



Digital Collections at The British Library

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Overview

- **Introduction: The British Library and its digital collections**
- **Development of the Digital Library Store (DLS)**
- **Collaborative research**

The British Library

- **Our vision:**

‘Making accessible the world’s intellectual, scientific and cultural heritage. The collections of the British Library and other great collections will be accessible on everyone’s virtual bookshelf – at work, at school, at college, at home.’

Digital Collecting

- Legal and voluntary deposit
- Purchased material
- Digital material created by the BL

Digital Materials

- **Physical formats**
e.g. CD-ROM publications
- **Networked/online journals**
- **Special collections**
e.g. Manuscripts
- **Digitisation & Library projects**
- **Web sites**
- **Audio**

Main Strategies

- **Collections strategies:**
 - Ensure improved coverage of the UK's National Published Archive
 - Increase our collecting of digital materials
 - Focus on user needs and develop greater collaboration with other libraries in collecting, preserving and providing access to research material
- **Access strategies include :**
 - Make the Library's collections more accessible to users

Digital Library Store

- Aims to support the storage and long-term preservation of digital materials
- Requires developing new business processes for managing workflow, metadata and preservation strategies
- Based on the OAIS standard
- Principally stores digital objects with corresponding metadata

Metadata

- **Descriptive**
- **Technical**
 - to assist current use
- **Preservation**
 - to help maintain look and feel
 - record changes to the object
 - record preservation responsibility
- **Rights**
 - IPR and licensing
- **Administrative**

Digital Library Store

- **Support for preservation strategies:**
 - refreshing of storage media
 - emulation of hardware or software
 - migration to new formats
 - recording the history of each object
 - integrity checking and thorough backup regime

Collaborative Research

- **Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)**
- **Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB)**
 - National Library of the Netherlands
- **OCLC-RLG Preservation Metadata Working Group**
- **LOCKSS (Stanford University)**
 - Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe
- **CEDARS**