Digitalization of Cultural Heritage and Databases for Historical Sciences. Together or Separately?

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Prague, 24 May 2012
Institutional considerations
In Poland the following institutions manage financing (incl. distribution of EU funds):

- research databases – Ministry of Science and Higher Education (since 2011 in most cases through two agencies: the National Center for Science (NCN) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR);
- digitalization for cultural heritage – Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
- projects of regional significance - Marshall Offices for each voivodeship.
Basic assumptions of competitions organized by respective decision-makers
I. Ministry of Science and Higher Education:

1. The competitions and evaluation of project applications are organized by IT professionals.

2. Evaluation focus on IT solutions (not on the content of databases).

3. Solutions for aggregation of existing content are preferred rather than creation and structuring new resources.

4. Solutions which involve to generate new tools are preferred to those, which rely on existing tools and mechanisms.

5. On the one hand in small projects are accepted solutions taking into account the specificity of a given field of knowledge. On the other, in large projects are preferred ‘universal’ systems.

6. Digitalization is considered as non-eligible cost or eligible only in reduced scope.
II. Case of *National Programme for Scientific Research and Development Activities*

1. Under this Program (i.e. under defining the priorities of Polish science and assigning strategic projects), in section The society in terms of accelerated and sustainable development, was defined project Interdisciplinary System for Interactive Information Science for Humanities.

2. As the main aim of this project was *To make accessible to scholars and all society comprehensive (significant in their overall collection) set of resources for Polish history and culture, according to the following criteria:*
   - accurately to the original message;
   - in interactive relation (facilitating comprehensive use) and intuitive to use;
Basic assumption of competitions organized by respective decision-makers:

- in combination with auxiliary materials (dictionaries, lists, comments, comparisons).

3. The project set up to provide access to (mostly) mediaeval and early modern sources because:

- in Polish reality this is the first epoch from which have survived the oldest source materials: texts, monuments (which are subjects of research in art history) and artifacts (which are subjects of research in archeology);

- resource of medieval texts and monuments, in relation to the following epochs and to areas of western and southern Europe, is not large, so even in a single program it is possible to present the significant part of it;

- most of Polish medieval sources were written in Latin (that language had been widely used by contemporary elites in large section of Europe and as a consequence is known to present-day scholars of this epoch (from many countries)).
Therefore, in this case there is no language barrier, which seriously obstruct European-wide (and even global) use of resources from later epochs.

4. During the works on a Project it was redefine as Interdisciplinary System for Interactive Scientific and Scientific Technical Information.

5. It was decided to implement Creating a universal, open and repository-like hosting platform which will provide access to web resources of knowledge to scientists, scholars and open knowledge society.
III. Ministry of Culture and National Heritage:

1. Programs (both from Ministry and from EU funds) are intended almost exclusively to units subordinated to:
   - the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
   - local government;
   - non-governmental organizations.

2. Digitalization is considered as eligible cost, but cataloging of digital objects is restricted to the level of the Dublin Core standard.

3. The most important evaluation criterion is number of files (and so projects with little scope of cataloging are preferred).
Basic assumption of competitions organized by respective decision-makers:

IV. Regional Operational Programmes:

1. According to their criteria, only projects of regional significance are acceptable (in case when criterion of regional significance is not imperative it is at least preferred).

2. According to so-called line of demarcation, in most regions financial support is possible only for small projects (less than 1 million Euro).
Excluded areas
1. Large collections (of supra-regional significance) stored in academic institutions (e.g. 40% of all known medieval manuscripts in Poland is stored in university libraries in Wrocław and Kraków) – they are excluded from the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for digitalization projects. Also Ministry of Science and Higher Education do not provide funds for that activity (because it don’t consider digitalization as a scientific activity).

2. Connecting digitalization process with advanced object description - it shows in lack of the own, national projects and in a small participation in supranational initiatives (Manuscriptorium, Monasterium.net).

A chance to change this situation is change of the assumptions of Norwegian Financial Mechanisms for new financial perspective.
Possible solutions
1. **How university library can acquire additional financing from public sources?**

   The only way is to combine several small projects (mainly co-founded by European Union from European Regional Development Fund and, available for humanists form 2009 – research-development projects founded by Ministry of Science and Higher Education).

2. **Recently realized projects and current projects:**
   a) *Silesian Iconographic Archive* (founded by Ministry of Science and Higher Education) - 15.03.2007-14.12.2011;
   b) *Interactive, multimedia Silesian bibliography. Part I. Old prints and books from 19th century from collections of Silesia-Lausitz Cabinet of Wroclaw University Library* (founded by Ministry of Science and Higher Education) - 01.06.2008 - 31.03.2012;
Possible solutions:

c) *Ornamenta Poloniae Mediaevalia. Medieval art in Poland: catalog of form and detail compared to Europe* (founded by Ministry of Science and Higher Education) - 01.08.2009 - 31.11.2012;

d) ‘Heritage of Region and Europe’. *Cimelia from collections of Wroclaw University Library. Digitalization and access in Internet* (co-founded by European Union from Regional Operational Programme for Lower Silesia Voividship) - 01.02.2010 - 30.09.2012;

e) ‘Imago Silesiae Inferioris online’. *Maps, plans and views of Lower Silesia from collections of Wroclaw University Library. Digitalization and access in Internet* (co-founded by European Union from Regional Operational Programme for Lower Silesia Voividship) - 01.02.2010 - 30.09.2012;
3. **Within each of them are documented other types of cultural heritage resources.** Currently we are working on integration digital sources generated during our last projects (creating common authority files, federated search etc.). Our fifth project will be completed this year. For classification of cultural heritage items we use Marburg Information, Documentation and Administration System (MIDAS).

4. **Work on our projects we’ll present more widely by the example of project ‘Heritage of Region and Europe’. Cimelia from collections of Wroclaw University Library. Digitalization and access in Internet.**
Background of the project ‘Heritage of Region and Europe’.
Cimelia from collections of Wroclaw University Library.
Digitalization and access in Internet.
Situation of Wroclaw University Library:

1. Small (in relation to whole library’s collection) number of objects accessible in Internet.
2. Lack of sufficient technical infrastructure.
3. Library’s financial situation prevents financing new investments from its own budget.
4. Experienced staff (also in the implementation of projects).
Project implementation
1. Preparation – objects selection:

- Entering detailed list of objects to be digitized to the computer system. The main criteria for objects selection was:
  - content-related value (historical and cultural);
  - representativeness (within whole Wroclaw University Library’s collection);
  - visual attractiveness;
  - possibility of using object to promote Lower Silesia region.
- Selection of objects was made by department managers (applying above criteria).
Cimelia:
Cimelia:
Cimelia:
DOMINICA I. POST EPISPANIAS.

Perdus omnia. Dixi fur non amitis.
Amisit omnia. Dixi si dimitis.

Postscriptio.
DOMINE, JESU CHRISTE qui post tribulatione ameni,

suis in tempore suspicati non tributionem patiatis. 

uis et cum suis molestati duerishus: L'apertis fere 

prophetam tuam, ut in congregatibus publicis nescias 

cum somnus, et audisses in sublimi inaudite 

vocibus omnibus. A N E X.

A L I A.
Evangelie

und Episteln,

Auf alle Sonntage und
türkisste Feste durch
das ganze Jahr.

Der blühenden Jugend
dieser Stadt Breslau zum Nutz,
In beyden Sprachen aufs neue
gedruckt.

Breslau,
In der Baumannischen Erben Buchdruckerey
bruchts Johae Theophilus Straubel, Factor. 1732.
Cimelia:

D. CHRYSO
STOMI GRAECAE, ET LAT-
nae, ante hoc tempus Graec
nunquam editae. Latinae tantum semel: cum EPI-
PHANII quadam oratione, ac Histo-
ria de IESV Christo: interpretibus
MARTINO CR.OMERO &
VITO AMERPACIO.

Accessit quoq verum & verborum
memorabilium Index.

Cum Cæs. Maiest. gratia & priu-
legio.

BASILEÆ, PER IO-
annem Oporinum.

(1557)
Cimelia:

S. Symodalia Statuta Epi Conradi

In nomine domini amen. Nos Conradi dei gracia Episcoporum lauret, et amnis
nobis comitatus lucifer socius, salutem non
omnis quaedam manibus quibus plus minus subsiditis
consolator de corrigendis excelsibus et
moxibus reformatibus, ad decorum nostrum
et omnium aliarum ecclesiarum, nunc diocesis de
creuitis subscriptis constitutis cons titu
lucibus praecessoribus nostris, annexatas
pra tamen et tain in nostra predicta quae alps
Ecclcsiae dicit nunc diocesis habent quin
guisannis in eccles schilib legat et ab oih
bus disticiis obseruentur

Primo igitur statuimus ut omnes Clerici co
ronam et tolinam habent congruentem
et quilibet suo ordini et continent comam
habet. Harbus non nutritum nec pelles e
ministis circa solis et vestes tener
Jenem moumenta non nimia brevitate vel
logotonem a in mancis non nimia aptitudi
Früherer Osteingang von der Bürgerhalle aus geheizter Platte RF 3, 1/2 x 4/6.
Cimelia:
Cimelia:
2. Preparation – conservation:

- Preparatory cleaning and necessary conservational works were made in Special Collections’ Conservation Workshop and New Collection’s Conservation Workshop.

- The above conservational works were imperative considering the historical character of the collection, but their scope was strongly limited by the specificity of funding source.

- Special Collections’ Conservation Workshop participated in selection of objects to be digitized.
Scope of the works (conservation):
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3. Digitalization:

- Equipment purchased under the project:
  - two high quality planetary scanners - Zeutschel 14 000 TT – A2 and Zeutschel 14 000 TT – A1;
  - The Wolfenbuettel Book Reflector with:
    - PENTAX scanning camera,
    - Hasselblad camera.
  - other equipment – i.a. microfilm scanner.
Digitalization:
Digitalization (The Wolfenbuettel Book Reflector):
4. Objects description and methods of presentation:

- All of digitized objects will be published in Digital Library of Wroclaw University:
  - object descriptions and methods of presentation are compatible with rules applied in DL.
- All of digitized objects will be published in dedicated subject portals:
  - extended object descriptions (for different type of objects), using such standards for classification of cultural heritage items as e.g. standards for Manuscriptorium and elements of Marburg Information, Documentation and Administration System (MIDAS) classification;
Project implementation:

- consideration of some elements, which are usually exclude – e.g. bookbindings, basic iconography description;
- possibility of zooming selected items;
- linking with presented on other websites objects described using the MIDAS classification (that task would be realized after the end of the project).
Ornamenta Poloniae Mediaevalia
Advanced Boolean Searching:

Operator | Regula
---|---
| |

Znaleziono dokumentów: 13

Usuń wszystkie  | Nowa strona  | Wyświetl
Precision descriptions and dating:
Alphabetical index and context search:
Anioł podtrzymujący koronę Marii

powstanie: 1220/1225,

figura,

jest częścią:

"Maria z Dzieciątkiem" (Vierge Dorée) - rzeźba, 5000103713

lokalizacja: Amiens, Francja, Picardie, Somme, Amiens, Amiens,
Specifity of the manuscripts:
Specificity of the manuscripts:
Specyfika rękopisów
Extend of description:
5. Technical standards and long-term preservation:

- For medieval manuscripts, rare books, maps, graphics and most of the old prints – resolution 600 dpi (originals would be showed to users only in special cases).
- Minimal resolution – 300 dpi.
- Efficient disk space – 300 TB.
6. The final effect of the Project:

- Database (available online from 30th September 2012) containing:
  - 404,000 files of digitized objects,
  - 1100 medieval manuscripts.
- Successively publishing digitized objects in Digital Library of Wroclaw University.
- Publishing book ‘Cimelia from collections of Wroclaw University Library.’
‘Heritage of Region and Europe’
Cimelia from collections of Wroclaw University Library.
Digitalization and access in Internet.

01.02.2010 - 30.09.2012

Project co-founded by European Union from Regional Operational Programme for Lower Silesia Voivodship for years 2007-2013
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Photos used in this presentation were made by
Department for Scientific Documentation of Cultural Heritage
and
Special Collections’ Conservation Workshop.