

# The Current State of the Art in Digital Preservation and Continuing Challenges

Donald Waters, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## Abstract

*Over the last decade, significant progress has been made in understanding and developing the requirements for preserving the scientific and cultural record that is increasingly being generated in digital form. Key technical, legal, economic, and organizational challenges remain, however, in the path leading to the creation of a "deep infrastructure" for digital preservation. This paper will provide a framework for evaluating what has been achieved and identifying the short- and long-term issues that require strategic and priority attention.*

## Author Biography

*Donald J. Waters is the Program Officer for Scholarly Communications at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Before joining the Foundation in 1999, he served as the first Director of the Digital Library Federation (1997-1999), as Associate University Librarian at Yale University (1993-1997), and in a variety of other positions at the Computer Center, the School of Management, and the University Library at Yale. Waters graduated with a Bachelor's degree in American Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1973. In 1982, he received his PhD in Anthropology from Yale University. Waters conducted his dissertation research on the political economy of artisanry in Guyana, South America. He has edited a collection of African-American folklore from the Hampton Institute in a volume entitled *Strange Ways and Sweet Dreams*. In 1995-96, he co-chaired the Task Force of the Commission on Preservation and Access and the Research Libraries Group on Archiving of Digital Information, and was the editor and a principal author of the Task Force Report. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Networked Information, the National Digital Strategy Advisory Board of the Library of Congress, and the Section 108 Study Group. He is also the author of numerous articles and presentations on libraries, digital libraries, digital preservation, and scholarly communications..*