



UNESCO PERSIST

Community Engagement Guidelines

Call for Community Feedback

The UNESCO PERSIST is a project of the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) Programme concerned with preservation and long-term access to the World's Digital Heritage. It aims to mobilize experts from the broad stakeholder community to facilitate the development of effective policies, sustainable technical approaches, and best practices in selecting and ensuring long term access to valuable digital artefacts.

Ever since its establishment in 1992, the Memory of the World Programme has been raising awareness of the parlous state of preservation and access to documentary heritage in various parts of the world. With the rapid proliferation of digital technologies, MoW programme has recognized the risks of historical and cultural amnesia due to vast volumes of digital content that requires curation and preservation and the fast obsolescence of computing technologies that are needed to access digital heritage.

PERSIST intends to empower the government, memory, cultural, and scientific institutions and citizens to secure sustainable access to the digital heritage through:

1	Policy	Development of policies for selecting and preserving digital content and ensuring the means of access to digital heritage
2	Content	Best practices in selecting, curating, and preserving valuable content from growing amounts of digital information
3	Technology & Research	Fostering new approaches and promoting solutions to reduce the impact of technology obsolescence on sustained access to digital information.

PERSIST Steering Committee has issued guidelines for the PERSIST Community collaborations through

- *Open calls for proposals*, inviting community members to recommend and undertake activities in an area they consider important
- *Thematic calls for proposals*, to respond to challenges identified and published by PERSIST.

It will coordinate efforts towards preparing recommendations to the UNESCO and member states through

- *Expert Committees* of specialists who are invited or volunteer to lead specific initiatives and advise PERSIST and the UNESCO on specific aspect, e.g., sustained use of legacy software
- *Task-forces*, comprising individuals who are invited or volunteer to work concertedly towards particular objectives and outcomes, e.g., guidelines for digital content selection.

While PERSIST cannot fund initiatives directly, it will support fund-raising campaigns and grant proposals.

Community Feedback by 25 May, 2018

We invite the Community to provide feedback on the Guidelines by annotating the guidelines on-line at www.unescopersist.org/community or sending an email to feedback@unescopersist.org titled *PERSIST Community Guidelines - Feedback*