

OAIS - AHDS Mappings

An Overview of the AHDS Digital Archive, using the OAIS Reference Model

The AHDS aids the discovery, creation and preservation of digital resources in and for research, teaching and learning in the arts and humanities.

The OAIS (Open Archival Information System) reference model is an ISO standard for the long-term curation of digital objects

The AHDS has five centres, hosted by universities across England and Scotland, covering Archaeology, History, Literature, Languages and Linguistics, the Performing Arts and the Visual Arts.

The AHDS Centres are responsible for negotiating and accepting digital resources into the AHDS collection. Staff at AHDS Centres accept Submission Information Packages (SIPs) from depositors and prepare these for preservation as Archival Information Packages (AIPs) following the guidance provided in the AHDS Preservation Handbooks, and the procedures in their Centre Ingest Manuals.

The AHDS Collections Preservation policy is based on a three tiered understanding of digital preservation:

1. Preservation of the bit streams that ultimately represent the information stored in any digital resource
2. Preservation of the *information content* (text, images, sounds etc.) encoded in the bit streams
3. Preservation of the *experience* (speed, layout, display device, input device characteristics etc.) of interacting with the information content

The AHDS stores three logically distinct versions of each digital resource.

The *original version*, which consists of all the files given to the AHDS by a depositor, along with scanned copies of the AHDS licence form, catalogue form and data and documentation transfer form.

A *preservation version* consisting of the information content encoded in the files of the original version, but periodically migrated so that there is always a version of the content held in a stable format that will remain readable in the future.

The *dissemination versions* of the collection are again made up of the content encoded in the original version, but this time made available in file formats that are convenient to use at the present time. This version may consist of nothing more than the metadata needed to describe a transformation from a preservation format into a format suitable for users.

Dissemination versions are delivered to users, via online systems, as Dissemination Information Packages (DIPs).

