

Book Digitization



**WHAT WE LEARNED FROM
PALINET'S
MASS DIGITIZATION COLLABORATIVE
PILOT PROJECT**

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Book Digitization Project Group



Why Participate ?



- To study WVU options for future book digitization processes and procedures
- To work together with PALINET member libraries to contribute to a collection of scholarly content available online
- To share our expertise and to learn from other libraries
- To make WVU Libraries collections more widely available online
- To examine book digitization's role in WVU's long-term preservation and access strategy

WVU Libraries' Experience



- The Project improved the profile, visibility, and perception of our library
- Availability of digitized materials has increased user interest and requests to see the original items
- The Project was an excellent use of our dollars and our staff time
- The Project was a successful test of our model for building digital collections with work effort and contributions from people in departments throughout the Libraries

WVU Libraries' Experience



- The Project successfully extracted metadata from our MountainLynx catalog
- We can rely on the Internet Archive for the needs of our special materials; no new in-house scanners and cameras needed
- We will look to the Collaborative for standards and accepted guidelines and tools
- We can rely on the Internet Archive's presentation, storage and preservation of our files; no duplicate local file storage

Future Plans and Concerns



- **Need our own WVU informed digitization priorities: teaching and learning potential, historical value, research significance, enhanced access, improved functionality, preservation**
- **Must confirm what expertise is required for library personnel and what is better assigned to the Collaborative or to Internet Archive**
- **Intellectual property rights: we have few in-house resources to deal with this important issue**
- **We assume no anticipated end date for our digitization activities; need long term sustainability within the organization and budget; identify a revenue stream?**

Future Plans and Concerns II



- We see potential for partnerships with state and regional libraries, archives, foundations, funding sources; must be communication structure, accountability, and shared goals
- What types of materials could we digitize? Bound and unbound typescript documents, diaries and scrapbooks, letters, slides, original artworks, microformats, artifacts, maps, web pages/web sites, biological specimens, biomedical images ...
- How is the responsibility for quality control shared among WVU, the Collaborative, and Internet Archive?

Future Plans and Concerns III



- **Who is the intended audience? University teaching and research community, K-12, alumni and lifelong learners, government and private sector?**
- **Considerations for web accessibility for wide range of users: Collaborative and Internet Archive role**
- **Changing technology will bring changes in projects: how will the Collaborative and Internet Archive as a vendor handle changes in the cost of digitization?**
- **External grant writing places demands on staff expertise and availability**

Future Plans and Concerns IV



- What level of staff will do metadata creation? Where in the organization? Is our distributed staffing model sustainable and scalable?
- Do we increase our conservation for materials selected for digitization: Mylar, disbinding, rebinding, boxing, deacidification, etc. Digitization priority for brittle books?
- For West Virginia Collection materials, what range of cataloging should exist before digitization: inventory? full cataloging? How much metadata is required to make the materials usable?

Final concerns



- Need good understanding of Internet Archive's policies on format, resolution, and compression, and how to explain TIFF, JPEG, PDF, GIF, etc. to non-librarian users and potential contributors, as well as sophisticated users and preservationists
- Need to develop user evaluations and impact statements that can be presented to funding organizations
- Currently we assume Internet Archive user interface, file formats, preservation, backups, and file integrity are satisfactory; what are Collaborative plans for review and change?

WVU Pilot Project Librarians



- William.Rafter@mail.wvu.edu Head, Cataloging and Periodicals Department
- Jo.Brown@mail.wvu.edu Appalachian Bibliographer
- Harold.Forbes@mail.wvu.edu Rare Books Curator
- Frances.O'Brien@mail.wvu.edu Dean, WVU Libraries
- Other WVU digitization projects: John Cuthbert, Director, West Virginia & Regional History Collection; Dennis Newborn, Head, Library Systems; Gordon Ernst, Authorities/Cataloging Librarian