

# **Governing Policies**

### Statement of Purpose

Digital Scholar (DS) is dedicated to coordinating and promoting the development, production, distribution and use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) useful for academic, archival, and research purposes. Digital Scholar makes its software for free to the public to use, change, or distribute it as Free and Open Source Software. To fund the long term sustainability of these Open Source software projects, DS offers responsibly priced related services such as hosting, support, and additional development. Digital Scholar sees its mission as one of defending the right of the public to freely obtain, develop, and distribute the FOSS, and supporting other FOSS projects as they pursue sustainability.

### Mission

Digital Scholar is dedicated to launching, supporting, and sustaining critical open-source infrastructure for the digital humanities through responsible stewardship and ethical business practices. In doing so, DS is devoted to defending the right of the public to freely obtain, develop, and distribute free and open source software, and to supporting FOSS projects as they pursue sustainability.

### Vision

An environment where the open-source software that individuals and institutions rely upon for their research, publishing, and public engagement needs has a viable path to independence and sustainability.

### Our Values

We are committed to developing and sustaining free and open source software that provides an infrastructure for scholarly research and digital cultural heritage work.

We are committed to working in a respectful and collaborative way among our project staff and with the community of users and developers who engage with our software.

We are committed to providing responsibly priced services that meet user community needs and contribute to the sustainability of the software projects.

We are committed to working in productive collaboration with other FOSS projects to pursue sustainability.

### Documents, Policies, and Summaries

### **Board of Directors**

DS Directors' powers, activities, and expectations are governed by Article II of the corporation's bylaws.

DS Directors undertake their roles at the corporation with an understanding that they have three essential duties:

- 1. They are obligated to ensure that DS is making prudent use of all of its human, material, and financial resources.
- They are tasked with ensuring that DS activities are undertaken to advance its mission. This includes recognizing and disclosing conflicts of interest for the Board of Directors, Officers, and key personnel.
- 3. Finally, DS Directors are obligated to ensure that DS obeys all applicable laws and regulations, abides by its own bylaws, and adheres to its mission.

At an operational level, DS Directors are expected to:

- Participate, as much as possible, in all DS Board of Directors meetings (currently held in the spring and fall of each year)
- Serve as a trusted advisor to DS leadership as they develop and implement DS's strategic plan
- Review outcomes and metrics created by DS for evaluating its impact, and regularly
  measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics; reviewing agenda and
  supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings
- Approve DS's annual budget, financial reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contribute to an annual performance evaluation of the C-Suite employees
- Assist the COO and President in identifying and recruiting other Board Members
- Partner with the COO and other board members to ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Serve on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments
- Represent DS to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization
- Ensure DS's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities DS serves

DS Directors do not have a fundraising expectation. DS Directors may not be compensated for their service but may be reimbursed for travel and accommodations related to in-person meetings for DS.

DS Directors are elected at each Fall annual meeting by the incumbent Directors to succeed those Directors whose terms have expired. The Board of Directors are elected in two classes, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation. DS Directors serve for two year terms, and may serve unlimited successive terms. Directors may be removed for cause by a vote of the Board,

and may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Board, the President, or the Secretary. The presence of a majority of the Directors constitutes a quorum for matters that require a vote.

Officers: Powers and Duties

**President:** The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board, shall generally supervise the affairs of the corporation and shall keep the Board fully informed. Unless the Board specifically requires an additional signature, the president shall have the power to sign alone, in the name of the corporation, all checks and all contracts authorized either generally or specifically by the Board. Together with the treasurer, the president shall present to the Board at the annual meeting the report described in Section 9 of this Article. The president shall have any other powers and perform any other duties assigned by the Board.

**Vice President:** In the absence of the president, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the vice president (or, if there be more than one vice president, the first vice president) shall perform the duties of the president, and when so acting shall have all the powers and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. The vice president shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

**Secretary:** The secretary shall prepare and maintain custody of minutes of the Directors' meetings and for authenticating records of the corporation.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer shall keep or supervise the keeping of complete and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of the corporation and shall deposit all funds of the corporation in the name and to the credit of the corporation in the banks or other depositories chosen by the Board. When requested by the Board, the treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any Officer or Director of the corporation, and shall perform any other duties assigned by the Board. At the annual meeting of the Board, the treasurer, together with the president, shall present a report showing:

- the assets and liabilities of the corporation as of a twelve month fiscal period terminating not more than six months prior to the meeting;
- the principal changes in assets and liabilities during that fiscal period;
- the revenues or receipts of the corporation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for that fiscal period; and
- the expenses or disbursements of the corporation, for both general and restricted purposes, during that fiscal period.

The report shall be verified by the president and treasurer or certified by a public or certified accountant and filed with the minutes of the annual meeting. The report to the Board may consist of a verified or certified copy of any report by the corporation to the Internal Revenue Service or the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia which includes the information specified above.



# Conflict of Interest and Compensation Policy of Digital Scholar ("the Corporation")

### Adopted by the Board of Directors on May 18, 2023

### I. Overview

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest and Compensation Policy (the "policy") is to protect the Corporation's interests when it is considering taking an action or entering into a transaction that might benefit the private interests of a director, officer or **key person**<sup>1</sup>, result in the payment of excessive compensation to a director, officer or key person; or otherwise violate state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit, charitable organizations.

### 2. Why is a policy necessary?

As a corporation that operates as a nonprofit, the Corporation is obligated to use its resources responsibly and properly. Directors, officers and employees have a duty to act in the Corporation's best interests and may not use their positions for their own financial or personal benefit.

Conflicts of interest must be taken very seriously since they can damage the Corporation's reputation and expose both the Corporation and affiliated individuals to legal liability if not handled appropriately. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest should be avoided, as it could undermine public support for the Corporation.

### 3. To whom does the policy apply?

This policy applies to all directors, officers and key persons ("you")2.

### **II.Identifying Conflicts of Interest**

### 1. What is a conflict of interest?

A potential conflict of interest arises when a director, officer or key person, or that person's

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Key person** means a person, other than a director or officer, whether or not an employee of the Corporation, who:

a) has responsibilities, or exercises powers or influence over the Corporation as a whole similar to the responsibilities, powers, or influence of directors and officers;

b) manages the Corporation, or a segment of the Corporation that represents a substantial portion of the activities, assets, income, or expenses of the Corporation; or

c) alone or with others controls or determines a substantial portion of the Corporation's capital expenditures or operating budget.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Organizations may choose to make the policy applicable to all of their employees, not just key persons.

**relative**<sup>3</sup> or business (a) stands to gain a financial benefit from an action the Corporation takes or a transaction into which the Corporation enters; or (b) has another interest that impairs, or could be seen to impair, the independence or objectivity of the director, officer or key person in discharging their duties to the Corporation.

### 2. What are some examples of potential conflicts of interest?

It is impossible to list all the possible circumstances that could present conflicts of interest. Potential conflicts of interest include situations in which a director, officer or key person or that person's relative or business:

- has an ownership or investment interest in any third party that the Corporation deals with or is considering dealing with;
- serves on the board of, participates in the management of, or is otherwise employed by or volunteers with any third party that the Corporation deals with or is considering dealing with:
- receives or may receive compensation or other benefits in connection with a transaction into which the Corporation enters;
- receives or may receive personal gifts or loans from third parties dealing with the Corporation;
- serves on the board of directors of another nonprofit organization that is competing with the Corporation for a grant or contract;
- has a close personal or business relationship with a participant in a transaction being considered by the Corporation;
- would like to pursue a transaction being considered by the Corporation for their personal benefit.
- 3. In situations where you are uncertain, err on the side of caution and disclose the potential conflict as set forth in Section III of this policy.
- A potential conflict is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person has a conflict of interest only if the Corporation officers decide, pursuant to Section IV of this policy, that a conflict of interest exists.

### **III.Disclosing Potential Conflicts of Interest**

- 1. You must disclose to the best of your knowledge all potential conflicts of interest as soon as you become aware of them and always before any actions involving the potential conflict are taken. Submit a signed, written statement disclosing all the material facts to the Corporation officers, if you are a director or an officer, or to your project director, if you are an employee.
- 2. You must file an annual disclosure statement in the form attached to this policy. **If you are a director**, you must also file this statement prior to your initial election. Submit the form to the President of the Corporation or to your project director.

### **IV.Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> **Relative** means a person's spouse or domestic partner, ancestors, brothers and sisters (whether whole or half-blood), children (whether natural or adopted), grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and spouses or domestic partners of brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

- After there has been disclosure of a potential conflict and after gathering any relevant information from the concerned director, officer or key person, the Corporation officers shall determine whether there is a conflict of interest. The director, officer or key person shall not be present for deliberation or vote on the matter and must not attempt to influence improperly the determination of whether a conflict of interest exists.
- 2. In determining whether a conflict of interest exists, the Corporation officers shall consider whether the potential conflict of interest would cause a transaction entered into by the Corporation to raise questions of bias, inappropriate use of the Corporation's assets, or any other impropriety.
- 3. A conflict always exists in the case of a **related party transaction** a transaction, agreement or other arrangement in which a **related party**<sup>4</sup> has a financial interest and in which the Corporation or any affiliate of the Corporation is a participant.<sup>5</sup>
- 4. If the Corporation officers determines that there is a conflict of interest, it shall refer the matter to the board of directors ("board").

### V. Procedures for Addressing a Conflict of Interest

1. When a matter involving a conflict of interest comes before the board, the board may seek information from the director, officer or key person with the conflict prior to beginning deliberation and reaching a decision on the matter. However, a conflicted person shall not be present during the discussion or vote on the matter and must not attempt to influence improperly the deliberation or vote.

### 2. Additional Procedures for Addressing Related Party Transactions

- a. The Corporation may not enter into a related party transaction unless, after good faith disclosure of the material facts by the director, officer or key person, the board or a committee authorized by the board determines that the transaction is fair, reasonable and in the Corporation's best interest at the time of such determination.
- b. If the related party has a substantial financial interest, the board or authorized committee shall:

1. a director, officer or key person of the Corporation or any affiliate of the Corporation, or

1. the transaction, or the related party's financial interest in the transaction, is *de minimis*;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A **related party** is:

<sup>2.</sup> a relative of any individual described in (1), or

<sup>3.</sup> an entity in which any individual described in (1) or (2) has an ownership or beneficial interest of 35% or more, or in the case of a partnership or professional Corporation, a direct or indirect ownership interest in excess of 5%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A transaction is not a related party transaction if:

<sup>2.</sup> the transaction would not customarily be reviewed by the board or the boards of similar organizations in the ordinary course of business and is available to others on the same or similar terms;

<sup>3.</sup> the transaction constitutes a benefit provided to a related party solely as a member of a class of the beneficiaries that the Corporation intends to benefit as part of the accomplishment of its mission (and that benefit is available to all similarly situated members of the same class on the same terms).

- i. prior to entering into the transaction, consider alternative transactions to the extent available;
- ii. approve the transaction by a vote of not less than a majority of the directors present at the meeting; and
- iii. contemporaneously document in writing the basis for its approval, including its consideration of any alternative transactions.

### **VI.Minutes and Documentation**

The minutes of any board meeting at which a matter involving a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest was discussed or voted upon shall include:

- a. the name of the interested party and the nature of the interest;
- b. the decision as to whether the interest presented a conflict of interest;
- c. any alternatives to a proposed contract or transaction considered by the board; and
- d. if the transaction was approved, the basis for the approval.

### VII. Prohibited Acts

The Corporation shall not make a loan to any director or officer.

### VIII. Procedures for Determining Compensation

- 1. No person shall be present for or participate in board or committee discussion or vote pertaining to:
  - a. their own compensation;
  - b. the compensation of their relative;
  - c. the compensation of any person who is in a position to direct or control them in an employment relationship;
  - d. the compensation of any person who is in a position to directly affect their financial interests; or
  - e. any other compensation decision from which the person stands to benefit.
- 2. In the case of compensation of Key Persons, the following additional procedures apply:
  - a. The board or a committee authorized by the board shall approve compensation before it is paid.
  - b. The board or authorized committee shall base approval of compensation on appropriate data, including compensation paid by comparable organizations (three are sufficient if the Corporation's income is less than \$1,000,000) for functionally similar positions, availability of

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similar services in the geographic area of the Corporation, and compensation surveys compiled by independent firms.

- c. The board or authorized committee shall contemporaneously document:
  - i. the terms of compensation and date of determination;
  - ii. the members of the board or committee who were present and those who voted for it:
  - iii. the comparability data relied on and how it was obtained;
  - iv if the compensation is higher or lower than the range of comparable data, the basis for the determination, and;
  - v. any actions with respect to consideration of the compensation by anyone on the board or committee who had a conflict of interest with respect to the matter.

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### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

By signing below, I affirm that:

- 1. I have received and read a copy of the Conflict of Interest and Compensation Policy;
- 2. I agree to comply with the policy:
- 3. I have no actual or potential conflicts as defined by the policy or if I have, I have previously disclosed them as required by the policy or am disclosing them below.

Disclose here, to the best of your knowledge:

- 1. any entity in which you participate (as a director, officer, employee, owner, or member) with which the Corporation has a relationship;
- 2. any transaction in which the Corporation is a participant as to which you might have a conflicting interest; and
- 3. any other situation which may pose a conflict of interest.

Name:			
Position:			
Signature:			
Date:			

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# DIGITAL SCHOLAR

# **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

### **Objective**

Digital Scholar is committed to a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits unlawful discriminatory practices, including harassment. Therefore, DS expects that all relationships among persons in the organization will be business-like and free of explicit bias, prejudice and harassment.

DS has developed this policy to ensure that all its employees can work in an environment free from unlawful harassment, discrimination and retaliation. DS will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all concerned are familiar with these policies and are aware that any complaint in violation of such policies will be investigated and resolved appropriately.

Any employee who has questions or concerns about these policies should talk with the director of human resources or a member of the personnel practices committee.

These policies should not, and may not, be used as a basis for excluding or separating individuals of a particular gender, or any other protected characteristic, from participating in business or work-related social activities or discussions. In other words, no one should make the mistake of engaging in discrimination or exclusion to avoid allegations of harassment. The law and the policies of DS prohibit disparate treatment on the basis of sex or any other protected characteristic, with regard to terms, conditions, privileges and perquisites of employment. The prohibitions against harassment, discrimination and retaliation are intended to complement and further those policies, not to form the basis of an exception to them.

### **Equal employment opportunity**

It is the policy of DS to ensure equal employment opportunity without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race (including hairstyle/texture), color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship,

national origin, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. DS prohibits any such discrimination or harassment.

### Retaliation

DS encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment. It is the policy of DS to promptly and thoroughly investigate such reports. DS prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of such reports.

### Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state and local laws. For the purposes of this policy, "sexual harassment" is defined, as in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidelines, as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example: a) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, b) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or c) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 recognizes two types of sexual harassment: a) quid pro quo and b) hostile work environment. Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

#### Harassment

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal, written or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law, or that of his or her relatives, friends or associates, and that: a) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment,

b) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance, or c) otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group that is placed on walls or elsewhere on the employer's premises or circulated in the workplace, on company time or using company equipment by e-mail, phone (including voice messages), text messages, social networking sites or other means.

### **Individuals and Conduct Covered**

These policies apply to all applicants and employees, whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or by someone not directly connected to DS (e.g., an outside vendor, consultant or customer).

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related social events.

### Reporting an Incident of Harassment, Discrimination or Retaliation

DS encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victim of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor, or any member of the Board of Directors. See the complaint procedure described below.

In addition, DS encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and to request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. DS recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through complaint procedures.

### **Complaint Procedure**

Individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy or believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor or any member of the Board of Directors.

DS encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained.

Therefore, while no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge.

DS will maintain confidentiality throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. Responsive action may include, for example, training, referral to counseling or disciplinary action such as a warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay, or termination, as DS believes appropriate under the circumstances.

If a party to a complaint does not agree with its resolution, that party may appeal to DS's chief operating officer.

False and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation (as opposed to complaints that, even if erroneous, are made in good faith) may be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

# DIGITAL SCHOLAR

# Whistleblower Policy

Digital Scholar requires directors, officers and employees to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As employees and representatives of Digital Scholar, we must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

## Reporting Responsibility

This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns internally so that Digital Scholar can address and correct inappropriate conduct and actions. It is the responsibility of all board members, officers, employees and volunteers to report concerns about violations of Digital Scholar's code of ethics or suspected violations of law or regulations that govern Digital Scholar's operations.

### No Retaliation

It is contrary to the values of Digital Scholar for anyone to retaliate against any board member, officer, employee or volunteer who in good faith reports an ethics violation, or a suspected violation of law, such as a complaint of discrimination, or suspected fraud, or suspected violation of any regulation governing the operations of Digital Scholar. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

## Reporting Procedure

Digital Scholar has an open door policy and suggests that employees share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with their supervisor. If you are not comfortable speaking with your supervisor or you are not satisfied with your supervisor's response, you are encouraged to speak with a member of the Board of Directors. Supervisors and managers are required to report complaints or concerns about suspected ethical and legal violations in writing to the Digital Scholar's Chief Operating Officer, who serves as Digital Scholar's Compliance Officer and has the responsibility to investigate all reported complaints. Employees with concerns or complaints may also submit their concerns in writing directly to their supervisor or a member of the Board of Directors.

## **Compliance Officer**

The Digital Scholar's Compliance Officer is responsible for ensuring that all complaints about unethical or illegal conduct are investigated and resolved. The Compliance Officer will advise the Board of Directors of all complaints and their resolution and will report at least annually to the Treasurer on compliance activity relating to accounting or alleged financial improprieties.

# **Accounting and Auditing Matters**

The Digital Scholar's Compliance Officer shall immediately notify the Board of any concerns or complaint regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls or auditing and work with the committee until the matter is resolved.

# Acting in Good Faith

Anyone filing a written complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.

# Confidentiality

Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

## Handling of Reported Violations

The Digital Scholar's Compliance Officer will notify the person who submitted a complaint and acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted by the Investigation.

Compliance Officer:
Sharon M. Leon
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
<a href="mailto:sharon@digitalscholar.org">sharon@digitalscholar.org</a>
571-933-6161



# **Document Retention and Destruction Policy**

The organization's staff, volunteers, members of the board of directors, committee members and outsiders (independent contractors via agreements with them) are required to honor the following rules:

- Paper or electronic documents indicated under the terms for retention in the following section will be transferred and maintained by the COOs office;
- All other paper documents will be destroyed after three years;
- No paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted if pertinent to any ongoing
  or anticipated government investigation or proceeding or private litigation (check with
  legal counsel or the human resources department for any current or foreseen litigation if
  employees have not been notified); and
- No paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted as required to comply with government auditing standards (Single Audit Act).

Type of Document	Minimum Requirement
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	7 years
Audit reports	Permanently
Bank reconciliation	2 years
Bank statements	3 years
Checks (for important payments and purchases)	Permanently
Contracts, mortgages, notes, and leases (expired)	7 years
Contracts (still in effect)	Contract period
Correspondence (general)	4 years
Correspondence (legal and important matters)	Permanently

Correspondence (with customers and vendors)	4 years
Deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale	Permanently
Depreciation schedules	Permanently
Employment applications	3 years
Expense analyses/expense distribution schedules	7 years
Year-end financial statements	Permanently
Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, and so on (active and expired)	Permanently
Internal audit reports	3 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors)	7 years
Minute books, bylaws, and charter	Permanently
Patents and related papers	Permanently
Payroll records and summaries	7 years
Personnel files (terminated employees)	7 years
Retirement and pension records	Permanently
Tax returns and worksheets	Permanently
Trademark registrations and copyrights	Permanently
Withholding tax statements	7 years