

Karin Bredenberg
PREMIS Editorial Committee
c/o Kommunalförbundet Sydarkivera
P.O. Box 182
SE-342 22 Alvesta
Sweden

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

Dear Karin,

Digital Preservation Awards 2022

I am writing on behalf of the Digital Preservation Awards 2022 judges to thank you again for your participation in the competition and to congratulate you once more for winning the DPC 20th Anniversary Award. It was a pleasure to meet you at the ceremony and I hope you were able to share the excitement and applause with the many colleagues who had contributed, which was very much deserved.

We make a promise each year that colleagues who take time to write a nomination are rewarded by useful feedback and commentary from the judges who review the applications. Let me start in general terms. Your nomination was part of an incredibly robust competition. As we said at the ceremony on 12th September, the standard and number of applications grow each time our nomination process is open. Such is the growth in that nominations which won in previous years would have struggled to be listed as finalists in 2022. I share this to underline the unprecedented competition, putting your achievements into context.

The judges have asked me to convey some specific comments on the strength of your application:

- Without metadata a digital resource might as well not exist and a coherent metadata standard for digital preservation maintains integrity, reliability and usability of digital resources
- This is a foundation tool in implementing preservation metadata for ensuring reliable, authentic and understandable digital objects
- Even though PREMIS is so widely known, I still feel like it's underrated and underused. It has a reputation for being difficult, but I think this might result from people hearing about it rather than reading the excellent and accessible documentation. It is more than just preservation actions, the ways that it allows you to conceptualise digital objects is also so helpful, and even the eventType vocab is an essential contribution to our field in and of itself!
- Having an agreed upon 'standard' for how to encode preservation and technical metadata has meant that is considerably easier to argue for and prioritise essential aspects of implementing digital preservation systems and processes.
- I won't pretend that I have struggled with PREMIS over the years, but like OAIS it's hard to imagine digital preservation without it. So, my own struggles notwithstanding, I can recognise and celebrate its impact and importance over the last twenty years.
- Once you get beyond storage, digital preservation is fundamentally and almost always a metadata question. The storage questions are (relatively) trivial but the metadata questions are enormous and arguably the bit that makes digital preservation distinct from every other kind of content management.

These comments convey a real and significant measure of the esteem from leading practitioners from the digital preservation community around the world which may perhaps be useful for future grant applications.

The Digital Preservation Awards are part of the DPC's Advocacy Programme, drawing attention to outstanding work across the world. There is no obvious senior executive or funder with whom I can share this commendation. Instead, I would invite you to share this letter with the PREMIS Editorial Committee and encourage each of them in turn to share with their own line management. That way we can ensure your shared accomplishments can be marked and celebrated at the highest level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Kilbride". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Professor William Kilbride FSA
Executive Director,
Digital Preservation Coalition
On behalf of The Judges for the Digital Preservation Awards 2022