



# Challenges of E-Mail Preservation at the University

or

In the face of major loss even  
small steps count!

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# A new archival tradition has to be established



## Why are emails so important?

- Dominant medium of correspondence in administration and science communication
- Very reliable and informative source under certain conditions
- Good accessibility after embargo periods

## Why is it so difficult to get emails into the archives?

- Digital archive necessary
- Big and heterogenous collections (appraisal difficult)
- Business accounts are regarded as „personal space“ (legal paradox)
- Common cultural bias because of newness

## What do we want to achieve?

- Systematic submission of emails from top-level officials (capstone approach)  
plus
- Donation of selected email collections from academic staff

## What can archives do right now?

- Raise awareness
- Inform about archives as safe space for personal correspondence
- Motivate employees to save a meaningful selection of their emails
- Build strategic networks among archives