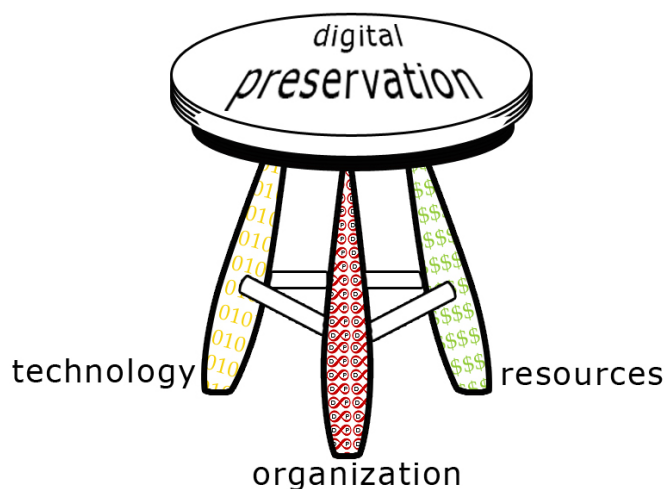


Three Legged Stool

Properly supporting a digital preservation program can be thought of like building a stool with three legs: organizational support, technological infrastructure, and resources available. If any of these three “legs” are inadequate or absent, the “stool” (digital preservation) will wobble or topple.



The **organizational infrastructure** leg is reflected by acknowledgement of the need for digital preservation, policy development, program implementation, preservation planning, and signs of institutional commitment. Organizations with a strong organizational leg have well-managed digital preservation programs, clear and comprehensive policies and plans, and evident support for digital preservation within the organization. The *Trusted Digital Repositories: Attributes and Responsibilities* document provides good guidelines for having a strong organizational infrastructure. This leg tends to be the least developed among organizations we have surveyed, with insufficient policies and plans offering the greatest obstacle to strong organizational infrastructure.

The **technological infrastructure** leg is reflected by hardware, software, formats, and storage; networks and security; functions and workflow; procedures, protocols, and documentation; and technical and archival skills available. The OAIS document provides good guidelines for strong technological infrastructure. This leg tends to be the most developed among the organizations we have surveyed, although hardware, software, formats, and storage are often the focus of attention to the detriment of other elements of this leg.

The **resources** leg includes such assets as staff, technology, and training. Organizations with a strong resources leg have adequate, sustainable funding and trained, competent staff. Most organizations that we have surveyed still do not have sustainable funding for digital preservation programs.