

ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the actual reality of digital preservation on the websites of the national archives, the study sample, in addition to presenting a set of digital preservation tools developed by the national archives and setting a set of guidelines for establishing a digital preservation system that can be applied to the Egyptian archives, in addition to analyzing how to retrieve the documents from the websites of the national archives and the techniques used in it.

The study relied on the descriptive analytical method for being the most appropriate research method for the nature of this topic, as it seeks to determine the current situation of the problem and then describe it, determine its causes and formulate it in the form of research questions to reach the final results of the study. The sample included a group of national archives sites.

The study has concluded that the period of keeping records digitally depends mainly on the period of technical survival of the programs and devices that produced them. So, it would be a mistake to think that the digital documents will stay for ever or at least for the same duration of traditional documents particularly with the continues technological development in all the technical fields related to digital documents. Therefore, if it does not receive enough attention, we will lose our heritage and national identity, which contributes to cultural, social and intellectual damage.

The study recommends that the national archives have a legislative responsibility to manage, preserve and access archival resources for current and future generations. Each archive must develop its own digital preservation strategy in line with its needs and requirements in order to ensure its ability to manage and access its digital records in the long term, thus achieving more confidence that stored digital information will not be lost.