Digital artifacts are being created every day.

But the vast majority of these artifacts are not being preserved. And that’s a problem.

They may be “backed up.” But a file that’s backed up is not preserved for the ages.

It’s time for cultural institutions to embrace *distributed digital preservation*, a new practice for safeguarding the digital artifacts that define our culture and identity.

The MetaArchive Cooperative is leading a national effort to expand distributed digital preservation.

What are you doing to *preserve* your organization’s digital assets?

Two out of every three cultural heritage institutions report that no one at the institution is responsible for digital preservation activities.

As a result, digital assets are in danger of being forever lost due to hardware failure, software corruption, natural disaster, or human error. These assets include digitized versions of important historic artifacts as well as original “born-digital” cultural assets, such as election campaign Web sites or the computer files of a world-famous author.

The MetaArchive Cooperative is a consortium of cultural institutions working to preserve our nation’s digitized cultural assets. Our community-based approach involves creating networks through which we copy, distribute, and preserve digital files over a wide geographical area. This approach – called distributed digital preservation – is a low-cost, community-based, easy-to-implement digital preservation solution run by and for cultural institutions.

*You can be part of this international movement.* Visit http://MetaArchive.org to learn about ways to get involved – including joining or starting your own network.

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| METAARCHIVE’s networks includeSouthern Digital CultureHistory of the Transatlantic Slave TradePlanning for additional networks, including one for Electronic Theses and Dissertations, is underway. We welcome participation and new network ideas from libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions. | Visit http://MetaArchive.orgThe MetaArchive Cooperative is a collaborative enterprise under the Educopia InstituteThe Educopia Institute1230 Peachtree Street, Suite 1900 Atlanta, Georgia 30309 404.783.2534 |