

COPPUL Digital Stewardship Network Community of Practice Mixer

August 28, 2025 @ 12pm Pacific / 1pm Mountain / 2pm Central

Hosted by the [CDSN Community of Practice](#)

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Suggested topics for future mixers:

- [ADD YOUR SUGGESTIONS HERE]

SUMMER READING CLUB AGENDA

- Quick round of introductions
- Sharing what we read
 - Title, author (feel free to add links and citations to this notes doc!)
 - Topic or theme of the publication
 - Your takeaways from the reading (e.g. why did you read this and why do you want to share it with others?)
 - Q&A

UPCOMING MIXERS

- October 2025, TBD

Community notes



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Resource: [DPC Technology Watch Report](#) - Defining the Designated Community by

Christian Keitel and Jenny Mitcham. <http://doi.org/10.7207/twgn23-01>

- Can be challenging to define designated communities
- Context: Institution has done the Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification ([TRAC](#)) before, but it hasn't always been clear about how to define designated community, wanted to look into additional guidance on the topic
- The DPC guidance doc has concrete, practical examples, and lists different ways to define designated community
 - Primary and secondary communities
 - Breaking things down at a collection level
- Exploring the question: can the general public be an appropriate designated community?
- How to fine tune definitions or look at them with different lenses/approaches
- Feel more confident now returning to the TRAC audit process
- Comments and discussion:
 - Trying to be more specific about designated community could help align strategies
 - A great thing about the DPC Technology Reports is that many of them are also translated into French

- You often have multiple designated communities, and need to define in order to do things for them, make appropriate decisions

Resource: DPC Executive Guide on Digital Preservation ([link](#))

- Advocacy as a challenge
- Context: Buy-in from the executive team at home institution, folks understand risks / loss already, but still struggling to move things forward. Challenge where risks are understood intellectually / theoretically, but consequences not fully felt
- Risks: <https://www.dpconline.org/digipres/implement-digipres/dpeg-home/dpeg-risks>
- Useful resource when trying to think about how to frame issues as damage to university, regulatory requirements, etc. trying to be more assertive in ways that motivates action from executives / decision makers
- Comments and discussion:
 - Importance of strategic communications
 - It's a challenge to even find capacity to test emergency procedures before an actual emergency occurs
 - The digital side of the library might manage / be involved in different certifications or benchmarking activities / audits, but might not be doing that across departments such as special collections or archives
 - Interesting to see what DPC resources there are at this level, not just for practitioners, but also these higher level type strategy documents

Resource: OPF Blog Post - “Validation OK” They Said: Fixing the Rendering of a So-Called Valid PDF by B. Caron ([link](#))

- Context: Working on PDFs and what to do about them
- Blog post resource digging into validation and PDF structures
- We know lots of theory when it comes to PDF, but in practice when we actually need to modify them that's much more difficult

- Comments and discussion:
 - Institution receiving lots of PDFs (theses, IR materials, etc.), need to check them, modify them, put metadata in etc., so we wanted to check a sample of PDFs to see what issues there are, for example some PDFs not opening in certain browsers, some PDFs saying they are PDF/A but aren't actually, etc. Will be writing a report on this situation available in French
 - Interest from other folks on this topic, investigating PDFs
 - Question about do we need to transform PDF into PDF/A and what is lost?
 - Issues around OCR / copy and paste / the way AI reads documents
 - An example from a few years ago where a student wanted to put embedded videos in a PDF, but the video was lost / didn't play when it was converted into PDF/A. Needed to get separate files submitted from the student to preserve separately.
 - Thinking about how preservation activities are related to access and use
 - There can be viruses in PDFs
 - PDF versions of finding aids doing unusual things, opening as print dialog, etc.

Resource: DPC Rapid Assessment Model (RAM) Version 3 ([link](#))

- Topic / theme of resource: Maturity modelling, digital preservation capability
- Draws from multiple existing maturity models, including NDSA Levels of Preservation, CoreTrustSeal, etc. and is meant to be broadly applicable and easy to understand regardless of an organization's scale or approach to preservation.
- Meant to be quick and simple rather than a deep dive (i.e. can be done in less than 2hrs)
- Translated into multiple languages, including French
- DPC RAM is broken down into:
 - 6 organizational capabilities - looking at resourcing, policy, support
 - 5 service capabilities - looking at what preservation processes are in place

- Rating yourself on a scale of 0 to 4 - where you are now, and then think about where you would like to be in the future. Each number on the scale has examples to help you decide where you might fall from 0 (minimal awareness) to 4 (optimized)
- Compared to the previous version of the DPC RAM, v3 has been updated to include:
 - Examples of ethical issues and social and cultural rights, Indigenous data sovereignty, accessibility, and importance of collaborative community relationships with data custodians and other relevant stakeholders at ingest and content description stages, role in mediating access
 - More examples related to assessment (e.g. benchmarking like the DPC RAM, and storage-related assessments related to risk management)
 - Examples highlighting the importance of preserving meaning, usability, and functionality of content over time
- There's also a follow up resource called "Level up with DPC RAM" meant to help you address the gaps you identified
- Advice they give is to be realistic in your self assessment and also in your goals
- Also know your scope when you're starting out, are you looking at your whole institution or just a specific section?
- DPC RAM says they specifically exclude IT security issues for confidentiality reasons and because other guidance exists for that, but I think that what they do include related to IT, security, access, risk management, etc. is likely good enough for the purposes of the exercise