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CoreTrustSeal Newsletter 02-2026

Waivers and Discounts for the Administrative Fee

To ensure that the CoreTrustSeal certification remains accessible to a broad and diverse range of repositories worldwide, the administrative fee may be waived in exceptional cases and at the discretion of the CoreTrustSeal Board.

In particular, repositories located in [Low-and Middle-Income Countries](#) are encouraged to apply for a waiver if the fee represents a significant barrier to participation.

Requests for a waiver are assessed on a case-by-case basis. The decision takes into account the eligibility of the repository, its institutional context, demonstrated financial constraints, and the overall sustainability of the CoreTrustSeal Foundation. This approach allows CoreTrustSeal to balance inclusivity with long-term financial responsibility.

Repositories considering an application are invited to contact the [CoreTrustSeal Secretariat](#) for guidance on the waiver request process.

By offering this possibility, CoreTrustSeal aims to support global participation and strengthen trustworthy data infrastructures across different regions and resource settings.

CoreTrustSeal Board member 2024-2027



Lyle is an Archivist at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), where he directs the Metadata and Preservation Unit, which is responsible for Metadata, the Bibliography of Data-Related Literature, and Digital Preservation. He also serves as Executive Director of the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Alliance, an international collaboration of member organizations that develops open metadata standards to enhance the quality, interoperability, and reusability of research data. In addition, he is a member of the CoreTrustSeal Board, which oversees the certification of trustworthy data repositories worldwide. He joined the Board because he believes in the importance of trustworthy, sustainable, and transparent data repositories. Serving on the Board lets him give back to the preservation and stewardship communities that have shaped his career, while also providing an opportunity to advocate for improvements in the repository certification process.

nestor Community Survey: 2026 Iteration & Webinar

Over the past several years, numerous digital preservation communities and networks have evolved all over the world. While some cover all aspects of digital

landscape. To help make this landscape more visible and transparent, the "Community Survey" working group of nestor - the German Network of Expertise in Digital Preservation - launched the Community Survey several years ago. The survey provides a structured overview of networks active in the field and is repeated every three years to reflect ongoing developments.

We are now pleased to launch the 2026 iteration of the nestor Community Survey.

From 2025 onwards, nestor working group is cooperating with the Open Preservation Foundation (OPF). The OPF will create a search facility for the data from the nestor Community Profiles, called the 'Digital Preservation Community Search'.

The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) and OPF will also support nestor in promoting both the survey and the meta-search functionality for its results.

The [survey](#) will be open until 31th of March 2026

For your convenience, we have a [PDF preview of the questionnaire](#) available.

A great number of communities agreed to publish their [Community Profiles](#) on the nestor website Community Profiles (please scroll to the end).

They can check whether they will adapt and update these data for the 2026 questionnaire.

Please keep in mind that we need only one complete questionnaire per community / network for every new iteration of the survey. Please communicate this in your network and ensure, that one single questionnaire is the "official" version of your community. Information regarding data privacy protection is included in the survey.

The results of the last nestor Community Survey in 2023 are published in Open Access ([nestor materials 27: Results of the nestor Community Survey 2023](#)), as well as the community profiles [nestor - nestor Community Survey](#). (Please scroll to the end) which provide an unprecedented global overview of networks in the field of long-term archiving - irrespective of their size and area of focus.

We warmly invite you to join one of the upcoming webinars, jointly organized by [nestor - the German Network of Expertise in Digital Preservation](#), the [Digital Preservation Coalition - DPC](#) and the [Open Preservation Foundation - OPF](#).

A webinar, to present the project and provide guidance on completing the online questionnaire, will be offered twice to accommodate different time zones:

[Additional information and the registration form](#)

The organisers will greatly appreciate your participation in our survey and hope that the survey's outcomes will increase visibility and transparency of digital preservation communities around the world. The survey has been designed by nestor - the German Network of Expertise in Digital Preservation.

Feedback and comments welcome!

Please don't hesitate to contact info@coretrustseal.org if you have feedback or suggestions for us on the tool, process, website or anything else!



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