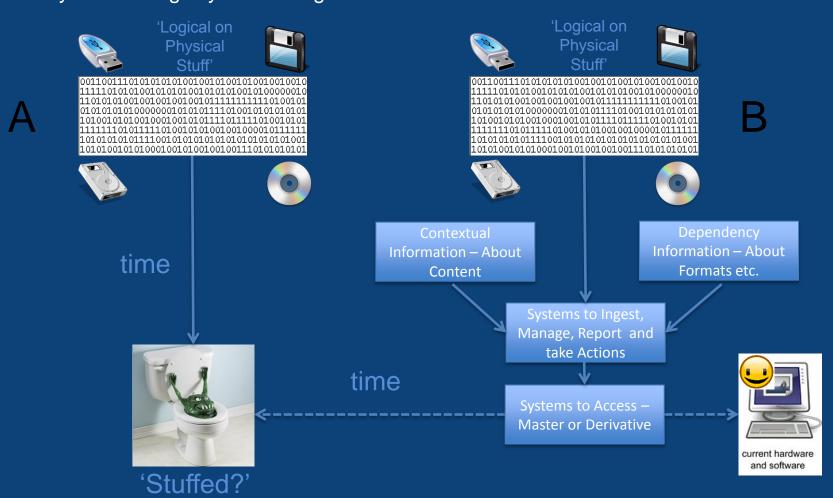


## 'If a tree falls in the forest': recording and sharing digital preservation knowledge on formats, software and dependencies at the NLA.

David Pearson
National Library of Australia CurateGear
6 January 2012 (UNC)



**Mission:** The primary objective of preservation activities within the NLA is to maintain the ability to meaningfully access digital collection content over time.





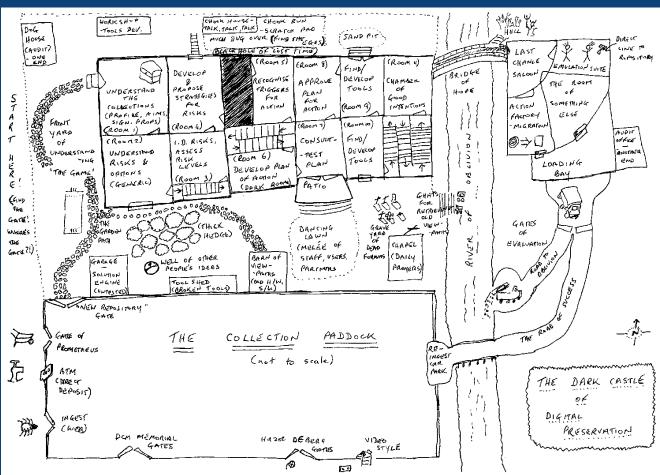
## **Required preservation processes**

The Library must be able to:

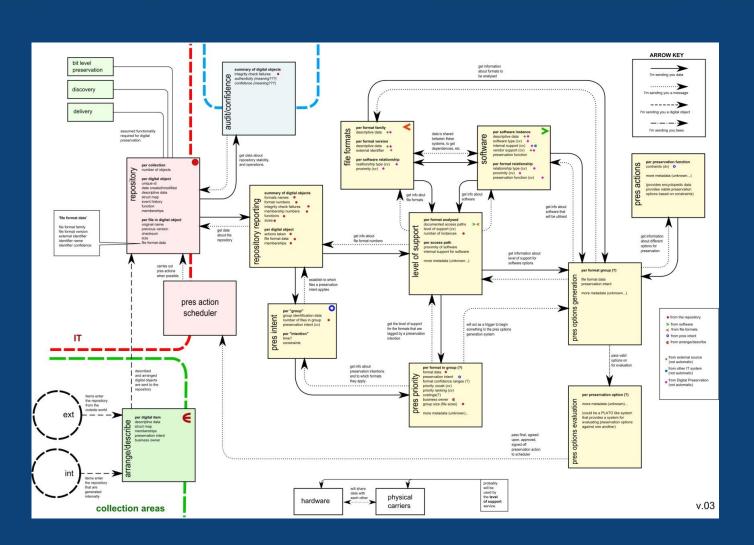
- Understand what it holds in its collections;
- Understand what its preservation intentions are for every digital object and what it is entitled to do to realise its intentions;
- Understand what is required to provide access, existing inhibitors to access, and the current level of support the Library is able to provide;
- Evaluate and monitor the degree of risk arising from collection composition, preservation intentions and available level of support within the Library for digital collection content, and monitor for risk conditions arising during general Digital Library operations;
- Anticipate the effects of changes in support;
- Recognise planning triggers, and plan and take appropriate action on a scale appropriate to the size of the target; and
- Audit the effectiveness of its preservation arrangements and modify the arrangements if necessary.



Given this we designed this data model for expressing some of these concepts:



Perhaps we will use this model instead?:



The Library expects to take into account indicators of 'preservation intent', 'significance', and 'level of support' within monitoring and reporting activities, and in evaluations of risk and prioritisation for preservation planning and action.





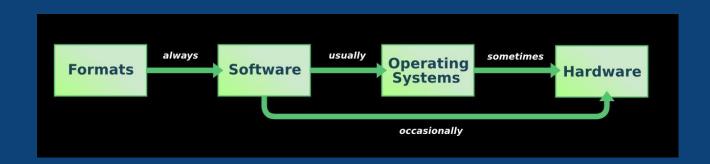
Preservation intent – indicates the expectations for preservation for content:

- whether content is to be preserved;
- who is responsible for preservation of the content;
- the period over which content must be preserved;
- the required level of support for access to the content over time; for example, that the
  Library intends to actively maintain the ability to both present and modify content, or only to
  present content, or does not intend to actively maintain access to content beyond its
  expected useful life.

Preservation intent may also extend to include more specific characteristics to be supported, based on curatorial input or constraints imposed by rights policies or agreements with rights holders.

Significance – indicates the relative priority required for taking preservation action to maintain access to content, as determined by collection curators; for example, content rated as highly significant would be prioritised for preservation planning and action before content of lower significance.

Level of support – indicates how well a digital collection object is supported within the Library, based on a combination of how much is known about the object and its components (including their file formats), and the degree to which supporting software or hardware environments are available.

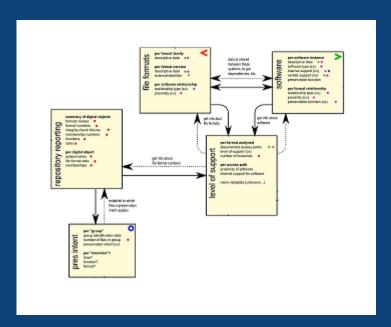




## **Reference knowledgebases**

Enable staff to create, update and maintain reference information knowledgebases on:

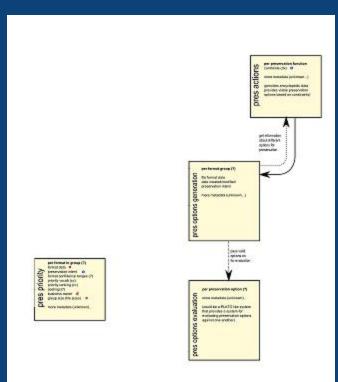
- a. File formats and versions
- b. Software and hardware components that support access to file formats and versions, for maintaining access to managed content;
- c. The level of support available for particular file formats and versions:
  - i. sets of software or hardware components available to support access to formats;
  - ii. functions supported, both for providing access to content and for use in preservation action – for example, presentation, modification, batch processing;
  - iii. fidelity of support how well functions are supported;
     and
  - iv. known risks, including potential inhibitors to preservation, associated with formats or supporting software or hardware;
- d. Preservation intent descriptions and parameters for sets of content.

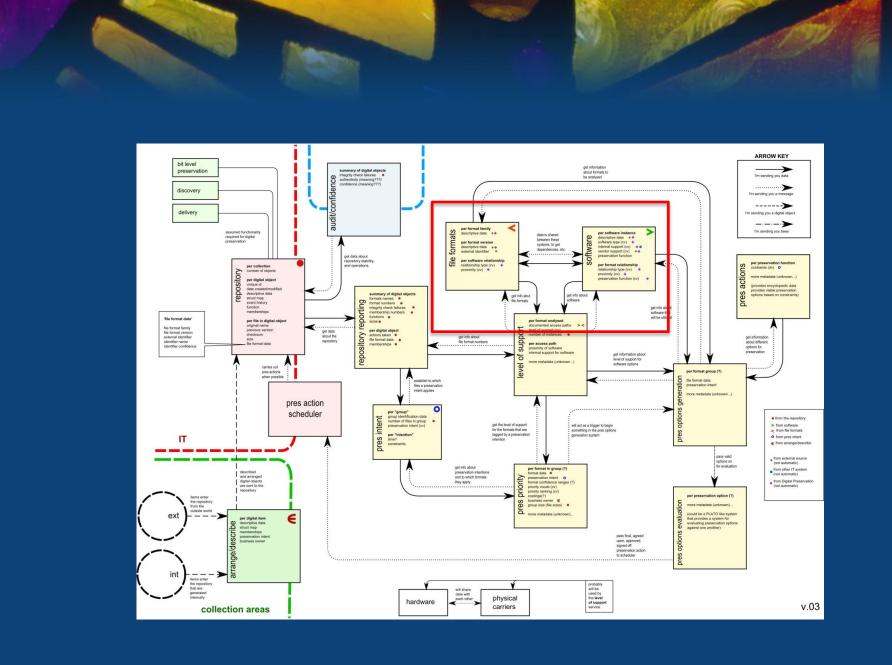


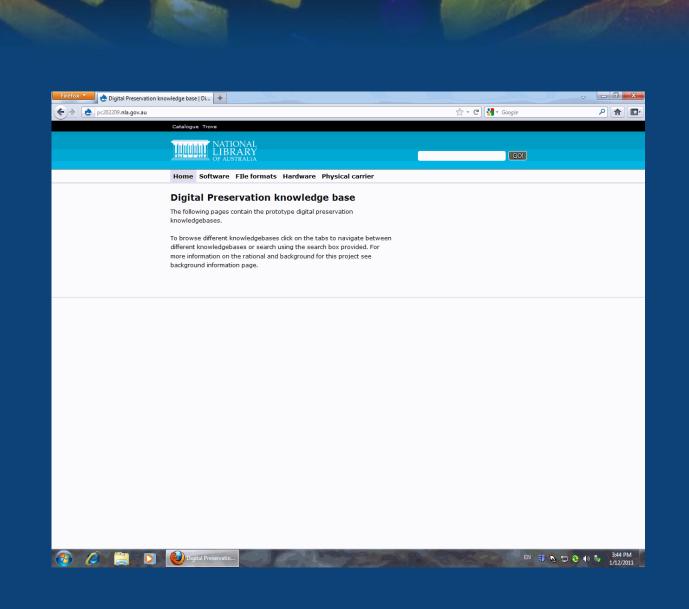


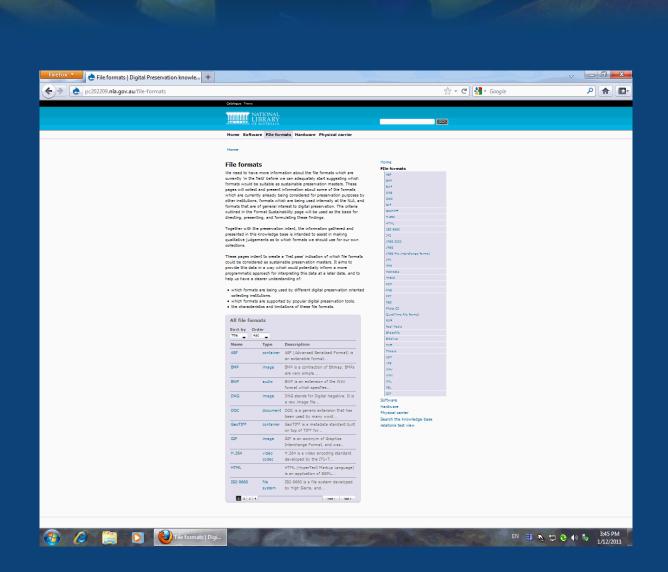
Other systems are also required to interrelate in this ecosystem such as:

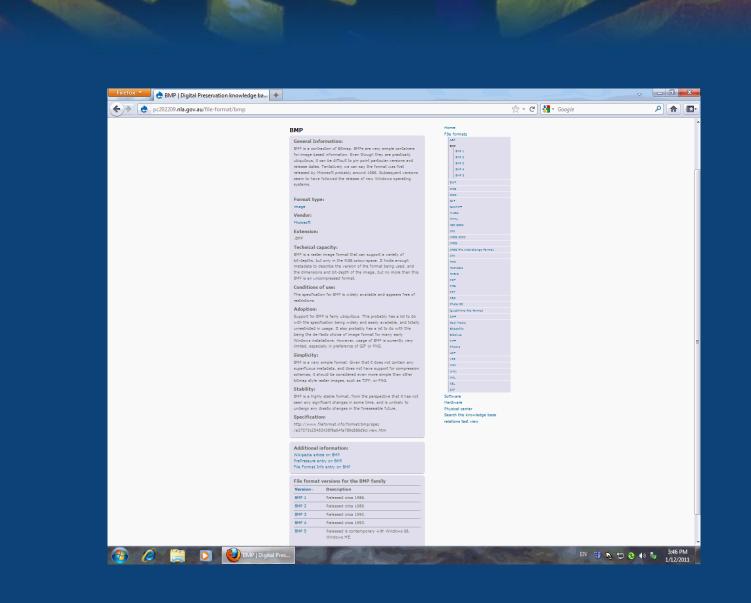
- •Preservation monitoring, reporting and prioritisation
- Preservation options and preservation action planning
- Preservation action evaluation

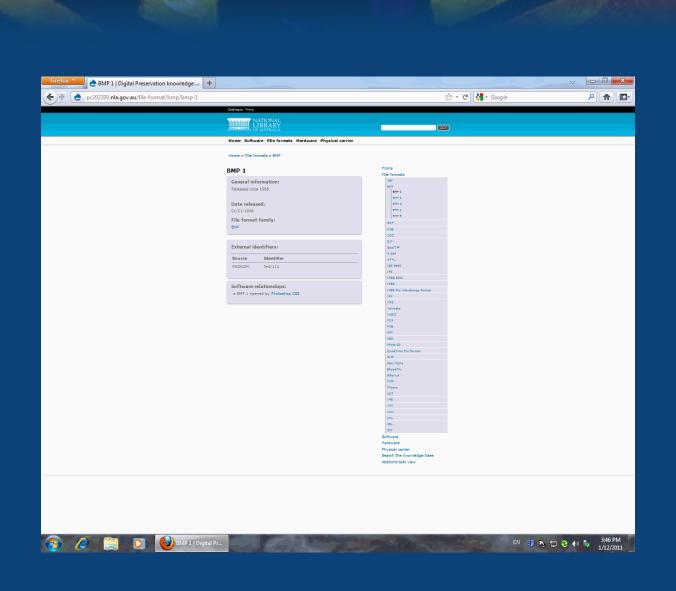


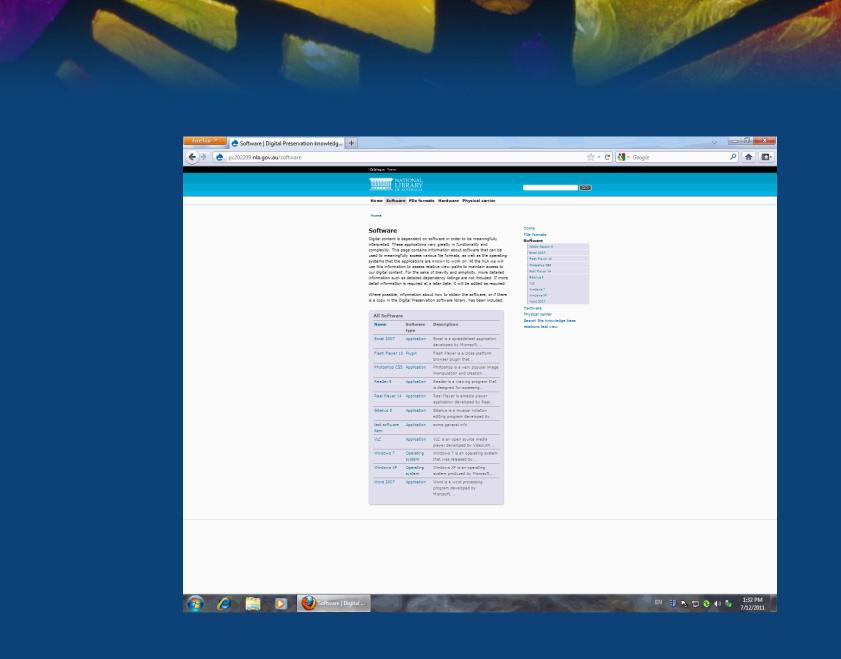


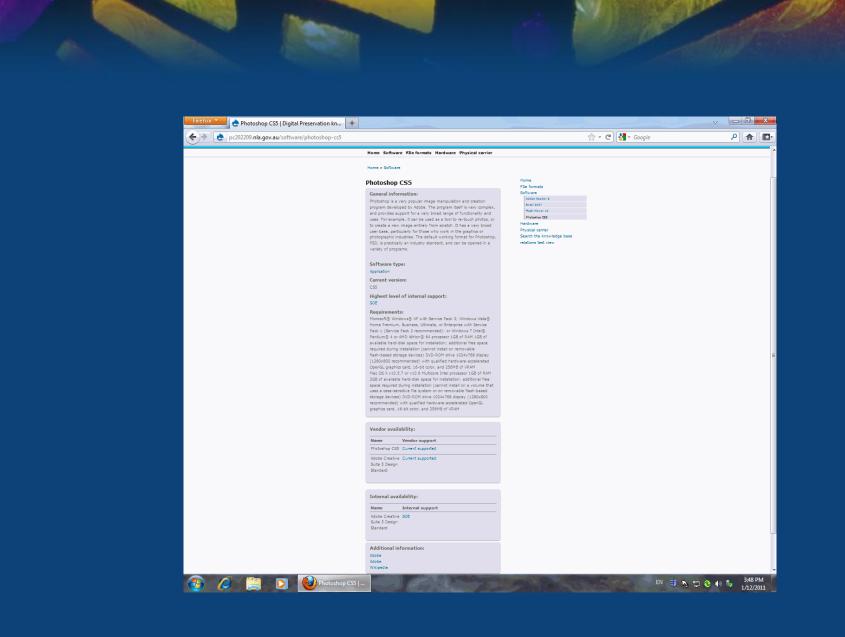


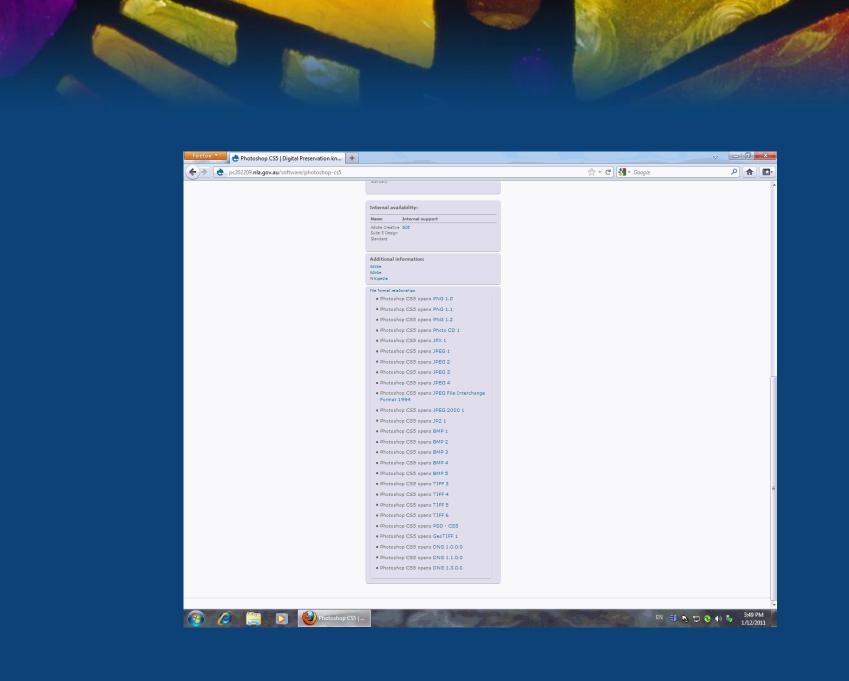


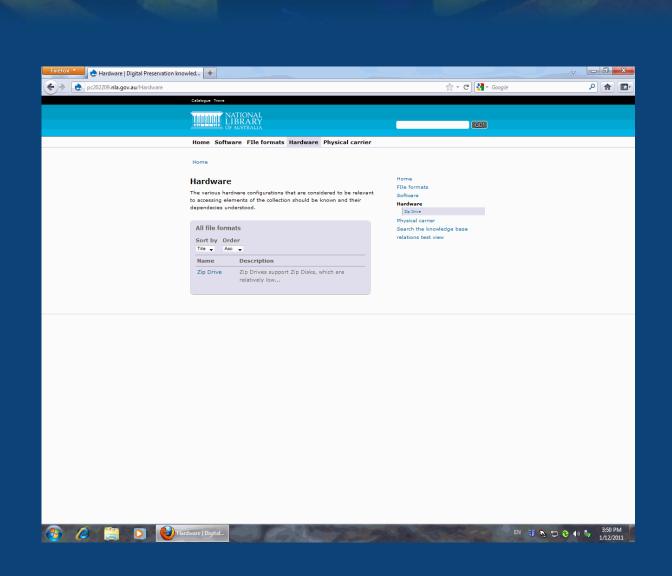


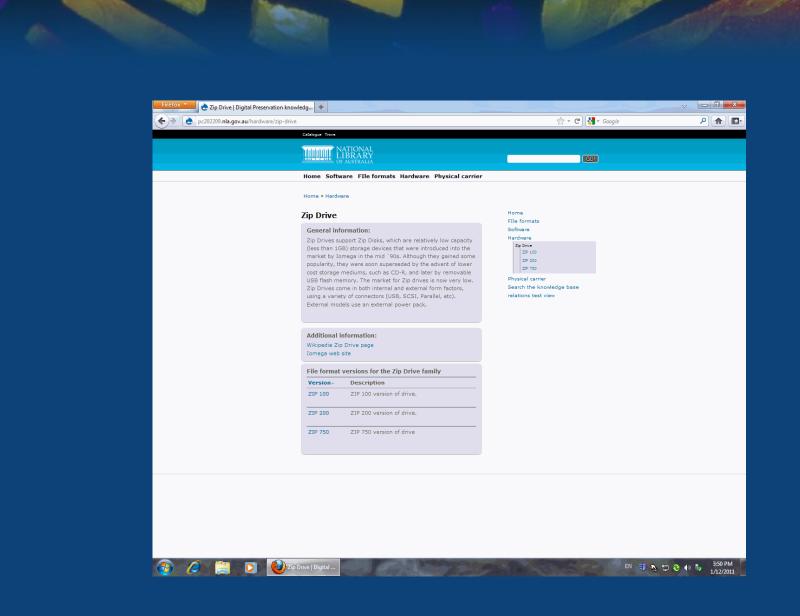


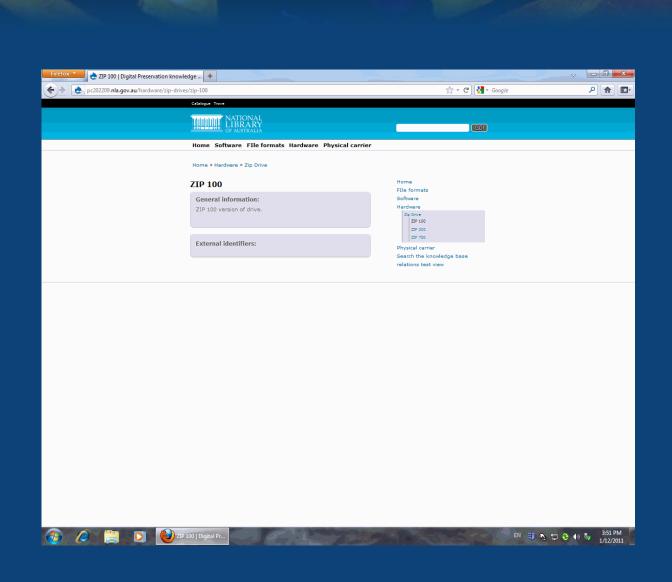


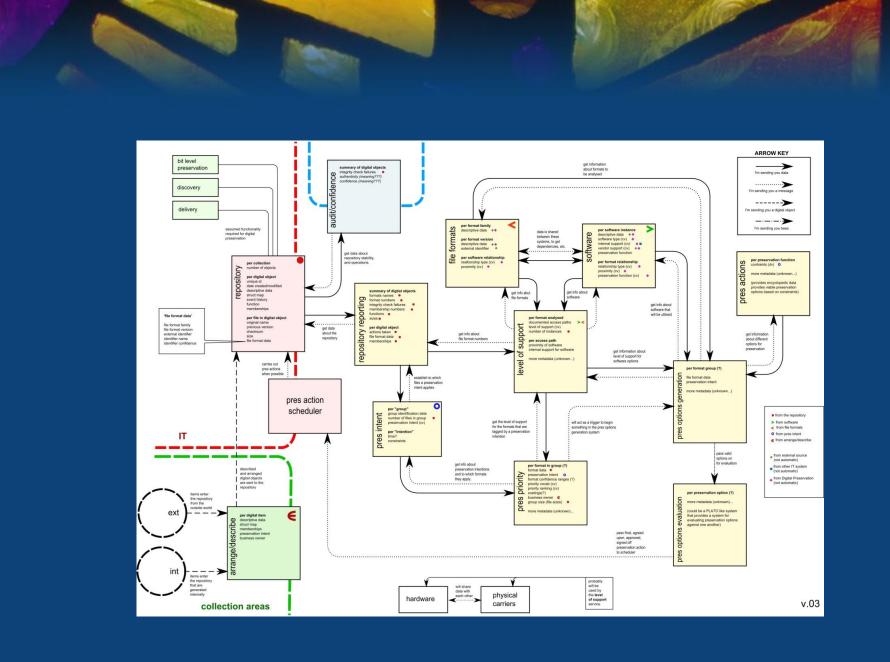
















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