

Follow that!

Redeploying project investment for
future activities

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BOPCRIS Digitisation Laboratory

Extensive scanning facility developed since 2004



I2S Copibook scanner,
300dpi colour/greyscale

A photograph of a man in a dark blue shirt and glasses operating a large, overhead Copibook scanner. He is seated at a wooden desk, looking at a computer monitor that displays a grid of small images. The scanner is a large, silver, boxy machine with a flatbed. Several other similar workstations are visible in the background, each with its own overhead lamp. The room is dimly lit, with the primary light sources being the overhead lamps and the computer monitors. The man's hands are on the scanner's controls. On the desk, there are various papers, a keyboard, and a mouse. The overall atmosphere is that of a busy, somewhat dated office or archival processing center.

Copibook scanners in
action for 19C
Pamphlets project



Digitising Line DL
robot scanner
unique in the UK

The Southampton context

- Research project environment – extensive experience
- Specialist scanning of rare material in country
- Support from archive staff including special handling and security
- Secure transport
- Establishing and consolidating ‘know how’ not readily available from commercial companies

H/W and S/W investment since 2004

- Content management system £60,000
- Servers £140,000
- Dark store £30,000
- Scanners £500,000
- Challenges of hardware obsolescence
- Demands of standards-driven workflow outputs and software durability

Skilled staff requirements

- Knowledge drain when project finishes
- Dependencies with Archives and Special Collections
- Workflow (developer) dependencies
- Maintaining staff capacity depends on revenue
- Institutional ‘workaday’ scanning requirements – who does this?

IT Dependencies – more unpicking

- Software dependencies
 - Black box/Customised
 - Developmental environment = staff dependency
 - Post-project software migration...
- Hardware dependencies
 - Corporate IT service – “Process vs. innovation”
- Techno uplift on reprocurement e.g. text mining not basic coding

Cost – building a minimum budget

- Staffing – Technical, managerial, administrative, legal
- Servers – production, hosting, storage
- Scanners – maintenance and operation
- Software – production workflow
- Advocacy/Advertising
- Aggregation/Hosting/Web

What work is out there...

- Own institutional content – IPR? Copyright? Sensitivity?
- Market testing – how to find what is needed in global community of practice?
- Other special collections in UK – location and reputation advantage
- Third party collaboration – subcontract role
- Proactive offers to aggregators – brokering is a slow process

Confine... or Spinout..?

- What is the business model – institutional constraints
- Fit with University (Library) mission and vision
- HE customer comfort zone
- What are we trying to be and why?
 - Contributors of value/context
 - Specialist contribution to the Google-style creation process

Content sustainability definitions?

- Host(s)/destinations
- File format – fit for the future
- Master images – long term preservation? Why?
- Fitness for repurpose... - metadata and files
- Sustainable ‘context’ - Web 3.0, Linked data

Hosting – overheads and models

- In-house (now or in the future) – funding required
- Not-for-profit - subscription
- Commercial – with JISC facilitated access
- Commercial – direct deal (sell and forget)
- Open access -with dowry
- Open access – no cost (thus no guarantees?)

Working to create publicly funded Open Content – solutions and questions

- Funding Council topslice
- JISC topslice
- SCA role
- Quantify ‘public’
 - UK HE? Home Nation?
 - The World?
- Role of RLUK as facilitator to achieve OC hosting
- Where could our National Libraries contribute?
- Not achievable without national support?

Questions...

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