

# **Expectations of Participation in the Academic Preservation Trust**

## **Version 1.0**

This is a statement of mutual expectations by the sustaining members (those that pay annual membership fees) of the Academic Preservation Trust (APTrust) consortium.

### **PURPOSE**

APTrust is committed to the creation and management of a sustainable environment for digital preservation. What makes what we do truly sustainable is our collaborative culture and ongoing collective consideration of the challenges that digital stewardship presents. Our members bring both of these qualities and more to the development of an aggregated repository that is helping address one of the greatest challenges facing research libraries and their parent institutions – preventing the permanent loss of scholarship and cultural records being produced today.

The APTrust consortium has collaboratively developed its shared preservation repository for long-term deposit of content, with the goal of increasing its depositors' confidence in their ability to recover that content in its original digital form whenever needed. That increased confidence is an important piece of the depositors' own digital preservation plans, and it is based on particular features of APTrust's preservation storage environments. Among such features are redundancy (multiple copies of digital content), multiple zones of availability, geographic and technical diversity when needed, and detailed record-keeping that supports tracking of provenance of the digital content. Because APTrust is a collaborative endeavor, all depositors deposit content in the APTrust preservation repository at their own risk.

### **General Assumption**

- APTrust develops and maintains a production digital preservation repository capable of achieving six replications in multiple availability zones.
- APTrust will be operated and managed by the University of Virginia (UVA), with ongoing guidance from the APTrust governing board and from APTrust sustaining members.

- APTrust sustaining members will participate in long-term governance of the consortium.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONSORTIUM MEMBERS**

### **UVA contributions**

- UVA has committed to contribute funding totaling \$400,000 per year as a substantial contribution to the costs of staff for APTrust. In addition, UVA personnel will assist with the project as needed.
- UVA will issue an invoice to each APTrust sustaining member for the agreed upon annual fee required to sustain the repository environment and related activities. The fee will be payable on or before August 1 of the relevant year. APTrust staff will provide sustaining members with periodic progress and annual financial reports related to operation of the repository environment and the consortium overall.

### **Sustaining Member Contributions**

- Each sustaining member pays \$20,000 to the APTrust to cover the anticipated expenses of sustaining the digital repository environment and related activities. That fee entitles each sustaining member to deposit up to 10 TB of digital material in APTrust's core service or as otherwise specified in the applicable membership category, and additional storage capacity is available at additional cost. APTrust will use these funds to pursue the goals of the consortium.
- Individual sustaining members are encouraged to contribute time and expertise toward development and review of governance and use policies and to technology and content-related issues.
- Sustaining members will determine what content they will deposit.
- Sustaining members may consider extending their APTrust membership to strategic partners in cultural heritage preservation through subaccounts, as outlined in the APTrust Governance Manual.

## **LIMITATIONS**

APTrust sustaining members (including UVA) make an annual commitment to each other and to the project. No institution is committed to provide funds beyond a term of one year. However, the sustaining members agree to confer in good faith and to evaluate APTrust's viability on an ongoing basis, with the expectation that the sustaining members intend to develop a preservation infrastructure of an enduring nature. UVA commits to enabling all sustaining members a reasonable and appropriate opportunity to retrieve all content submitted for APTrust ingest, should the APTrust sustaining members decide to

terminate this program.

The funding described in this statement will be used for the ongoing development and operation of the digital repository environment and directly related activities, including investigation of challenges in digital preservation and exploration of potential solutions.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Relationships**

The APTrust sustaining members act independently in the performance of any work. Nothing contained in this expectations statement will be construed as creating a partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between the APTrust members or as granting any APTrust member the authority to bind or contract any obligation in the name of or on the account of another member or to make any statements, representations, warranties or commitments on behalf of another member.

### **Term**

Membership in the APTrust consortium will renew annually upon payment of the annual sustaining-member fee, effective for a year beginning July 1 of the year to which the payment applies, as indicated on the relevant invoice. The consortium expects advance notice by March 1 from any member of a decision not to participate in the consortium, with the withdrawal effective the following July 1.

### **Acknowledgment**

These expectations and other conditions of participation apply to any entity that pays membership fees to the APTrust consortium. APTrust encourages affirmation of commitment to this and other relevant documents and policies that can be found on the main page of the consortium's documentation wiki at <https://wiki.aptrust.org/>. Affirmation is implied through the Advisory Committee's biennial review of this document.

### **Version History**

Previous versions were living documents and changes cumulative. With Version 2.0 this has become a versioned document with DOI.

Version	Status	Date	Notes
1.1	Done	August 2020	Communications and Policy Group Approve
1.7	Done	September 2020	Advisory Board Approve / updated title

2.0	Done	October 2021	Board Approval and DOI uploaded
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