a long and successful partnership.

In 2022, we look to begin an exciting new era for the OPF, spearheaded by Julie. We look forward to completing the refresh of our strategic plan, and to explore exciting new opportunities for growing our wonderful community.



David Clipsham, The National Archives
On behalf of the OPF Board of Directors

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.

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.

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
- Digital Preservation Network of the German National Subject Libraries
- Ex Libris
- Harvard Library
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Jisc
- Kommunalförbundet Sydarkivera
- 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
- Thieme Compliance
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Yale University Library

[Learn more about OPF membership.](#)



NEW MEMBERS IN 2021

Kommunalförbundet Sydarkivera is a local federation of 33 municipalities in Sweden. Its mission is to perform archiving assignments, manage a joint archive system, and act as a common archive authority for its members.



“As the preservation agency for our members, we have a goal to be active in the community to ensure we serve as the best provider of digital preservation. OPF membership will broaden our capability to learn from the best in the preservation community.”

- Karin Bredenberg, Sydarkivera



Thieme Compliance is a leading system provider for medically and legally sound patient education in Germany. They represent innovative product development and tailor-made solutions for patient information.

“At Thieme Compliance, we must guarantee that the patient information we produce is appropriate for long-term archiving. We have joined OPF to support the development of veraPDF and benefit from access to invaluable knowledge and resources such as OPF webinars.”

- Romy Stauch, Thieme Compliance

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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

ARCHIVES INTEREST GROUP

In September, the OPF Archives Interest Group (AIG) released a report documenting their findings on the significant properties of spreadsheets. Formed in 2016, the AIG collaborates on practical preservation issues that our members face in their day-to-day work.

Preservation of spreadsheets is one challenge that was identified as a priority for each participating organisation. Migration from a spreadsheet format (e.g. Microsoft Excel) to an image format, or even to a different spreadsheet format (e.g. ODS) can cause loss of information or functionality. There is little documentation about best practices in this area.

The report outlines their approach from an initial literature review and choice of methodology through to their analysis of spreadsheet format specifications, comparison of characterisation tools, and stakeholder interviews to learn more about user needs. They also presented a paper on this research at iPRES 2021,

The AIG currently includes participants from the national archives of the Netherlands, Estonia and Denmark, and Preservica.

[Read the report on Zenodo.](#)

“As AIG, different people from different organisations in different countries set out to solve a common challenge: spreadsheet preservation. Looking at this challenge from these different perspectives was insightful. We also shared news about developments and got to know each other on a personal level.”

At the National Archives of the Netherlands, we will use the AIG's results in our work. But perhaps just as important is that we strengthened our professional network and personal relations. The fact that we're discussing which new challenges to take on is almost as important a result to me, than the AIG's achievements so far.”

– Remco van Veenendaal,
Chair of the AIG



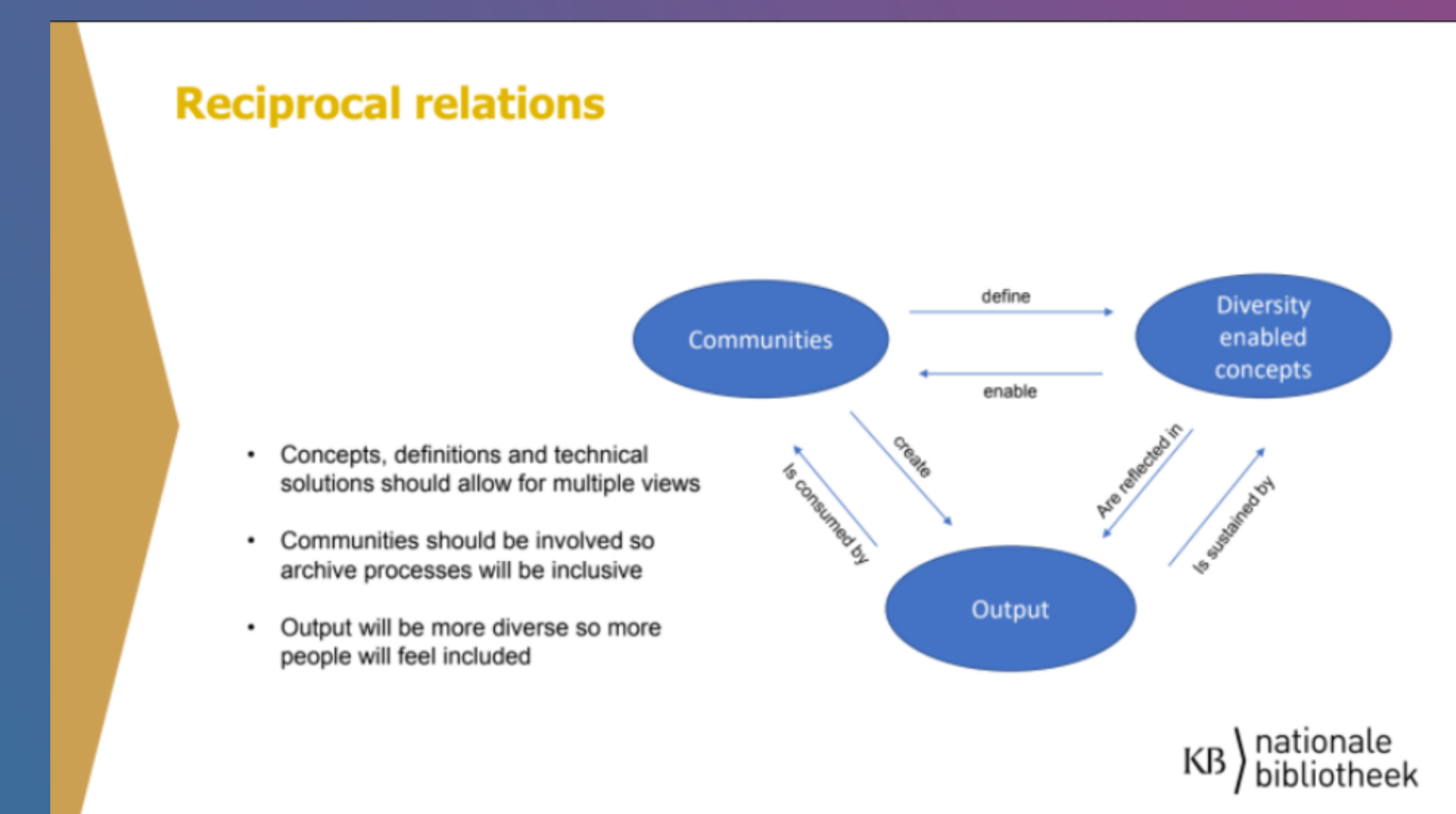
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Launched in 2020, our Digital Preservation Diversity and Inclusion in Digital Preservation working group meets throughout the year to discuss challenges and share ideas and initiatives aimed at diversifying and removing barriers to participation in our field.

The working group is open to all and is a space to discuss areas of concern, share developments and consider what we can do better.

One of our highlights this year was a discussion about engaging the designated community in developing inclusive thesauri. The session was led by Daniël Steinmeier, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, who shared details about a new project that focuses on understanding biases and hierarchies in thesauri and finding new ways to develop meaningful and inclusive keywords.

[Contact us to learn more.](#)



Inclusion, diversity and thesauri presentation
Daniel Steinmeier, Koninklijke Bibliotheek

PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

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

PRESERVATION ACTION REGISTRIES

The **Preservation Action Registries**

(PAR) project aims to enable reproducible digital preservation best practices to be shared between organisations.



2021 saw the v1.0 release of the PAR API and data model, including the addition of representation formats and some improvements to parameter handling. A prototype PAR endpoint browser has also been developed. As a member of the PAR consortium, OPF's main contribution has been the development of a PAR API endpoint for the Wikidata project.

WIKIDATA FOR DIGITAL PRESERVATION

The **WikiData for Digital Preservation** (WikiDP) initiative, led by Yale University, continues its work to help the digital preservation community to access and edit technical data help in Wikidata.

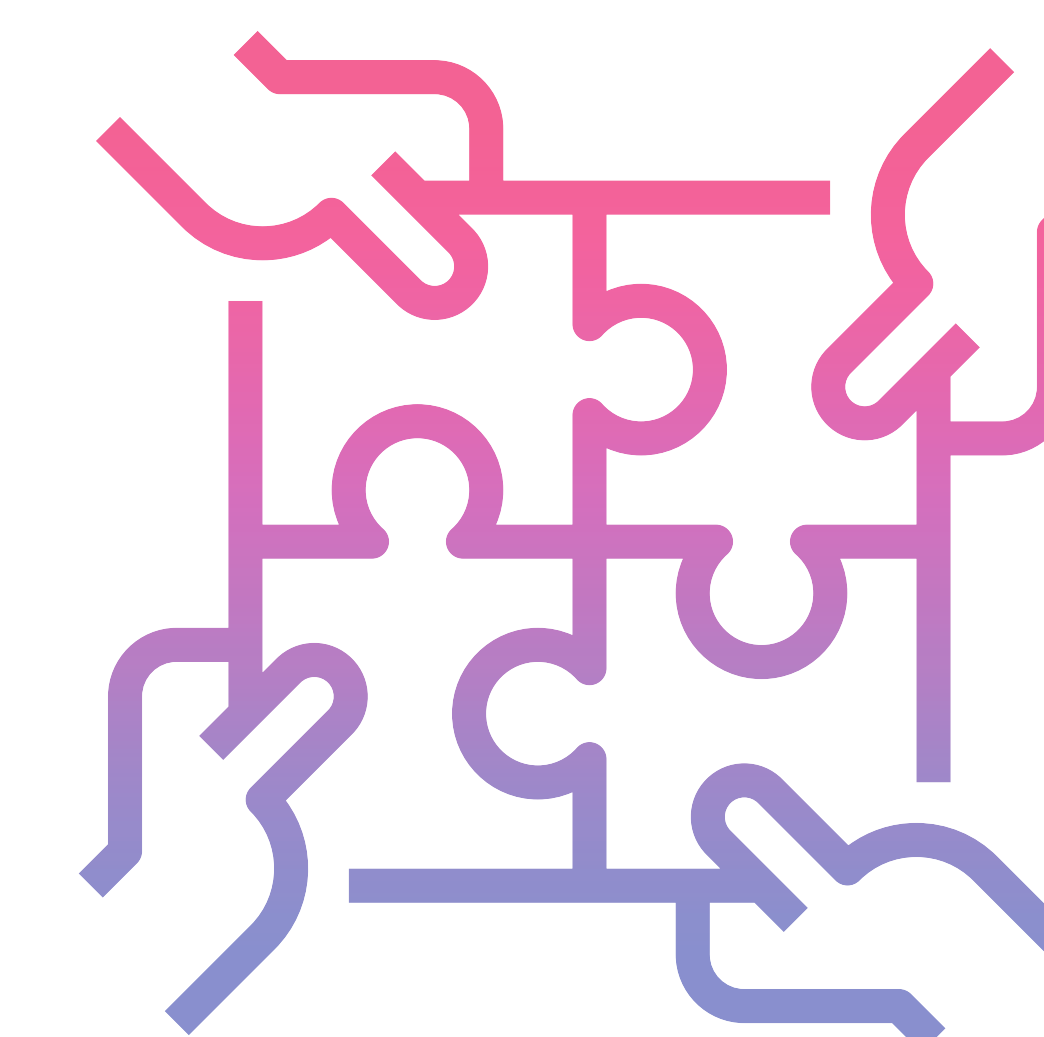


OPF provides advice and some development effort to the WikiDP team. In the last year, we've helped with Wikidata authentication and developed a PAR implementation for Wikidata file format information. This endpoint queries Wikidata for format information and transforms this into PAR compliant JSON delivered over a sub-set of the PAR API.



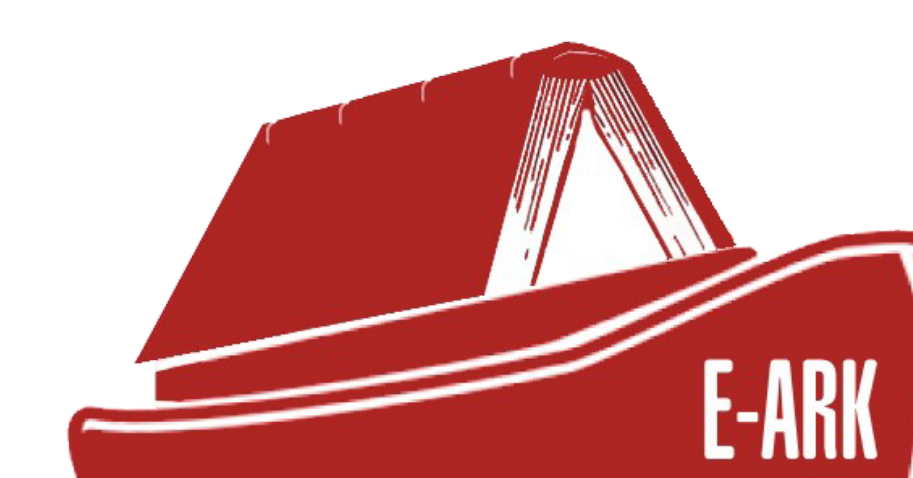
The **Review, Appraisal and Triage of Mail** (RATOM) project is working to identify entities present within emails and email attachments and develop the capability to redact materials containing potentially sensitive information.

The project is led by the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2021, OPF carried out an independent code review of the four RATOM software projects to establish functional compliance and advise on best practices for open source development.



E-ARK 3

E-ARK3 ran from 2019–2021, developing open-source specifications and accompanying software support for archival institutions.



OPF provided support for the outreach aspects of the project, including communications and event planning.

Our technical work was focused on the development of the information package specifications and automated validation of those specifications.

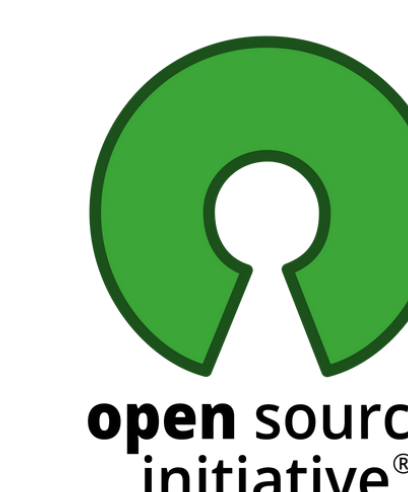
Explore the sample E-ARK validation service.

VIRTUAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The first version of the **Virtual Research Environment** (VRE), developed by OPF, was released by the Dutch Digital Heritage Network (DDHN) at the end of 2020. The OPF and DDHN have reached an agreement for OPF to support and maintain the virtual environment. Both organisations will begin work in the new year to define the next release, due in 2022.

OUR PARTNERS

Our partnerships with like-minded organisations provide a mechanism for sharing expertise and aligning effort for the benefit of the whole community.



Learn more about our projects and partnerships.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING & OUTREACH

Advancing and disseminating digital preservation knowledge is a vital part of our mission.

WEBINARS

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

In 2021, we welcomed speakers from eight different countries to share their work on a range of topics, from preservation of video games and obsolete playback devices to technical deep dives into workflows and concept models.

"The speakers are very knowledgeable and gave detailed answers to the questions asked."

Despite an increase in the availability and popularity of online events, we have been thrilled to have seen record audience numbers at our webinars over the past twelve months.

"I really enjoyed the presentation, it is great to learn what other organisations are doing in the field."

You can support this popular initiative by becoming a member. While our live webinars are free and open to attend for everyone, our members receive priority registration and access to speaker slots, as well as exclusive use of our extensive [archive of recordings](#).



9
WEBINARS



18
SPEAKERS



1172
ATTENDEES



62
COUNTRIES



BLOG OF THE WEEK

Did you know the **OPF community blog** has nearly 500 posts? Our blog captures digital preservation knowledge and experiences from software experiments to event reports to discussions on formats, policies and collaboration.

This year we ran a twitter campaign #BlogOfTheWeek to showcase some of the fantastic posts from our contributors over the past 11 years. We invited the community to support this campaign by nominating their favourite posts and we were not disappointed!

We were delighted to receive nominations for posts on a wide range of topics, reflecting the support for one another in the community.

Thank you to all of our authors, as well as everyone who nominated a post and helped share our campaign!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Anyone is welcome to present their work as part of the OPF webinar series or post on our community blog.

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



PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE

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



Julie Allen
Executive Director



Becky McGuinness
Community Manager



Carl Wilson
Technical Lead



Charlotte Armstrong
Project Officer



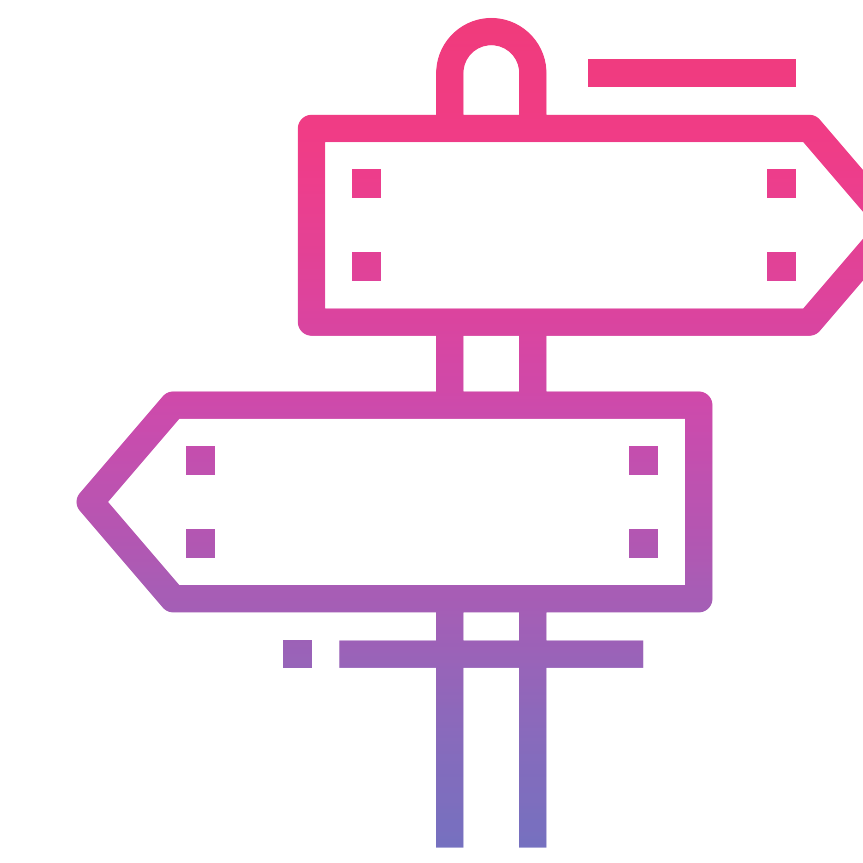
Darren Dignam
Systems Administrator

There have been some changes to our team this year, beginning with the departure of Martin Wrigley. We want to thank Martin for the leading role he has played in OPF. Since joining the OPF as Executive Director in 2017, the organisation has seen growth in staff and members, the first OPFCON, participation in funded projects such as E-ARK and the launch of a new website.

Our Project Manager, Martin Speller, retired in July. Martin brought an experienced IT management voice to OPF. He introduced a new release process for the Reference Toolset, managed our project contributions, and coordinated the Product Board. The Board and team would like to thank him for his contributions. Happy hiking, Martin!

In October, Darren Dignam joined OPF in a new role of Systems Administrator. Darren is a versatile software developer and open source enthusiast with an interest in all aspects of system design and implementation. His appointment reflects an important step forward in expanding our technical capacity.

We have also recently welcomed a new Executive Director, Julie Allen. Julie is an experienced executive who will lead the development of new strategic goals for the Foundation, working alongside the team to evolve the OPF reference toolset and further knowledge exchange with members and the wider community.



2021 AGM

In May, we met virtually with our members to conduct the official OPF business, share our achievements from the past year, and discuss our plans for the future. We also heard about the exciting work that's happening in our members' organisations as part of the member showcase. Many thanks to everyone who took part!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors brings together member representatives who steer the direction of the Foundation.

"The Board is the membership's voice in OPF's overall strategy and operations. The Board listens, advises, mitigates, suggests and decides. It's a wonderful way to be personally involved in the OPF success story."
– Micky Lindlar, TIB

Over the past twelve months, they have provided valuable support to the OPF team and have played an active role in recruiting our two new members of staff.



David Clipsham
The National Archives,
UK



Jeffrey van der Hoeven
Koninklijke Bibliotheek



Max Kaiser
Österreichische
Nationalbibliothek



Micky Lindlar
TIB – Leibniz Information
Centre for Science and
Technology



Paul Stokes
Jisc



Peter May
The British Library



Remco van Veenendaal
Nationaal Archief



Yannick Grandcolas
Bibliothèque nationale
de France

TECHNOLOGY

We maintain a portfolio of open source products that are widely used by organisations engaged in digital preservation activities.

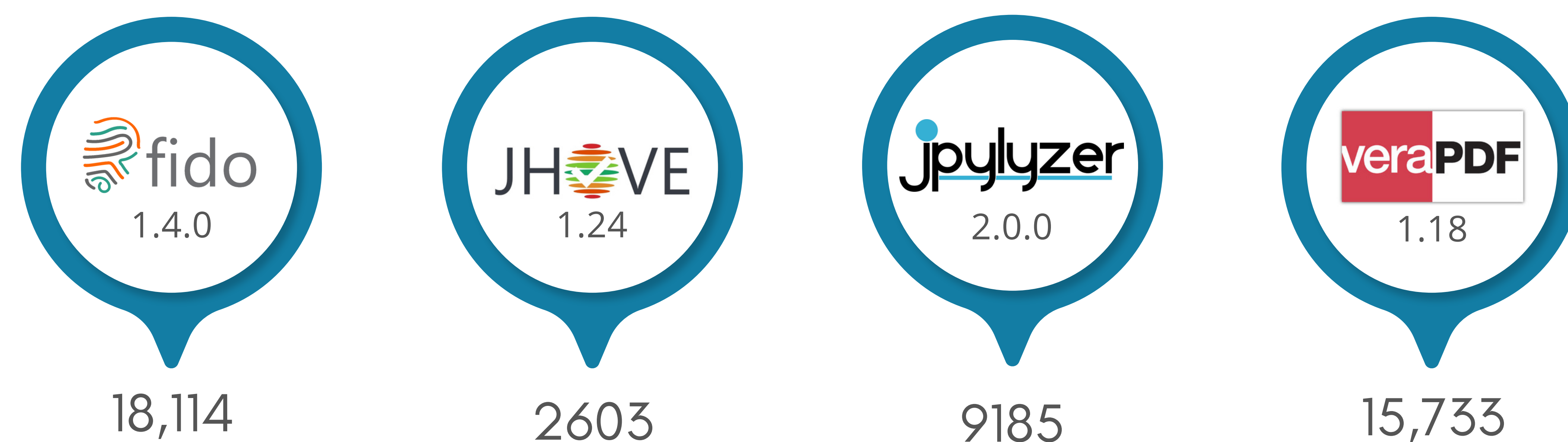
Each product in our [reference toolset](#) is made available under an open source licence to ensure that it can be adopted by anyone who needs it, whether as part of a bespoke digital preservation workflow or embedded in proprietary systems.

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

In 2021, we developed a prototype of Carrus, a GUI for command line products that presents a new, consistent interface. Carrus will enable us to wrap third-party open source products to enhance the reference toolset. A public launch will be made in 2022.

This year also saw two new releases of veraPDF. [Version 1.18](#), released in Spring, includes support for PDF/UA with Matterhorn machine validation, as well as fixes and enhancements to the PDF parser. More recently, the release candidate for [veraPDF 1.20](#) was released adding support for PDF/A-4 (ISO 19005-4:2020) and Java versions from 8 to 16.

2021 PRODUCT DOWNLOADS



OUR PRODUCT BOARD

All of the OPF's technical work is overseen by our Product Board. This select group of our members 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.

"We highly value involvement in the OPF Product Board. It gives us the opportunity to stay up to date on OPF products, swap ideas with other members and stay tuned in to OPF activities generally. We look forward to continuing our membership in 2022."
- Sarah Romkey, Artefactual



Jack O'Sullivan
Preservica



Johan van der Knijff
Koninklijke Bibliotheek



Karen Hanson
Portico



Merle Friedrich
Technische Informationsbibliothek



Peter May
The British Library



Sarah Romkey
Artefactual Systems



Thomas Ledoux
Bibliothèque nationale de France



Tomasz Parkola
Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OPF?

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

Last year, the OPF celebrated its 10th anniversary. This milestone is not only a clear testament to OPF's strong position as a neutral and trustworthy body, it is a reflection of the commitment of its members to the future of digital preservation.

Our members empower us to produce tools that address common problems along with supporting resources and initiatives to ensure they are open and sustainable for all users.

In 2021, the OPF team has worked hard to continue delivering benefits for the digital preservation community, building on popular initiatives, enhancing partnerships, and identifying opportunities for the growth of the Foundation.

Following a year of transition for the OPF, we look forward to setting out a new strategy that will enable us to meet the changing needs of our members in the years ahead. As we build for the future, we must also increase and diversify OPF's membership base to capture all of those needs and ensure the sustainability of our work. I encourage members and the wider community to reach out to us to share their thoughts and ideas.

I look forward to embarking on this journey alongside the OPF staff, the Board of Directors, and the wider membership.



Julie Allen, Executive Director



BECOME A MEMBER

As a not-for-profit foundation, we rely on membership fees to develop our open source tools and supporting resources. As a member, you'll have access to a range of benefits, including practical guidance and support, the ability to work and learn collaboratively with a network of global digital preservation practitioners, and opportunities to influence product roadmaps and shape the direction of the Foundation.

But OPF membership is about more than these benefits: it's an opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the future of preservation by supporting open software and standards for the benefit of the whole community.

Organisations of all types and sizes can support our work by becoming an OPF member. We offer 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.

www.openpreservation.org/membership

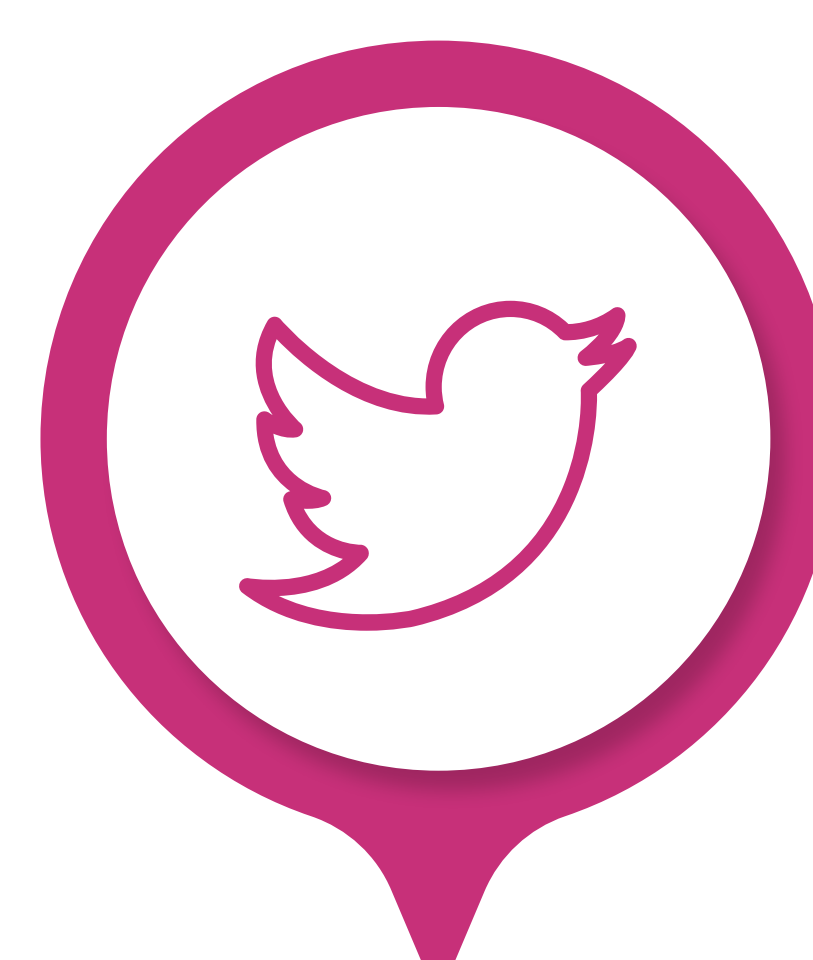
www.openpreservation.org/donate

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with our latest news, software releases, events and other initiatives in 2022 and beyond.



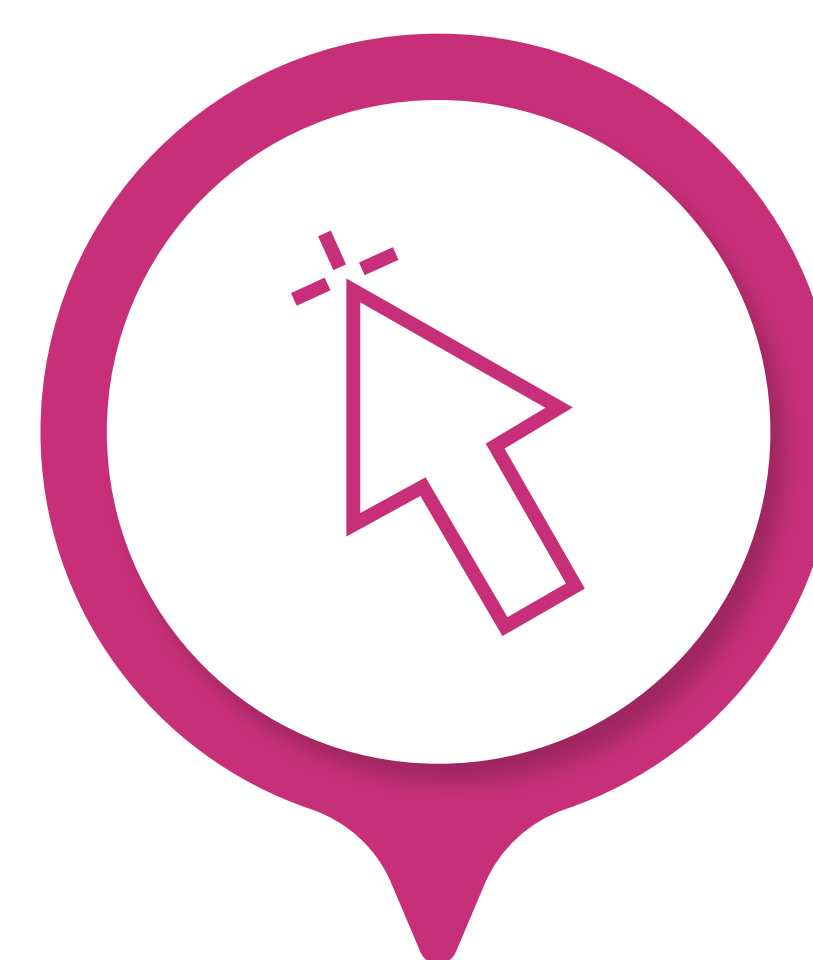
3244
SUBSCRIBERS



2748
FOLLOWERS



979
MEMBERS



98, 247
VISITS

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Visit the [OPF website](https://openpreservation.org) to learn more about what we are working on and to explore our resources. You can find everything you need to know about our upcoming events and activities. Follow us on [twitter](https://twitter.com/openpreserve) for our latest announcements, job posts and project updates and more and to get involved in special campaigns such as our #BlogOfTheWeek and #OPFFestiveCountdown. You can also find us on [GitHub](https://github.com/openpreserve) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/1315205).

NEWSLETTERS & MAILING LIST

We maintain an active community mailing list and our newsletters bring you all of the latest information about our work, including new members, software releases, webinars, and community activities. [Subscribe to our mailing list](#) to receive your seasonal update from the OPF team!



openpreservation.org



openpreservation.org/subscribe



linkedin.com/company/1315205



twitter.com/openpreserve



github.com/openpreserve



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

v1.0. Published December 2021