A user's-eye view of digital content creation

Decoding the Digital
British Library, 27th July 2010

Aly Conteh
Digitisation Programme Manager, British Library

Codex Sinaiticus

Codex Sinaiticus is one of the most important books in the world. Handwritten well over 1600 years ago, the manuscript contains the Christian Bible in Greek, including the oldest complete copy of the New Testament. Its heavily corrected text is of outstanding importance for the history of the Bible and the manuscript – the oldest substantial book to survive Antiquity – is of supreme importance for the history of the book. [**Find out more about Codex Sinaiticus.**]

The Codex Sinaiticus Project

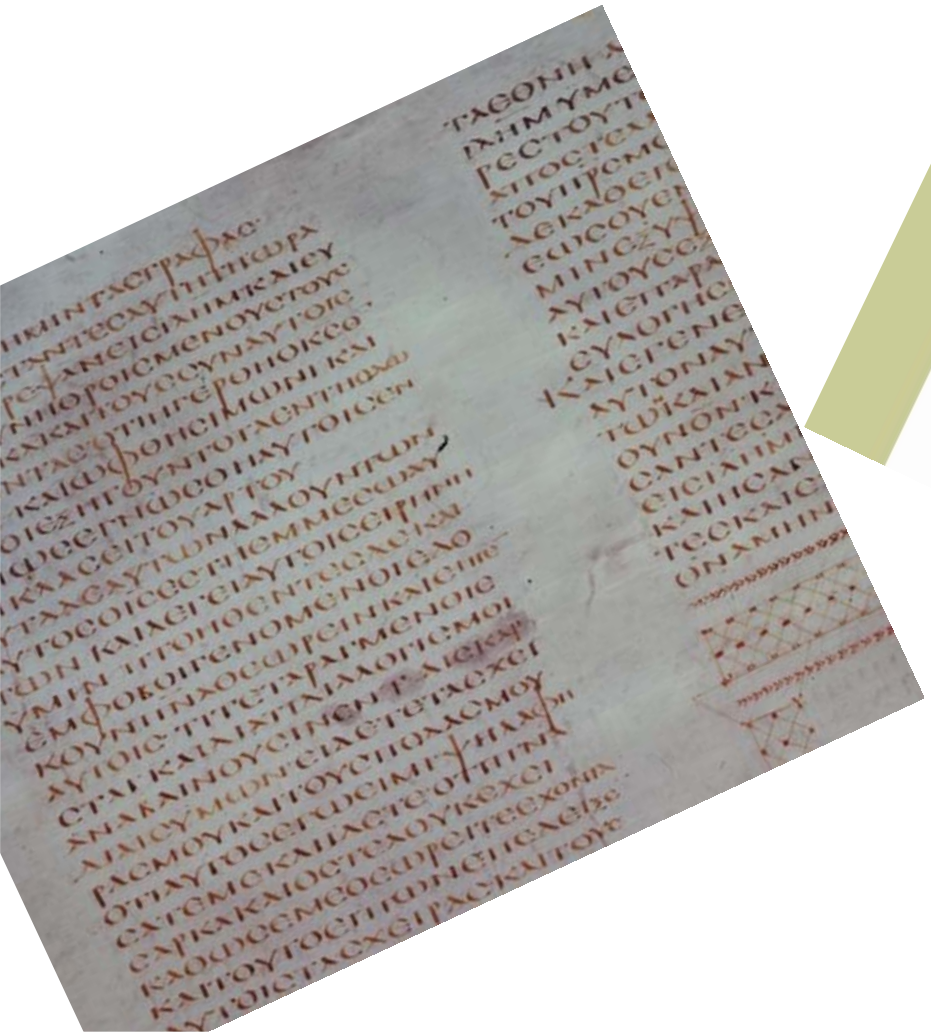
The Codex Sinaiticus Project is an international collaboration to reunite the entire manuscript in digital form and make it accessible to a global audience for the first time. Drawing on the expertise of leading scholars, conservators and curators, the Project gives everyone the opportunity to connect directly with this famous manuscript. [**Find out more about the Codex Sinaiticus Project.**]

The Codex Sinaiticus Website

Partner institutions

- The British Library
- National Library of Russia
- St. Catherines Monastery
- Leipzig University Library

Born Digital & Digital Conversion

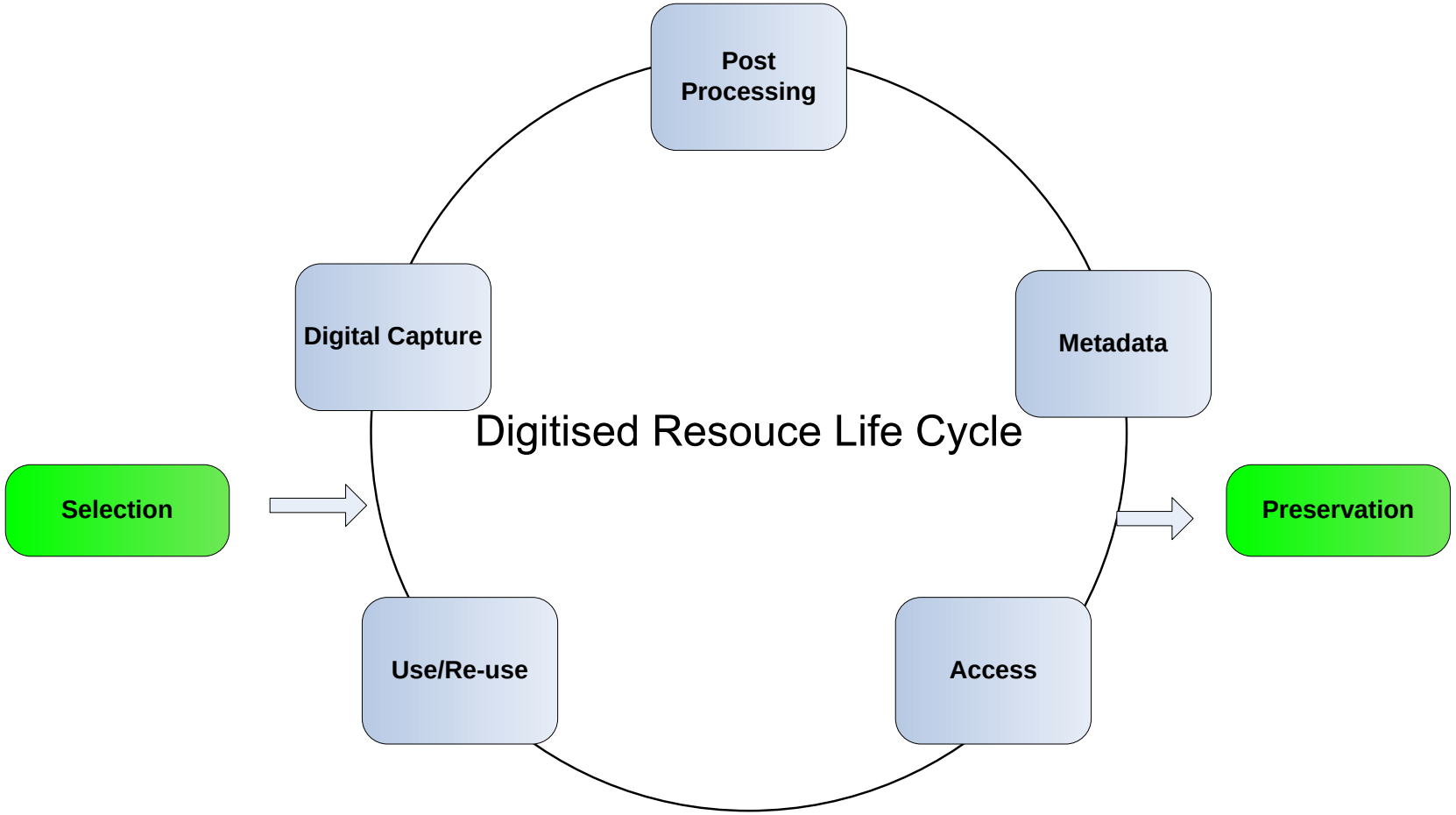


Creating Digitised Resources

Why Digitise

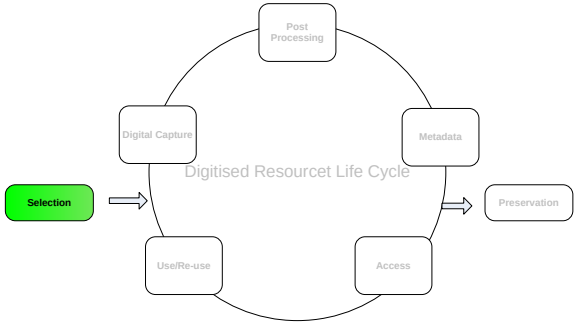
- Open up access to content
- Support innovative methods of research
- Preserve unique, rare and fragile heritage items
- Reveal illegible and hidden text
- Generate income to help sustain digitised resources and digitisation activity
- Increase use of collection

The Digitisation Lifecycle



Selection Criteria

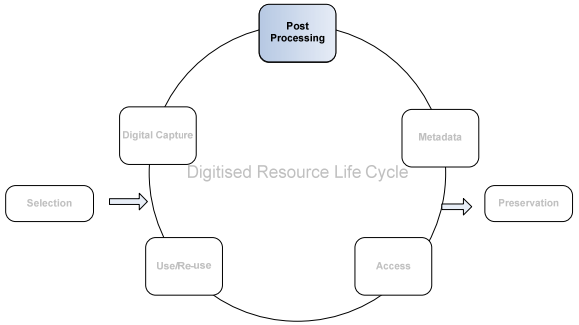
- The Collection – unique, significant, fragile, collaboration
- User Demand or Focus – evidence based, alignment with strategy
- Research – innovates, new avenues, builds upon
- Funding – available or identified source, income potential
- Technology – liberate content, take advantage of new approaches
- Internal Resources – capacity, capability



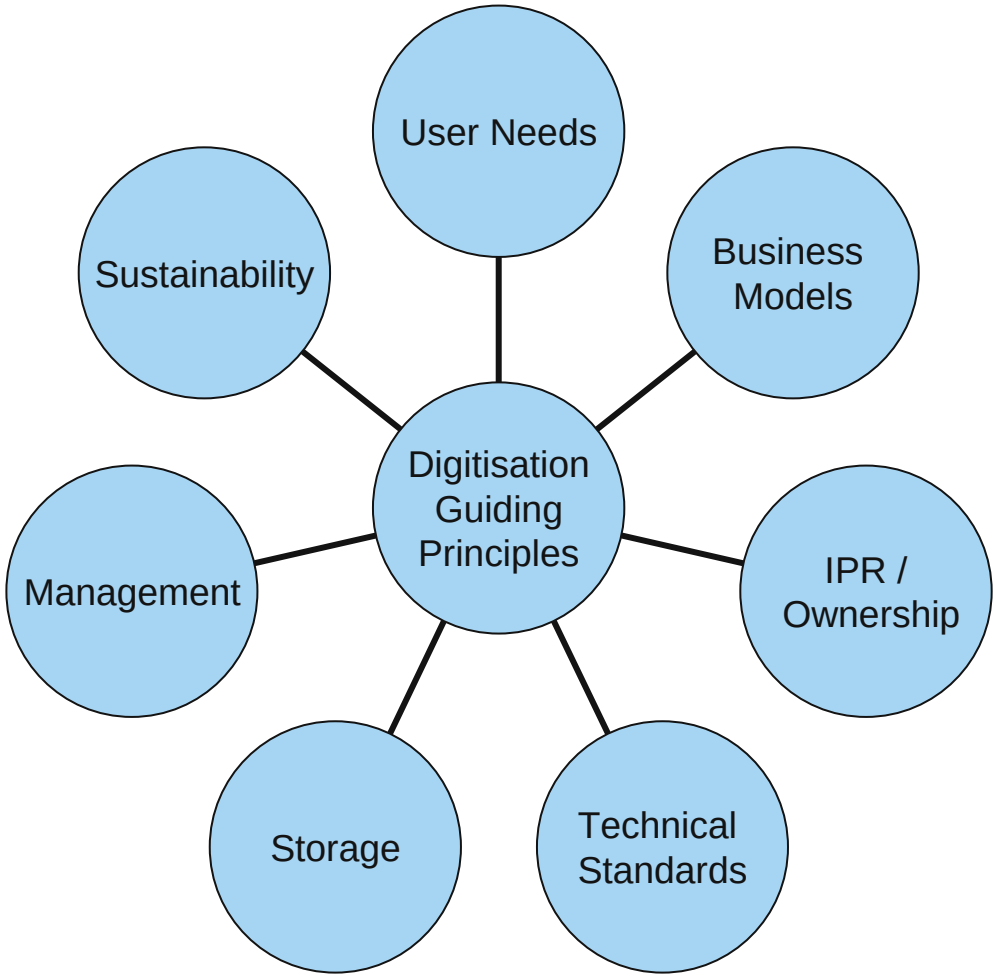
Post Processing

- What treatment to apply
  - Image manipulation
  - Transcription
  - Translation
  - Text Extraction

- Is it going to be perfect?

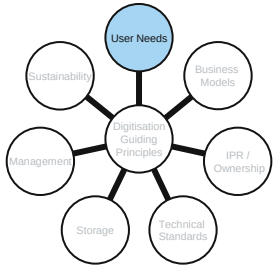


Guiding Principles



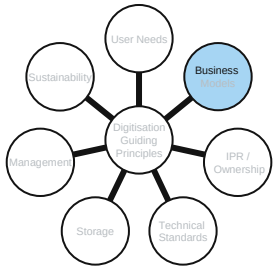
User Needs

- Satisfy the needs of current and future users
  - Understand the needs of our users!
  - Develop, refine and monitor interactions with digitised collections
  - Contribute to a growing corpus of national, European and international digital content.



Business Models

- The business model must be sustainable for at least 5 years
- Licensing agreements should be non-exclusive, with limited terms.
- Retain IP in the digital objects created, ensuring future service development.
- Items should be discoverable via institutional tools
- Digital objects should be available to as wide a range of users as possible.



Case Study

Preferences | Change Databases | Logout
British Library News
19TH CENTURY
BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS
GALE
CENGAGE Learning
Bookmark
Print
E-mail
Download
Marked Items
Previous Searches
Title List
Help
About
Topic Guide
Basic Search | Advanced Search | Publication Search | Browse Publications by Location
Basic Search
19th Century
British Library Newspapers
2 million newspaper pages
Selected by experts in the field
Full runs when possible
National and regional newspapers
About This Database
Fully text searchable
View entire pages or individual articles
Save, bookmark, e-mail and print results
Use Topic Guide to learn more
More...
Basic Search
Find:
Search
Search for words in: Keyword Entire document
Limit the results:
by publication date(s): All Before On After Between
Year *Month* *Day* and
Year *Month* *Day*
by publication title:
Browse Publication Title
by content set:
None selected
19th Century British Library Newspapers
19th Century British Library Newspapers, Part 2
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JISC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
CRYSTAL PALACE
FACT OR FICTION?

Case Study

Help
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BRITISH NEWSPAPERS
1800-1900
GALE CENGAGE Learning
Home
Advanced Search
Publications List
Browse By Location
Research Tools
Search History
Marked List
Search this site
FIND:
Search Tips
Display only free content
Publication date(s) :
All Before On After Between
Day *Month* *Year*
and *Day* *Month* *Year*
Publication title/code:
Browse Publications
SEARCH
Advanced Search
Introduction
More Information
Topical Articles
Prices
THE GRAPHIC
Explore two million pages of 19th century newspapers
Search 49 local and national titles using keywords More
See your search terms in context More
View complete articles from the Penny Illustrated Paper and The Graphic free of charge
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The Preservation Questions

Why do you need to keep the originals?

Why do you create, store (forever) and manage master files?

Blu-ray Disc

Thank You

www.bl.uk

aly.conteh@bl.uk
@aconteh