



# Digital Preservation Repository as a Disaster Management Solution

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Allison Carter Flavia Ruffner, APTTrust  
Michael Runyon, William & Mary Libraries

We assert that digital preservation repositories and consortia may offer unique opportunities for effective Disaster Management for digital collections across a diverse set of communities.





### *Challenges for Digital Collections*

Digital repositories face unique threats on multiple fronts while having technical and logistical challenges addressing their vulnerabilities to these threats.

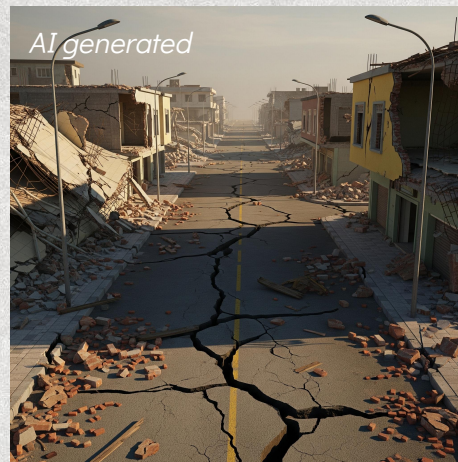
#### Threats:

- Natural Disasters
- Cyberattacks - 105% increase from 2022 to 2023 in Higher Ed

#### Vulnerabilities:

- Digital Fragility - system patching, decay
- Slow to adopt modern IT management strategies\*

*\*This is especially true for cultural heritage solutions*





*A consortium of 20+ universities and memory institutions within the US dedicated to preserving the scholarly and cultural record.*

- Provide a sustainable digital repository serving the long term goals of membership.
- Desktop and self hosted tools to support preservation workflows
  - API for automated work
  - Fixity checks
- Preservation related services and activities
  - Disaster Recovery and assisted large scale restoration
- A community for shared learning, problem solving, and support for digital preservation





*What did we learn from the interviews*

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- APTrust viewed as helpful partner in digital preservation overall
  - Tools and community support from the consortium crucial for the digital preservation programs
- Interviewees wanted APTrust involved in their disaster management plans, but had not formally involved them at time of interviews
  - All interviewees named specific features of APTrust, especially geographically distributed copies, as vital for their disaster management solutions
- Disaster plans were informal/out of date



*Looking ahead*

- Study highlighted that this topic deserves more attention as cultural heritage institutions grapple with how to best steward digital collections
- Hope to do follow on study to explore more how digital preservation consortia/communities can/should play a role in disaster management
- Also opportunities to see how the digital legacies of marginalized communities are uniquely at risk
  - Climate change
  - Lack of institutional support
  - Cyberattacks

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# Thanks!

Allison C. F. Ruffner  
[flavia.ruffner@aptrust.org](mailto:flavia.ruffner@aptrust.org)



Michael Runyon  
[mrunyon@wm.edu](mailto:mrunyon@wm.edu)

“Digital Preservation Repository as a  
Disaster Management Solution”

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