Título: National Digital Preservation Initiatives

Autor: Beagrie Neil   **Precio:** $200.00

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Libraries and archives have long recognized the importance of international cooperation and collaboration. As cultural and scholarly institutions in particular and society in general have embraced information technologies, digital content and the networks over which it is transmitted have shown how permeable civil and national boundaries can be. This phenomenon has highlighted the importance of cooperation in the global world of information as well as the subtleties of navigating within the physical world of different institutional, legal, and economic cultures. Our challenge is to respect those many boundaries and differences while sustaining practices and programs that will enable us to preserve contemporary digital expression for use by generations to come. Few would deny the long-term importance of digital information, whether it is embodied in text, Web sites, electronic books and periodicals, music, images, cinema, or any other format. How to preserve that digital content, however, presents an open and demanding set of questions.

The importance of answering these questions has become greater as the volume of digital information has increased. For the last two-and-a-half years, the Library of Congress (LC) has been engaged in an extensive planning process as part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP). Created by the U.S. Congress in December 2000 under Public Law 106-554, the NDIIPP calls on the LC to lead a national planning effort for the long-term preservation of digital content and to work collaboratively with representatives of other federal, research, library, and business organizations. The LC has interpreted its charge broadly to include consultations with colleagues at other national libraries who have begun to address the challenges of digital resources and from whom we have much to learn.