

# Preserving State Government Digital Information: A Baseline Report

Sat, 01 July 2006

Theresa A. Pardo, G. Brian Burke, Hyuckbin Kwon

Partnerships have emerged as the most viable strategy for securing the resources necessary for preserving state government digital information. Whether these partnerships span units within a single agency or multiple state and local governments and in some cases the federal government, their development requires knowledge of capabilities and priorities to be shared among potential partners. This report provides the baseline knowledge necessary to launch these critical partnership development efforts. Baseline data on state government digital information preservation capabilities and activities was collected in five key areas:

1. Institutional Roles and Responsibilities
2. State Government Digital Information Preservation Activities
3. Training Needs for Digital Preservation
4. State Government Digital Information Currently At-Risk
5. Engagement with Enterprise Architecture

Six observations about the challenges facing state government digital preservation initiatives emerged from the baseline data:

1. Capability for preserving state government digital information is low.
2. There is no consistent approach to addressing "at-risk" information.
3. Authority for setting standards and responsibility for providing digital preservation services is dispersed.
4. Executive, legislative, and judicial agencies operate parallel digital preservation efforts.
5. Digital preservation and Enterprise Architecture initiatives are not well-connected.
6. Efforts to develop strategic digital preservation programs are hampered by problem focused practices and funding and staffing models.

A complementary resource to this baseline reports enables you to review the individual profiles from the responding units within the states/territories. >> [State Government Digital Preservation Profiles](#).