

# Preserve Your Legacy

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## The Aim

This guide tries to help an artist ensure their legacy prevails after he/she is gone.

Yes, it is a morbid topic, but you'd better not ignore it and hope your kids will do it for you! In a way, it's a guide for writing your will.

## Checklist

1. Nominate a person who will take care of your legacy
2. Portfolio
3. Copyrights
4. Your artwork and models
5. The site and online assets
6. Artworks by others
7. Papers and other materials

## Find a person who will take care of your legacy

1. Find a person, perhaps a family member or close friend, to whom you will give access to various resources mentioned below, both tangible and intangible, such as passwords. Make sure the person is aware of their mission and has at least a basic understanding of the kind and value of things you want to give them access to. Selecting a specific person or an additional backup person will clarify their responsibility.
2. Make appointments regarding whom to inform of your passing, for example, your national origami society, some specific people in the origami world, or the general public (via social media). Leave specific names of people to contact and ways to reach them (phone, e-mail address, etc.).

## Portfolio

1. Models -

- a. It is good to leave behind (and to have, while you are still here) a full catalog of all your works. It can be a PDF, a Google Sheet, etc., that includes the name of the model/work and an image.
  - b. The list can include extra details - diagrammed, published, etc.
2. Books and publications - Create a list of books and their publishers, relevant contracts, etc.
3. Notes, design drawings, sketches of planned work, presentation slides and notes, articles prepared for publishing, etc.
4. Correspondence with other origami creators (paper and electronic), especially if you had correspondence with any “big names” in the origami world
5. Pictures showing you taking part in origami events, your model exhibitions, lectures, and presentations, etc.
6. Materials on other origamists’ work, you may have collected as part of your research into origami history

## Copyrights

1. Owner - clarify clearly who will be the owner of the copyrights.
2. Royalties - make a list of all your assets that are paid by a third party, clarify who pays, POC, the contract that it is based on, expiration date, etc.
3. Permission to teach:
  - a. Whom to ask for commercial use?
  - b. Whom to ask, if at all, for non-commercial uses, mainly for teaching at conventions?
  - c. Consider giving blanket approval for all non-commercial teachings, as we believe your models shouldn't die when you have.
  - d. You can define this on the CFC site, in your profile (TBC)

## Artworks and Other Models

1. Sort your models into two evident groups - finished works, which should be kept, and all the rest.
2. The rest - here are some ideas -
  - a. You can donate it to kids' hospitals.
  - b. Give it away during any workshop you give.
  - c. You definitely consider throwing all the rest now, no point in leaving it to your kids.
3. The good ones -
  - a. Be selective with what you call “artwork” in the sense of going to a lot of trouble to preserve it. If they’re not really high quality, it’s not likely that anyone is going to exhibit

them in the future. You should record with each artwork the date of creation, type of paper, and anything else that might be relevant to future curators.

- b. Artwork should have packing boxes with sufficient packing so that they can be stored that way for a long time. Don't rely on your heirs to know how to store and handle origami.
- c. Donate to EMOZ.
- d. Donate to your local group or to the national organization.

## Site and Other Online Assets

Do you wish your website to continue in some form? If so,

1. Create a list of all sites, passwords, and usernames to log in.
2. Site host - when is the due date for the hosting, and how to pay for it?
3. Your domain name(s) - how to renew them.
4. Software grows obsolete and may need to be updated. Even if you are no longer making edits to your website, if it is based on a database, the hosting company may periodically update their server software and/or their database software or PHP version, in which case the software that runs the website might well also need to be updated. Make arrangements for that.
5. If your website is database-based, you might consider making provision for it to be converted to a static-HTML site, which requires less sophisticated hosting and is easier to move around if that needs to happen.
6. Keep in mind that hosting companies change their prices, change their terms of service, and/or go out of business or sell off their business. Even big ones (Google Domains no longer exist).
7. The "Wayback Machine" (<https://archive.org>) has records of old websites, but their records are often incomplete, and for highly dynamic websites, they might not reproduce the site very accurately. So don't rely on that as a record of your site.
8. Most social media sites give you the option to download all your data (e.g., in XML format). Sometimes this option is not easily visible, but usually there. Download your data periodically (set up a reminder in your calendar to do it, e.g., once per month) and store it in a place that is well-documented and accessible to your future heirs. This is especially important if social media is your primary way of being present on the internet.

## Other

1. If you have works by some of the big names (Joisel, Yoshizawa for sure, maybe others), make SURE they are appropriately labeled, include any documentation that establishes their provenance (are they signed? Receipts of sale? Records of their previous exhibition anywhere), and keep those records with the artwork.

2. Papers and other tools - Donate to your local group, or to the national organization.
3. Books -
4. If you wish to automatically publish some data when you die, you can set a “dead man’s switch”. Services such as [Buffer.com](https://buffer.com) allow you to schedule publishing to social media in the future. You can set up publishing of some information, e.g., 1 month into the future, and have an automated reminder in your calendar to move the date forward once every 2 weeks. If you don’t move the date forward (e.g., because of being dead), the scheduled information will get published. If you want to publish a larger amount of data, such as images or diagrams, or a larger body of work, you can upload it to a file hosting site such as Google Drive and have the “dead man’s switch” publish the link and password. Note that hosting does not last forever, so you should encourage people to download that data once you make it public rather than rely on the online version.
5. It is better to do even a little of the things mentioned here than to do nothing, so even if the task seems overwhelming, start with a little