A user’s-eye view of digital content creation

Decoding the Digital
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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.]
Born Digital & Digital Conversion

The Electronic British Library Journal

The EB LJ is the journal of scholarship research into the concepts and history of the British Library and its collections. It is the successor to the British Library Journal which appeared in quarterly volumes between 1986 and 1989. Its purpose is to advance knowledge of the Library’s collections by demonstrating their value and the ways in which they are used by researchers. It is available free to all users on our website, it is permanently archived and is indexed in EMD. The Editor-in-Chief is, etc.

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A foreword to the EB LJ by Stuart Hood, Chief Executives of the British Library.
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

Digitised Resource Life Cycle

- Selection
- Digital Capture
- Post Processing
- Metadata
- Use/Re-use
- Access
- Preservation
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
- Business Models
- IPR / Ownership
- Technical Standards
- Storage
- Management
- Sustainability

Digitisation 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.
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
The Preservation Questions

Why do you need to keep the originals?

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

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