WHAT WE LEARNED FROM LYRASIS’ MASS DIGITIZATION COLLABORATIVE PILOT PROJECT

Frances O’Brien
Dean, WVU Libraries

WVLA September 2009
Book Digitization Project Group
Why Participate?

- To study WVU options for future book digitization processes and procedures
- To work together with Lyrasis 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
- To promote discussion of our long-term digital content 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 a good 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
Good publicity

What do you get when you cross a 150-year-old book with the Internet?

By Frances OBrien

When it comes to reading a book in a digital format, few things can compare to the experience of holding an old book in your hands. There's something special about the feel of the pages, the weight of the book, and the dust particles that cling to the spine. But what if you could combine this experience with the convenience of a digital format? What if you could read a book that's been around for a century or more, while still enjoying the benefits of modern technology?

This is exactly what the West Virginia University Libraries have been working on. The Libraries have embarked on a project to digitize thousands of rare and valuable books, bringing them into the digital age while preserving their physical form. The project is part of a larger effort to make the Libraries' vast collection of materials available to a wider audience.

The process of digitization involves scanning pages from each book and converting them into a digital format. This allows users to access the content of the books from anywhere in the world, using any device with an internet connection. The digital versions of the books can be read, searched, and downloaded, just like any other digital book.

The Libraries have already digitized thousands of books, ranging from classic literature to scientific works. These books are now available online, and users can browse through them, search for specific passages, and even download entire chapters. The digital versions are searchable, so users can easily find the information they need.

The project has been a success, and the Libraries are planning to digitize even more books in the future. This will allow even more people to access these valuable resources, and it will help preserve them for future generations.

In conclusion, the digitization of these books is a win-win situation. It allows users to access these valuable resources from anywhere in the world, while preserving the physical books for future generations. The Libraries are to be commended for their efforts in making these resources available to all.
The Project successfully extracted metadata from our MountainLynx catalog.

We can rely on the Internet Archive scans for most materials; some Monticola volumes were oversized.

We will look to the Collaborative for standards and accepted guidelines and tools.

We will rely on the Internet Archive’s presentation, storage and preservation of our files; no duplicate local file storage (at least for now …)
West Virginia University alumni hungry for some nostalgia can now get their fill. The WVU Libraries have digitized every volume of the Monticola, the University’s yearbook, and posted the electronic versions online.

“The university’s yearbook is a very popular part of our collection,” Libraries Dean Frances O’Brien said. “We’re excited to help Mountaineers everywhere to reminisce about their days in Morgantown.”

The West Virginia & Regional History Collection, located in the Wise Library, has long housed copies of the Monticola. Previously, to browse the pages, one would have to make a trip to campus and stop by the Library during operating hours. People can now simply go online to reel in the years.

The electronic yearbooks can be found on the Internet Archive, www.archive.org. To get to the WVU Libraries’ page, first click “Texts,” then “American Libraries,” and then “West Virginia University.” Finally, click on “All Items” to see a list of all Monticola volumes along with other available WVU materials.

The Monticola was published every year from 1896 to 1986 and then in 1992 and 2000.

Putting the Monticola online is the second phase of an initiative that began last fall as a pilot project in which the Libraries digitized 10 items from its Rare Books Collection and made them available through the Internet Archive.

The Libraries are currently in the process of digitizing 1,000 books over the next few years. The books will also be available at www.archive.org.
Swine Flu in 1976/77 Monticola

SWINE FLU WAS THE ISSUE

Everyone knew what it was called. Others wondered whether one really contracted it from pigs. Scientists questioned whether its cause could possibly kill you.

Swine Flu was the issue. And from mid-November through December and into January, community, county, state, and federal leaders in West Virginia worked to contain the new virus.

Nationally, the program cost was $335 million dollars. Locally, the County Health Department invested $500,000 at the Federal government’s expense. West Virginia University staff and students immunized roughly 80,000.

Controversy, however, hindered the program from the start.

First, many disagreed that an epidemic would occur. Others, didn’t feel the type of flu was linked, as many said, to a 1918 influenza that caused half a million deaths.

Last, heart attacks that killed several elderly people in Pinckneyville immediately after immunization and other cases of people were linked to the inoculations.

Ultimately, the program was cancelled, but speculation continues.

Three individuals involved with the local program in the Morgantown area gave their views on the program.
Welcome to West Virginia University Libraries

Books contributed by the University of West Virginia Libraries.

All items (most recently added first) - RSS

Browse by Title

ABCDEFHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Browse by Author

ABCDEFHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Recently Reviewed Items (more)

This Just In (more)

Annual report of the Department of Mines for the year ending ... (Volume 26th)
26 days ago

Quartermaster General's report, state of West Virginia (Volume 1863/1866)
26 days ago

Corporation report of Secretary of State from ... (Volume 1907/1909)
26 days ago

Corporation report of Secretary of State from ... (Volume 1905/1907)
26 days ago

Corporation report of Secretary of State from ... (Volume 1903/1905)

Most Downloaded Items

1. The Monticola (Volume 1967)
37 downloads

2. The Monticola (Volume 1967)
30 downloads

3. The Monticola (Volume 1984)
30 downloads

4. The Monticola (Volume 1977)
28 downloads

5. A history of Pendleton County, West Virginia
27 downloads

Strategic Direction

- Academic research libraries will be distinguished in the future not by their commercially purchased collections, but by their curated special collections of unique or valuable items. This curated care is increasingly digital. Future collections will include not only digital versions of traditional formats, but also born-digital documents and other creative outputs from students, faculty, and researchers.
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; is our staffing model sustainable?

- Intellectual property rights: we have few in-house resources to deal with this important issue

- What is our responsibility for quality inspection?
Future Plans and Concerns II

- We see potential for partnerships with state and regional libraries, archives, foundations, funding sources.
- Our collections and services are becoming digital; our resource deployment must change too.
- What types of materials could we digitize? Bound and unbound typescript documents, illustrations, hand-written documents, photographs, sound recordings, slides, video, original artworks, microformats, ...
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?
- Online accessibility for persons with disabilities; vendor role (Internet Archive)
- Changing technology will bring changes in projects: how will pricing models for Lyrasis member libraries change? Will the Internet Archive contract change?
- External grant writing places demands on staff expertise and availability
Future Plans and Concerns IV

- Training for metadata creation: student workers, staff, librarians
- Do we increase/decrease our conservation for materials selected for digitization: encapsulation, disbinding, rebinding, boxing, etc.
- 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
Final concerns

- What extent and type of content access is appropriate for digital content: MARC? metadata? What goes in MountainLynx? WVU Scholar? What is included in EZ Search (federated searching)? What is required to make materials usable?

- 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; future long-term WVU or Lyrasis plans?
WVU Project Librarians

- Jo.Brown@mail.wvu.edu
- John.Cuthbert@mail.wvu.edu
- Harold.Forbes@mail.wvu.edu
- William.Rafter@mail.wvu.edu
- Frances.O'Brien@mail.wvu.edu