

# Preserving Preprints for the Long Term: Scope and Challenges



**Thib Guicherd-Callin (he/him)**  
Program Manager  
LOCKSS Program, Stanford University Libraries

# A Research Record at Risk

*“Digital preservation is not keeping up with the growth of scholarly knowledge.*

*Recognizing its causes is the first step to securing records everywhere for future generations.”*

Nature 635, 785-786 (2024)

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-03842-z>

*“If preprints are first-class research objects...they merit more serious consideration for preservation to ensure long-term access.”*

Rieger, Oya Y. “Preprints in the Spotlight.” (2020)

doi: <https://doi.org/10.18665/sr.313288>.

# (R)evolutions in Scholarly Publishing

## 1990s: 1st digital revolution

- Paper publishing → e-journals and books
- Local ownership → remote access
- Authoritative copies → ephemeral formats

## 2010s: 2nd digital revolution

- Dwindling reliance on older publishing models, workflows, and incentives
- Tremendous growth of open access
- Expansion of the scholarly record to include data sets, methods, code, prepublication results, **preprints...**



# A Collection of Nested Challenges

## Challenges of Web archiving:

- Static vs. dynamic documents; server-side vs. client-side; fragmented Web infrastructure; frequent minor changes; single point of origin/failure, **plus...**

## Challenges of scholarly Web preservation:

- Fragmentation of components and rich content like slides, video, data sets, code; frequent changes in business partnerships, IP ownership, **plus...**

## Challenges specific to preprint preservation:

- Version of record/recording of versions; unique affordances like commenting, annotation; expansion of impact factors; emulation, migration, authentic replication; less Website-like, more repository-like

# Call to Action

- **What** are all the unique challenges of preservation for preprints?
- **Who** should be tackling the task of their preservation?
- **What happens** if we don't act?

Join us for breakfast tomorrow to continue the discussion,

**or** share your thoughts online:

<https://bit.ly/4gc00HJ>

