
Preservation of Digital Albums and Scrapbooks



Digital Scrapbooks

Many new, exciting, and easy-to-use products come out every year



Digital Scrapbooks

- Online sites and apps
- Add photos, text descriptions, timelines, audio
- Some save as PDF, some just save online



Digital Scrapbooks

- Family history projects bring families together
- Multimedia: fun, engaging, stimulating



Photo courtesy of
Phil VonStade,
MemoryGlass
foundation



A digital scrapbook should
never be the main place
to keep your stuff.

The problem

Traditional Paper vs. Digital Valuables

Risk of Loss through:

Paper valuables:

- Physical damage to the paper
- Chemical deterioration of the paper and/or of the image



Digital valuables:

- Physical damage to the storage medium
- Chemical deterioration of the storage medium
- Obsolescence of the technology
- Corruption of the data



Digital valuables



Photographs



Email



Audio



Video



Websites



Documents

Plus:

- social media profiles
- game characters
- network of business associates that you may have built up over time on business networking sites
- ...and more artifacts of your online life.



Digital valuables

Digital photos and other digital files require a special container.



Digital valuables

Each digital storage medium has vulnerabilities and a limited lifespan.



Obsolescence

Each digital storage medium becomes obsolete as technology improves. Your stuff could get trapped on obsolete media.



The risk of loss

It's easy to lose track of your stuff, scattered on websites, floppies, thumb drives, and CDs.

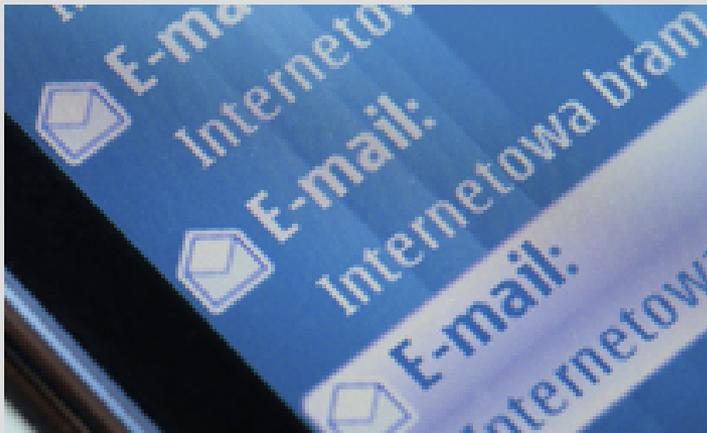


Photo by the Library of Congress



The risk of loss

Email, social media, cloud storage, and other online services can go out of business or can be hacked



Graphics by the Library of Congress



The Solution

Personal Digital Archiving

- Identify what you want to save
- Decide what is most important to save
- Organize your collection
- Backup copies in different places

Move collection to a current storage medium once every five to seven years.



Organize

Identify what you want to save



Graphics by the Library of Congress



Organize

Decide what is most important



Photos by the Library of Congress



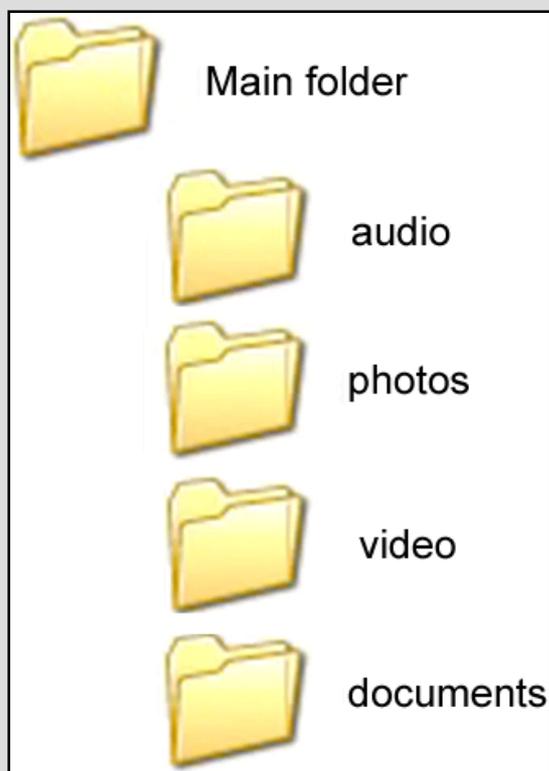
Organize

Organize your collection



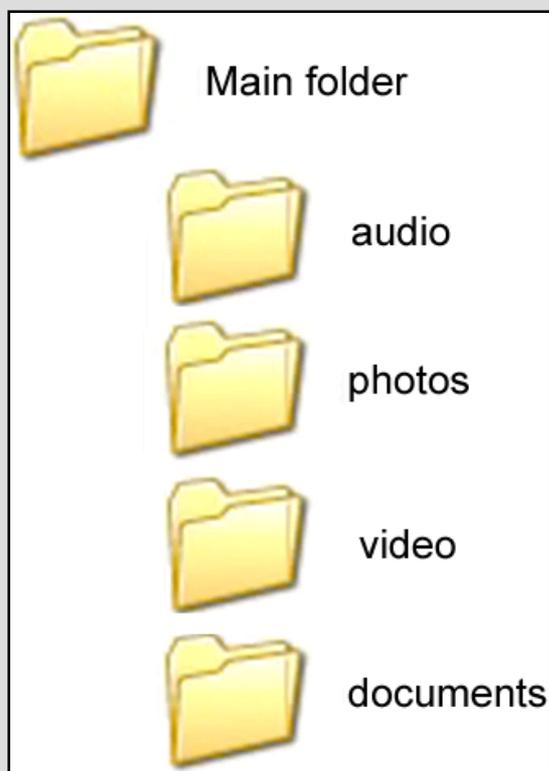
Organize

Organize it however you want, but be consistent with your system



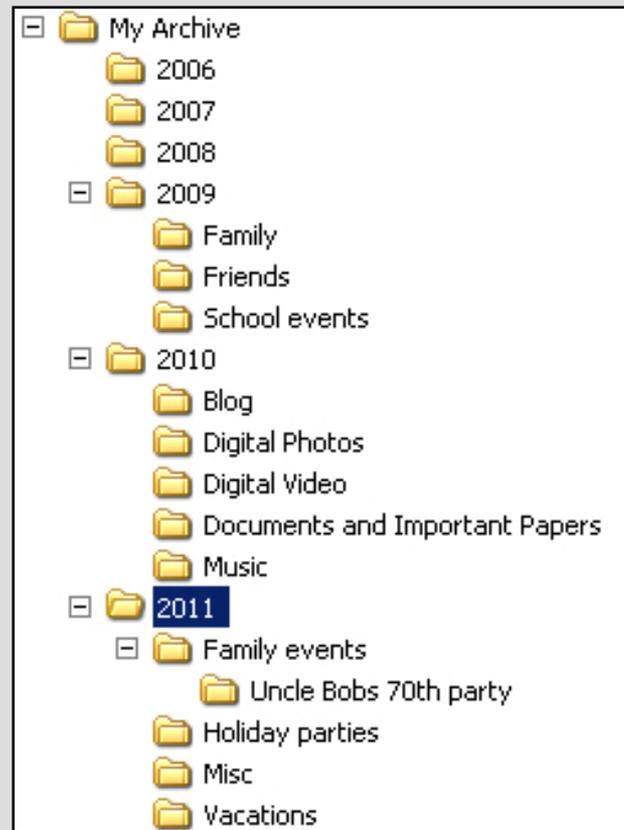
Organize

Organize it however you want, but be consistent with your system



Organize

Descriptive folder and file names help you and others find things



Backup

Copy the folder to at least **two** different types of storage device



Backup

Confirm that your files copied over completely

Name	Size	Type ▲
 finish-line.jpg	0 KB	JPEG Image
 madge_wedding.jpg	0 KB	JPEG Image
 beach-1973.jpg	0 KB	JPEG Image

Spot check your files and open a few to verify that they copied over intact, especially the more important ones



Backup

Save copies in different places



Backup

Online storage (The Cloud) is an option, but also keep a backup on a storage device close to you



“Clouds” on Flickr by fifikins.



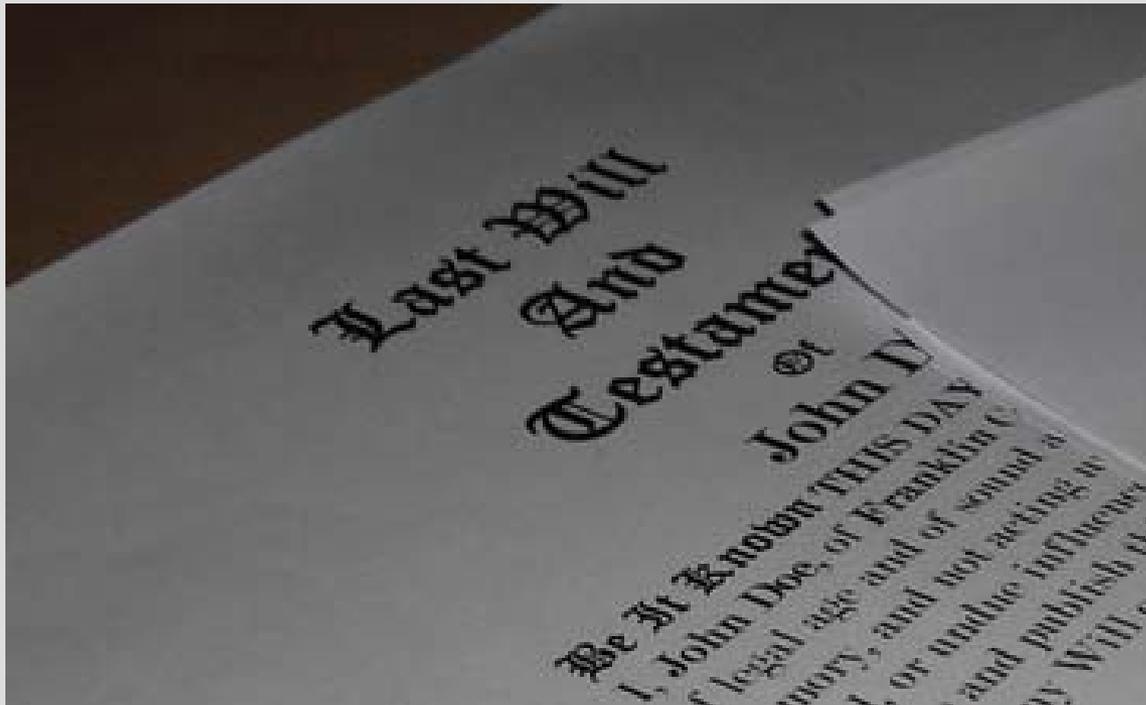
Manage

Move your collection to a current storage medium once every 5 to 7 years, well before your current storage device becomes obsolete



Manage

When planning your estate, let a loved one know where you store your important documents. Supply passwords, if needed.



“Last Will and Testament” on Flickr by Ken_Mayer



Summary

- Identify what you want to save
- Decide what is most important to save
- Organize your collection
- Backup copies in different places
- Move collection to a current storage medium once every five to seven years



Thank You

digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/

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