Embedding Preservability: Iframes in Complex Scholarly Publications

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What is a complex publication?

- Includes **enhanced features** such as:
  - embedded audio / video
  - non-linear navigation
  - data visualizations e.g., interactive maps
  - supporting software, code, data
  - annotations and highlights
- *Challenging to preserve at scale*

Two projects examining complex publications

#1: Create publisher guidelines

- **Examine** complex publications
- Determine what aspects are **difficult to preserve at scale**
- Use this to **develop guidelines** that publishers and authors can use to improve preservability of publications

Guidelines for Preserving New Forms of Scholarship

#2: Embed preservability

- **Embed preservation experts** in publisher workflows and work with publisher platforms
- Learn about **what is plausible** to implement to improve preservability
- **Iterate on the guidelines**

A common preservation challenge in complex publications: Iframes

Typical *iframe* use: lacks context

An *iframe* is a webpage that is visually embedded in HTML content e.g., a YouTube video. It's vulnerable to **link rot**, which leaves only a URL as context.

```
<iframe href="{iframe-url}"/>
```

Proposed *iframe* use: Enhancements to support preservability

Populate the iframe **title field** to provide minimum information.

```
<iframe
    href="{iframe-url}"
    title="{title}"/>
```

Add **a caption** to provide context, give users a chance of finding a copy of the material. Could be tagged to make it machine readable.

Add a **machine-readable license declaration** to help harvesters determine license status of iframe content.
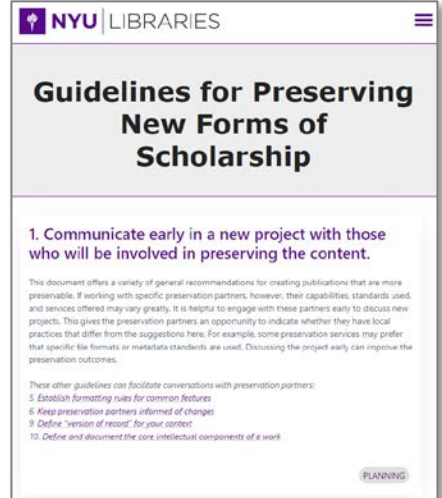
```
<a about="{iframe-url}"
    rel="license"
    href="{license-uri}">
{license-name}</a>
```

Provide a **persistent link to a downloadable version** of the resource or underlying data in the caption or via a footnote or citation. This could also be a web archive link for the resource.

Publication screenshots from: https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.10079890, https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.9231782, and https://doi.org/10.21627/2019cd
Guidelines for Preserving New Forms of Scholarship: https://doi.org/10.33682/221c-b2xj