

## **Digital preservation of Liberation Struggles archival material:**

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Digital preservation, as with project sustainability, requires policies, strategies, infrastructure and commitment from the outset of any digitisation project. Preservation of digitised Liberation Struggles materials is no exception. Indeed, preservation concerns inform digitisation practices such as the adoption and use of international standards for conversion, post-processing best practices and file formats used for the saving of such images. The use of open *de facto* community standards for the creation of metadata, incorporating preservation metadata is of utmost importance for ensuring the management for long term preservation.

DISA: Digital Innovation South Africa, has for the past ten years in South Africa, been at the forefront of digitisation efforts in the socio-political area of cultural heritage resources and more specifically of Liberation Struggles materials. This includes “published” and archival resources and other primary research resources. It has been a collaborative initiative across many South African organisations, with DISA taking the collective responsibility for long term preservation of the all the digitised content.

This paper will deal with some of the pertinent issues regarding digital preservation challenges such as the preservation not only of the digitised documents but also the context of the documents, ensuring that all components of a digitised document are preserved together, ensuring scalability and extensibility of the preservation infrastructure, how to preserve comments and annotations, ongoing management of permissions (IP and copyright) and the ensured access of preserved documents which in itself may help to preserve the digitised collections.