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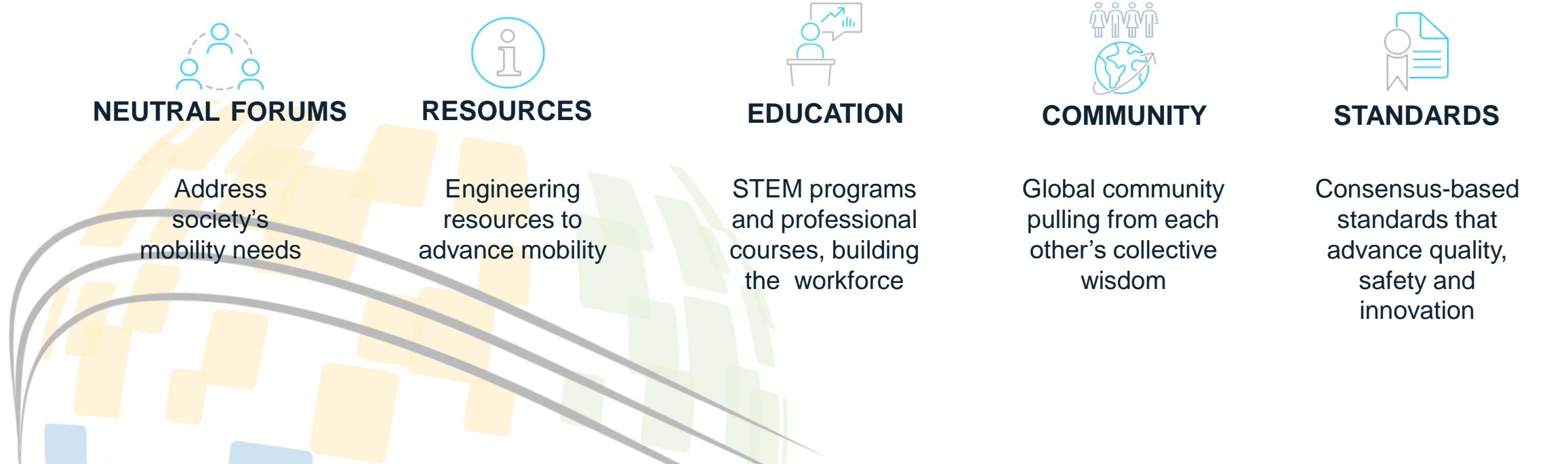


How to Approach a Digitization Plan for Standards

Leslie McKay, Director of Digital Standards Development, SAE International



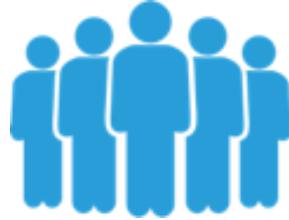
MISSION: *To advance mobility knowledge and solutions for the **benefit of humanity***



ROLES IN INDUSTRY:

Professional Association, SDO, Publisher, STEM Educator, Professional Workforce Development, Knowledge & Networking Resource

Our Community – Aerospace and Ground Vehicle



11,000+

Participants

570+

Technical Committees

105+
Years



44,000+

Standards

59+
Countries

550+

Committees & steering
groups

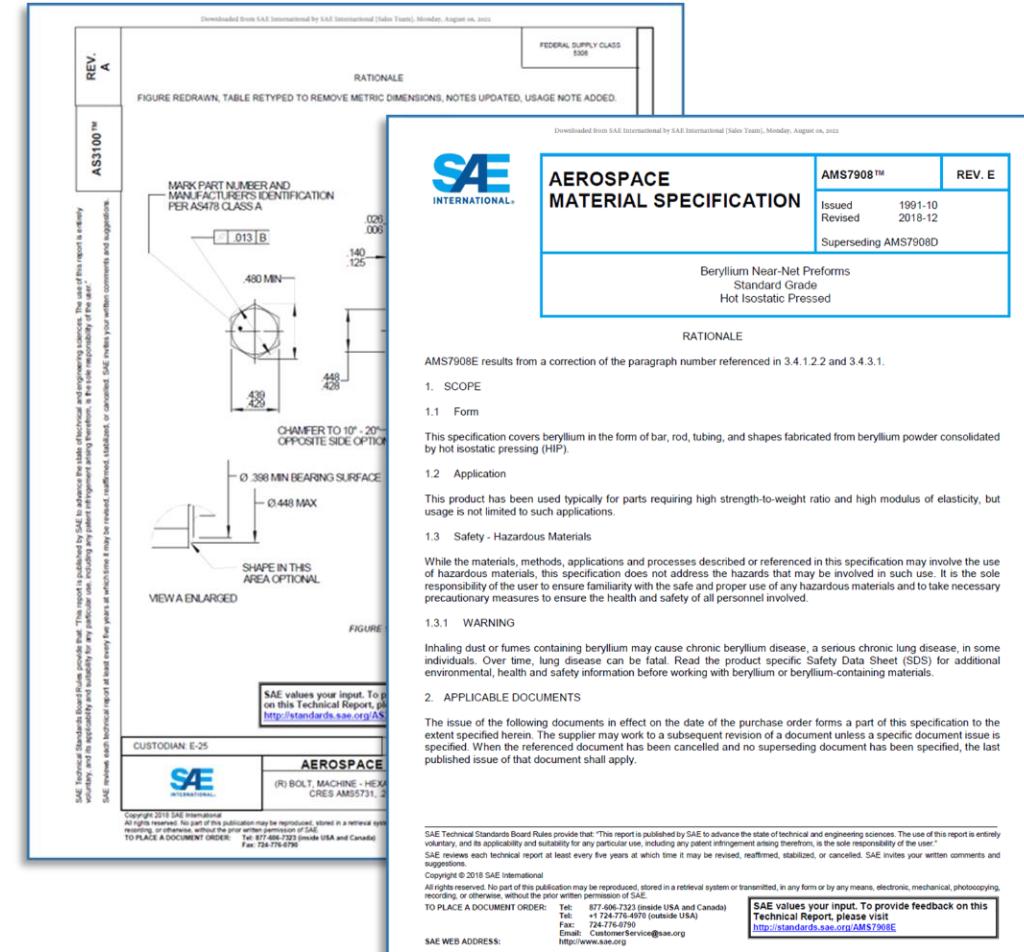
1,800+

Works in Progress

How do Standards Fit in Age of Digital Transformation

Rethinking How You Write Standards

- Going digital is changing how standards are written
- A document does not always translate well to a digital format
- Sentence structure, table layouts, and variable naming can all be impacted
- Need to consider how digital standards are searched and retrieved—not how a document is read



Digitizing Existing Standards

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- Authoring guidelines, etc. can help transform new standards
- But there are still thousands of existing standards to digitize
 - Various SDOs have libraries of thousands of standards
 - Various companies have libraries of thousands of internal standards that may or may not be based on industry standards
- It is critical to think through how to develop a digitization plan

Where to Begin?

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Step 1

What Do You Want to Accomplish?

Step 2

What Do You need to Achieve Goals?

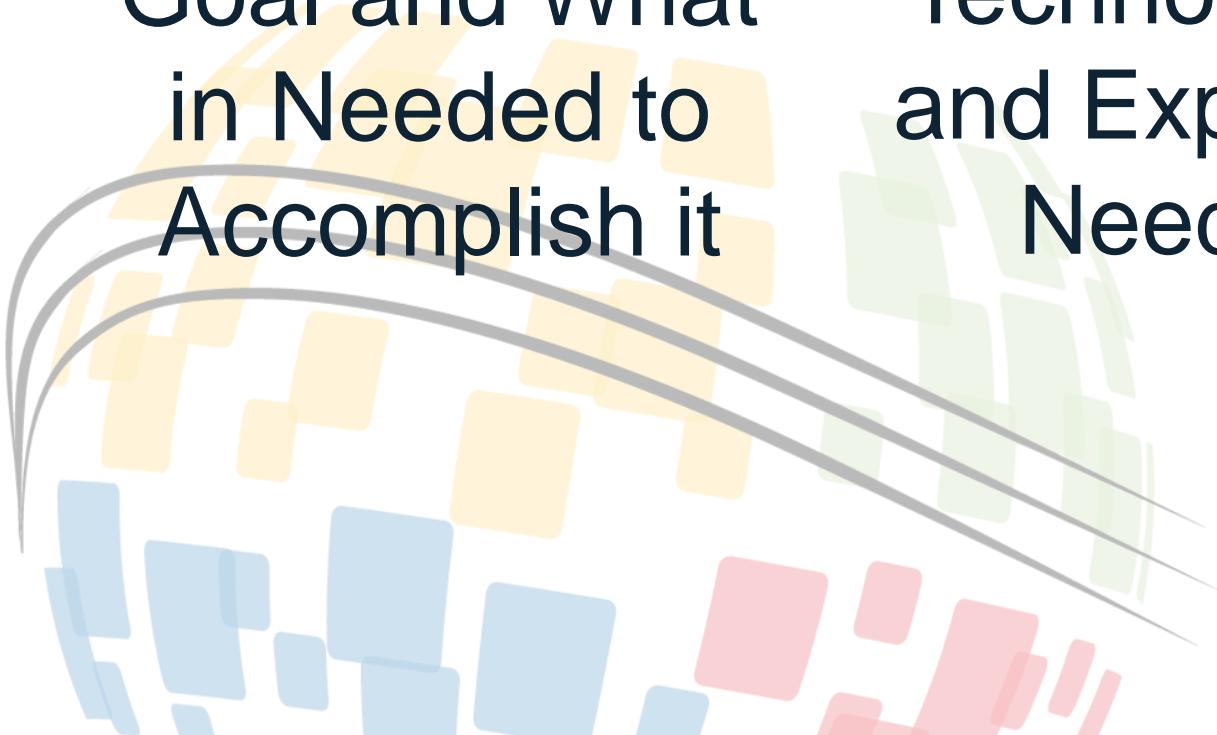
Step 3

How Do You Get There?

Identify the End Goal and What in Needed to Accomplish it

Identify Technologies and Expertise Needed

Develop a Digitization Plan





Step 1

What Do you Want to Accomplish?

There are Many Different Types of Standards

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Process
Standards

Management
Standards

Product
Standards

Standard Parts
and Materials

Quality
Standards

Vocabulary
Standards

Manufacturing
Standards

Safety
Standards

Security
Standards

And More...



Not All Digital Standards Will Be the Same

Different Standards Convey Different Information

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Standard Type	Conveys	Possible Information Needed in Digital Form
Parts Standards	Dimensions, composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Models• Drawings• Data tables• Requirements statements
Quality Standards	Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose• Requirements statements
Process Standards	Process steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose• Process steps• Calculations
Manufacturing Standards	Manufacturing processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose• Process steps• Calculations• Testing requirements
...

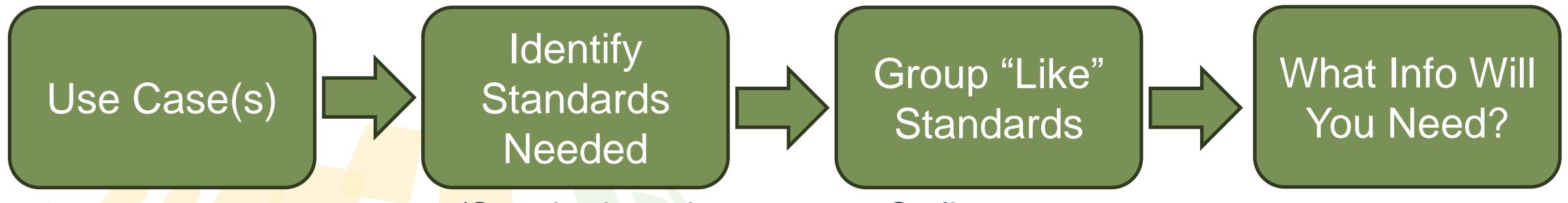
Start With The End To Determine What You Need

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Use Cases	Digital Information Needed
As an enterprise data systems engineer, I want to automate the programming of ovens to perform standard heat treatments on raw metals so that my manufacturing process is defined from an authorized source.	Process steps that can be translated into code
As a design engineer, I want to easily find standard parts and materials that are the best fit for the requirements of my project so that I do not have to waste time and effort designing custom parts.	Dimensions, composition, properties, requirements, drawings, 3D models
As a compliance engineer, I want to have all product requirements tracked in a single area so that I can easily trace test results to requirements from standards and have a digital thread to present to regulatory agencies.	Requirements extracted in ReqlF or equivalent format to track in customer's requirements tracking system
...	...

Identifying Standards Needed

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Stay Focused to
Achieve
Incremental Wins

(Standards and
Referenced
Standards)

- Outline
- Discoverability
- Output

What Info Will
You Need?

Target Must-Have
Information

Why Grouping is Important: Examples of Different Aluminum Standards

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Aluminum Alloy (AMS4016)

1. Scope
2. Applicable Documents
3. Requirements
 1. Composition
 2. Condition
 3. Properties:
 1. Tensile Properties
 2. Bending
 4. Quality
 5. Tolerances
4. QA
 1. Inspection
 2. Acceptance
 3. Periodic Tests
 4. Sampling and Testing
 5. Reports
 6. Resampling and retesting
5. Prep for Delivery
 1. Identification
 2. Packaging

Aluminum Alloy (AMS4044)

1. Scope
2. Applicable Documents
3. Requirements:
 1. Composition
 2. Condition
 3. Properties
 1. Tensile Properties Annealed
 2. Bending Annealed
 3. Tensile Properties T62 Temper
 4. Bending Parameters T62 Temper
 5. Tensile Properties T732 Temper
 4. Quality
 5. Tolerances
4. QA
 1. Inspection
 2. Acceptance
 3. Periodic Tests
 4. Sampling and Testing
 5. Reports
 6. Resampling and Retesting
5. Prep for Delivery
 1. Identification
 2. Protective Treatment
 3. Packaging

What Do You Want to Accomplish? Leveraging End Goals to Develop Digitization Plan

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1. Start with the End Goal in mind—work towards incremental wins
2. Identify target standards and group together similar standards
3. Identify the information needed from each standard to support your use case
 - a) Requirements list
 - b) Dimensions
 - c) Properties
 - d) Etc.



Step 2

What Do you Need to Achieve Your Goals?

Start With The End To Determine What You Need

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Use Cases	Digital Information Needed	PDF Likely Contains
As an enterprise data systems engineer, I want to automate the programming of ovens to perform standard heat treatments on raw metals so that my manufacturing process is defined from an authorized source.	Process steps that can be translated into code	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose• Process steps• Calculations• Testing requirements
As a design engineer, I want to easily find standard parts and materials that are the best fit for the requirements of my project so that I do not have to waste time, money, and effort designing custom parts.	Dimensions, composition, properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Models• Drawings• Data tables
As a compliance engineer, I want to have all product requirements tracked in a single application so that I can easily trace test results to requirements from standards.	Requirements extracted in ReqlF or equivalent format to track in customer's requirements tracking system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prose• Requirements statements
...	...	

Forming a Digitization Plan

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- Think about the information needed from each standard and the best format for the information to be consumed
- Consider the technologies to obtain the needed information
- Also consider that some standards may not make sense to digitize at all

Standards With...	May Be Best Digitized By...
Standards with prose, process steps, requirements	Natural Language Processing (NLP), such as Machine Learning (ML) or Large Language Model (LLM)
Standards that contain primarily images, drawings	Optical Character Recognition (OCR) or Data Entry
Table-heavy standards with lots of data	Data Entry
Standards targeted for processes or standards to be applied as part of a larger system	SysML (MBSE model)
Handwritten or scanned standards (no electronic copy, e.g., MIL standards)	Large Language Model (LLM)

Many Titanium Standards Contain Similar Information

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- 1. Scope
- 2. Applicable Documents
- 3. Technical Requirements
 - 1. Composition
 - 2. Melting Practice
 - 3. Condition
 - 4. Annealing or Heat Treatment
 - 5. Properties
 - 6. Quality
 - 7. Tolerances
 - 8. Exceptions
- 4. Quality Assurance Provisions
 - 1. Responsibility for Inspection
 - 2. Classification of Test
 - 3. Sampling and Testing
 - 4. Reports
 - 5. Resampling and Retesting
- 5. Preparation for Delivery
 - 1. Identification
 - 2. Packaging
- 6. Acknowledgement
- 7. Rejections
- 8. Notes

- How do you want to have this standard found?
 - Search by composition
 - Search by properties
 - Other?
- What do you really need from this standard?
 - Technical requirements
 - Quality assurance provisions
 - Preparation for delivery
- What format do you need this in?
 - ReqlF or equivalent
 - Data for input to models
- What is the best way to get this information?
 - Some form of NLP is best start

Titanium vs. Aluminum: Different Families

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Titanium

1. Scope
2. Applicable Documents
3. Requirements
 1. Composition
 2. Melting Practice
 3. Condition
 4. Annealing or Heat Treatment
 5. Properties:
 1. Tensile Properties
 2. Bending
 3. Stress-Corrosion Resistance
 4. Microstructure
 5. Surface Contamination
 6. Quality
 7. Tolerances
4. QA
 1. Inspection
 2. Acceptance
 3. Periodic Tests
 4. Sampling and Testing
 5. Reports
 6. Resampling and retesting
5. Prep for Delivery
 1. Identification
 2. Packaging

Aluminum Alloy (AMS4016)

1. Scope
2. Applicable Documents
3. Requirements
 1. Composition
 2. Condition
 3. Properties:
 1. Tensile Properties
 2. Bending
4. QA
 1. Quality
 5. Tolerances
4. QA
 1. Inspection
 2. Acceptance
 3. Periodic Tests
 4. Sampling and Testing
 5. Reports
 6. Resampling and retesting
5. Prep for Delivery
 1. Identification
 2. Packaging

What Do You Need to Achieve Your Goals?

Categorize and Plan

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1. Identify families of standards that are similar enough to group together and determine best digitization process for each family
2. Plan out:
 1. What data needs to be searched
 2. What info/data needs to be extracted
 3. What other information is relevant in the standard

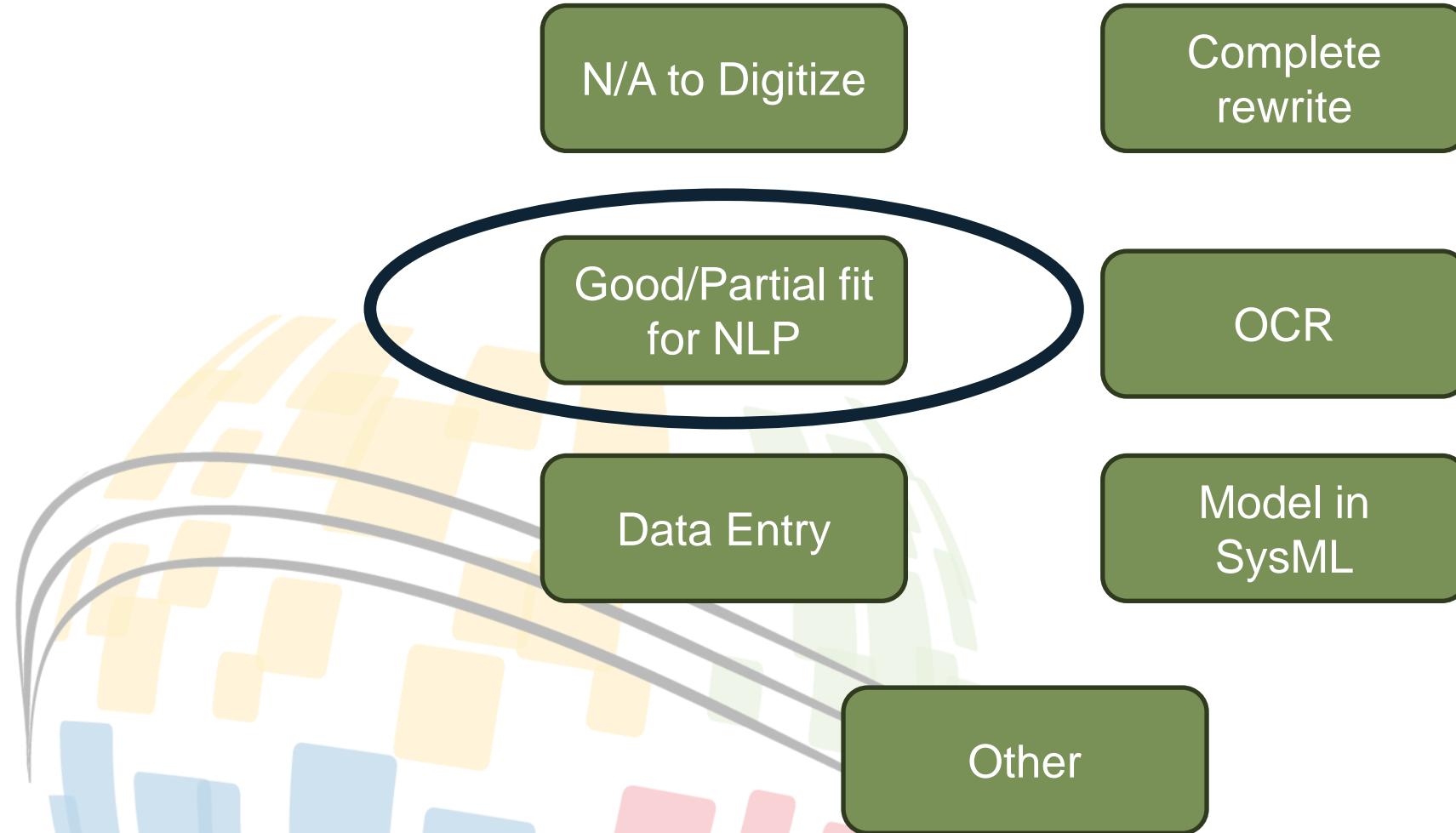


Step 3

How Do You Get There?

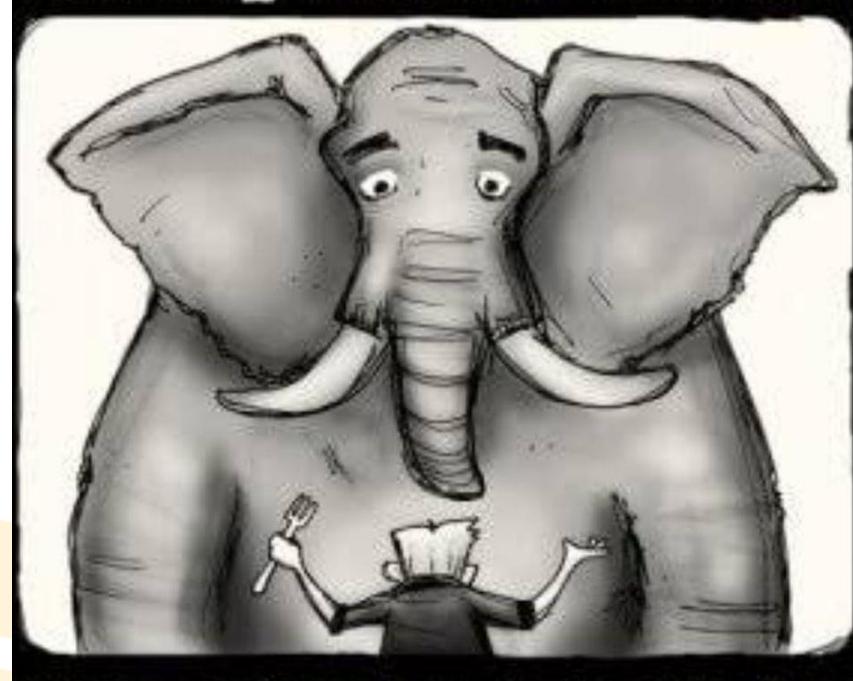
Digitization Plan Accounts for Different Digitization Methods

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Managing NLP-Based Digitization Projects

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1

Incremental Wins

2

Prepare and Plan

3

Iterate

4

Manage Scope Creep

5

Leverage Successes

Incremental Wins

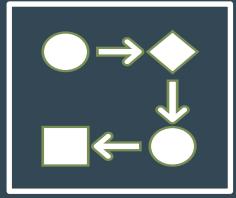


- Focus on a specific use case
- Limit number of targeted standards and families
- Plan how to demonstrate success

Prepare and Plan



- Determine how to digitize standards family(s)
- Identify prep work before you start
- Plan out the data model considering search and extraction requirements



Iterate

- Test, test, test
- Re-evaluate and iterate
- Test, test, test



Manage Scope Creep

- Consider the manageability of your use case
- Avoid expanding beyond your capabilities
- Done is better than perfect

Leverage Successes



- Demonstrate accomplishments
- Roll out in phases
- Leverage ROI from successes to fund future projects

How Do You Get There?

- Focus on incremental wins
- Prepare and plan
- Iterate
- Manage scope creep
- Leverage success



Step 3

Summary

Summary

- **Start with the End Goal in mind—work towards incremental wins**
- **Identify the information needed from each standard to support your use case**
- **Group standards into families that are similar**
- **Plan out what data needs to be searched, what info/data needs to be extracted, and what other information is relevant in the standard**
- **Identify incremental wins, prepare and plan, iterate, manage scope creep, and leverage successes**

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