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