Digital Preservation Essentials. Edited by Christopher Prom. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2016. 135 pp. Softcover. $34.99. $24.99 for SAA members.

Digital Preservation Essentials, a slim volume at 125 pages, comprises two modules: "Preserving Digital Objects" and "Digital Preservation Storage." These modules are numbers 12 and 13 in the larger *Trends in Archival Practice* series edited by Christopher J. Prom. Together the modules provide a high-level overview of the field of digital preservation's current theories and practices. Each module consists of an introduction, two or three short sections, and a summary and recommendations, as well as further reading, case studies, and a glossary. Several communities of readers would benefit from this treatment of the topic: students or archivists new to digital preservation, as an introduction to this large and emerging field; archivists who work in digital preservation, as a reminder of high-level concepts that might get lost in daily work; managers and IT staff who are tasked with supporting digital preservation activities but do not have the archival or technical understanding to do so; and digital preservationists who will find many examples and talking points to bring to managers and IT staff to aid their work in advocating and providing training for digital preservation.

The first module, "Preserving Digital Objects," introduces some basic first steps, reviews standards such as OAIS and its component parts, and discusses common tools and systems. While I would have included Brian F. Lavoie's 2004 introduction to OAIS[1] in the reading list, this section otherwise does a fine job of explaining the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model and the Trusted Digital Repository (TDR), two foundational standards in the field. This section also clarifies without oversimplifying the building blocks of the OAIS standard: Submission Information Package (SIP), Archival Information Package (AIP), and Dissemination Information Package (DIP). In the volume's introduction, Kyle R. Rimkus bemoans the state of digital preservation education and understanding, in particular its dependence on jargon and highly specialized or technical terms. This module's strong point is explaining, using, and discussing the terms—assuming a level of comprehension in the reader, or the ability to do further research—while not getting bogged down in the details.

The rest of module 12 consists of a tools and systems section ("Preservation Actions in Context") and examples and case studies in the appendices. These sections again excel at introducing and discussing new and complex terms and ideas, putting the reader in a position to pursue a more comprehensive understanding. I found particularly useful the treatment of technical, administrative, and preservation metadata as well as the MODS, METS, and PREMIS schemas used to manage them, again with the understanding that the practitioner would need further study. Additionally, the descriptions of management tools and systems, including Digital Preservation Systems (DPS), Collections Management Systems (CMS), Institutional Repositories (IR), and Digital Asset Management Systems (DAMS), demystify these concepts that are also common buzzwords. While the examples and case studies show how the concepts discussed are being implemented, they run the slight risk of becoming dated in the quickly changing landscape of digital preservation. Even so, the exercise of following along with using a tool or a workflow is a good way to understand a concept and begin thinking about applying it to one's own situation.

While module 12 reviews standards and metadata, familiar concepts to archivists, and often makes analogies between traditional preservation and digital preservation work, module 13, "Digital Preservation Storage," really delves into some less familiar territory. Perhaps most ideal would be a reading group where the archivist could explain module 12 to the IT technician, and vice versa for module 13. The module on storage is about 20 pages shorter than the module on standards and metadata, but still manages to introduce key ideas. With a section on best practices, currently available storage solutions, and storage decision-making and implementation, the reader gets a good overview. This section is perhaps at a greater risk of becoming outdated; however, the three case studies allow the reader to understand concepts and tools as well as decision-making by following the storage solutions selected by the libraries. While the case studies are each on archives within university libraries, they are different in terms of on-site versus hosted storage, and one smaller institution is also included.

Something to remember about any aspect of digital preservation is that it takes teamwork. This is not explicitly mentioned in the book, but is implied throughout. Each case study includes various actors. While lone arrangers are not addressed explicitly, we glimpse their situation in the final case study of Northern Illinois University, which outsources at least some of its storage. Perhaps also understood is that no one could be a master in understanding or executing all of the concepts, tools, and actions described in this manual. The manual provides an introduction and overview, with the expectation that a practitioner would necessarily need to read and research further into one or several areas. The manual also provides a baseline for a shared understanding among various digital preservation players, including practitioners (e.g., metadata specialists, digitization technicians, and repository managers), managers, IT support staff, and funders.

In the end, the two modules that compose *Digital Preservation Essentials* fit well into the *Trends in Archival Practice* series. A reader will come away with a high-level understanding, an ability to communicate key points, and a starting place for further study. In a field overflowing with jargon, few standards, and emerging best practices, these modules are a useful introduction, giving just enough detail needed to understand the concepts.

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NOTE

1. Brian F. Lavoie, "Technology Watch Report—The Open Archival Information System Reference Model: Introductory Guide," Digital Preservation Coalition, January 2004, http://www.dpconline .org/docman/technology-watch-reports/91-introduction-to-oais/file.