

Academic Preservation Trust

Vision, Mission, and Shared Values Policy

Version 3.0

Vision

Collaborative preservation and stewardship of the scholarly and digital cultural record.

Mision

The Academic Preservation Trust (APTrust) is a consortium committed to sustaining secure, diverse, and open digital infrastructure to preserve the scholarly and digital cultural record. Our members collaborate to overcome complex sociotechnical and fiscal challenges to preservation.

Values

APTrust is a Digital Preservation Services Collaborative member that published a [declaration of shared values](#) in 2023. APTrust affirms its commitment to these values and seeks to demonstrate that commitment in the following ways:

Collaboration

- We collaborate within the organization. APTrust members collaborate through interest groups, working groups, and committees.
- We collaborate with other organizations that share these values. APTrust is a member of the Digital Preservation Coalition and the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, and APTrust members regularly collaborate with other practitioners around the globe to further digital preservation.
- We share the products of our work freely. APTrust staff and members create open-source solutions that are of immediate use to the community to facilitate digital preservation for any size or type of organization. We also share our documentation and work products freely as part of our commitment to transparency.

Affordability and Sustainability

- While APTrust members pay an annual membership fee, APTrust sustaining members can add associate members for other cultural heritage organizations with which they collaborate without the associate members paying their own membership fees. This lowers the barrier to using APTrust digital preservation services for smaller organizations.
- We also take advantage of partnerships and technologies to minimize costs.

Inclusiveness

- While our official name is Academic Preservation Trust, we welcome any cultural heritage organization into our membership.
- APTrust members choose which collections they preserve, with the only limitation relating to the security of private information.
- We provide access to enterprise-level preservation services to organizations of any size through our associate membership model.

Technological Diversity

- We use open technologies and commodity cloud services to build and provision digital preservation systems in multiple geographic regions.
- We adopt open standards wherever possible to promote the interoperability of its tools and systems.
- We develop open-source tools such as DART, the Digital Archivist's Resource Tool, to package and transfer content, and we make these tools available for others.

Portability/Interoperability

- We use object storage industry standards to transfer digital content and verify its integrity with independent fixity checks.
- We develop infrastructure that is designed to work with any cloud provider. We strive to create tools that fit the general digital preservation use case, not just for our systems.

Openness and Transparency

- We favor the use of open technologies and protocols, and we contribute to standards development for digital preservation.
- We hold regular member meetings that are open to the community and share our goals, progress, and financial details on our website and other places.
- We make our technical documentation, governance and policy documents, and budget reports publicly available.

Accountability

- We have conducted a self-audit of ISO 16363 and maintain an open wiki of documentation and policies that demonstrate conformance.
- We publish all our preservation practices for any community member to examine and challenge.

Stewardship Continuity

- As a membership organization, we have built a robust operational reserve. We strive to have enough operational reserves on hand to allow members to make alternate arrangements for their collections in the event of APTrust's dissolution.
- We care about the collections we preserve and have engaged in contingency planning for ongoing stewardship of member content if a member cannot continue paying membership or storage fees.

Advocacy

- Through our interest groups, our members learn advocacy techniques from each other.
- We participate in digital preservation research projects to advance sustainable strategies for distributed digital preservation.

Empowerment

- Our community of members is our most significant strength. Members regularly learn from each other in various ways, from operational strategies for digital preservation to advocacy strategies for getting through bureaucracy.
- The regular linear growth in deposited collections demonstrates that by working together, we can do more.

Review

Review frequency: Every 3 years.

Next review date: April 2027

Version History

This document was originally called Mission and Goals, and drafted by Teri Goodall and Associates LLC after a May 5, 2014 meeting in Columbus, Ohio. It was approved by APTrust Governing Board March 19, 2015 and update added February 12, 2018 by Program Director Chip German. Version 2.0 adds “Core Principles” and this version approved by APTrust Board September 2021. Version 3.0 removes the Strategic Plan component and renames the Core Principles component to Vision, Mission, and Shared Values.

Version	Status	Date	Notes
1.0	Done	8/2020	This original draft
1.1	Done	8/2020	Communications and Policy Group Approve
1.7	Done	9/2020	Advisory Committee Approve / updated title
2.0	Done	10/2021	Board Approval and DOI uploaded
3.0	Done	2/2024	Advisory Committee Approval
3.0	Done	4/2024	Governing Board Approval and DOI uploaded