

The Final Report from the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access includes a wide range of recommendations for decision makers and stakeholders to consider as they seek economically sustainable preservation practices for digital information. The following divides recommendations according to various entities, from national and international agencies to individuals:

### **National and International Agencies**

*Trusted international, national, and public institutions—libraries, archives, museums, research institutes, consortia, regulatory agencies*

1. Create mechanisms for public-private partnerships to align or reconcile benefits that accrue to commercial and cultural entities. These agencies can play a critical role in convening stakeholders, sponsoring cooperation and collaboration, and ensuring representation of all stakeholders.
2. Convene expert communities to address the selection and preservation needs of materials of particular interest to the public for which there is no stewardship (Web materials, digital orphans).
3. Act expeditiously to reform national and international copyright legislation to address digital preservation needs.
4. Create financial incentives to encourage private entities to preserve digital materials on the public behalf.

### **Funders and Sponsors of Data Creation**

*Private and public agencies and foundations*

1. Create preservation mandates when possible, ensuring that they adhere to community selection criteria, and specifying roles and responsibilities of individuals and organizations.
2. Invest in building capacity throughout the system. The Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Science Foundation, and JISC have set important precedents for supporting capacity building within specific communities of practice. Seeding stewardship capacity and developing sustainable funding models should, however, be a high priority for all funders.
3. Provide leadership in training and education for 21st century preservation, including domain expertise and core competencies in STEM. Such organizations as the National Archives, Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, National Science Foundation, Smithsonian Institution, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities in the United States; and the British Library, National Archives, JISC, Digital Curation Centre, and Digital Preservation Coalition in the United Kingdom each have a remit for promoting digital preservation skills.
4. Fund the modeling and testing of domain-specific preservation strategies. This would entail developing domain-specific requirements for lifecycle management to create a timeline of predictable risks, strategies to meet them, and triggering mechanisms to address them.

### **Stakeholder Organizations**

*Universities, research institutions, private companies, third-party archives, professional societies, trade organizations*

1. Secure preservation of high-value institutional materials by making explicit roles and responsibilities across organizational boundaries.
2. Develop preservation strategies that assign responsibilities for achieving outcomes. Service-level agreements and MOUs with third-party archives should include contingency plans for handoffs and clauses for putting internal monitoring systems in place.
3. Leverage resources; create economies of scope and economies of scale by partnering with related organizations and industry professional associations.
4. Work with domain and preservation experts to ensure that personnel are fully equipped with the technical skills needed for selecting, curating, and preserving materials.
5. Fund internal preservation and access activities as core infrastructure.

### **Individuals**

*Principal investigators, data creators, individual authors, creators, and scholars*

1. Provide nonexclusive rights to preserve content they create and to distribute this content through publicly accessible venues.
2. Partner with preservation experts early in the lifecycle of one's own digital data, to ensure that data are ready to hand off to an archive in forms that will be useful over the long term.
3. Actively participate in professional societies and relevant organizations in developing stewardship best practices and selection priorities.