

## **INITIATIVE PROPOSAL - Leveraging Book Digitization for Strategic Collection Building**

Feb 2019

### **What is the title of the proposed project / initiative?**

Leveraging Book Digitization for Strategic Collection Building

### **Which Strategic Directions / focus areas would the project support?**

Empower Knowledge Creators / Collaborative collection building and access

Empower Knowledge Creators / Leveraging distinctive collections for use

### **Why do we need to do this?**

**For this project, “book” is defined** structurally to align with the digitization focus. Books are bound, printed objects that are scanned without disbinding and are cataloged using bibliographic standards. Books may be in any language, could be illustrated, are serial or monographic, may circulate or not, may be in copyright or not.

### **Background:**

The Libraries continues to make growing investments in book digitization in-house, but at even more scale through collaborations. The current streams include: Google book scanning, OSUL Reformatting program workflows, ILL scan on demand for ILL requests for special collections. In addition, other programs may be on the horizon – BTAA is discussing targeted collaborative reformatting; the community is exploring controlled digital lending; HathiTrust is working toward scan and retain workflows; etc. We are now digitizing books on the scale of perhaps 80,000-100,000 volumes a year. Still, we anticipate that our collections should provide us with the opportunity to continue at this pace for many years to come – probably decades.

Despite the diversity and scale of our activities and the several projects housing digitized books, there is little internal coordination and no broader strategy for intentionally developing high-impact digital collections through management of selection for the streams.

For out of copyright works, vendors are creating digitized book collections in targeted areas, often with other kinds of primary source materials. For instance the Early English Books Project. These collections provide digitized versions of items in our own book collections but require us to purchase the digital copies and restrict access to our campus community. This may be appropriate, but points to the possibility that we could be more intentional in creating digitized book collections.

While all of our digitization of books is purposeful and strategic, we are now reaching a point of maturity with some of our digitization streams and are anticipating growing opportunities. The time has arrived where it makes sense for us to engage a range of experts and stakeholders in multiple parts of our organization to develop a plan for building digital book collections that supports sequencing within and across existing digitization streams. Such plan would also help us invest strategically in community collaborations, identify partners, and identify external funding opportunities. We could accelerate targeted digital collection building to advance OSU research and develop funding strategies that can expand our current workflows.

### **What are the goals for the project / initiative?**

1. Create a plan and set of priorities to inform decision-making into the future with regard to developing and sequencing book digitization projects and partnerships
2. Apply a digital collection building lens to book digitization decisions to support digital research and collection stewardship
3. Apply our equity values to digital collection building (EQUITY - We advance diversity, inclusivity, access, and social justice.)
4. Provide principles and roadmaps to inform collection strategy in alignment with digitization strategy and *vice versa*.
5. Accelerate targeted digital collection building to advance OSU research
6. Build a foundation to support funding strategies that expand the capacities of our current workflows.

### **Who would benefit from the project/initiative? Identify the external stakeholders and internal stakeholders (from University Libraries).**

Internal to Libs:

- Digital collections program
- Collection strategy program
- Digitization program
- Access services program
- Curators and subject specialists

External:

- Communities whose books present under-represented voices and perspectives in the context of collective collections
- Current and potential future partners, e.g BTAA, HathiTrust

### **How would the stakeholders benefit?**

Ultimately, this work will allow our work to have more impact on researchers and other interested readers. They will have increased access to older, rarer, and/or non-circulating books that will enrich their own work and, by extension, their field of study, with new channels to the published output of particular eras, countries, cultures and subcultures, and linguistic groups.

More specifically:

- Program leaders responsible for digitization and collections work would have guideposts for prioritizing workflows, engaging in partnerships, allocating resources, etc.
- Development and fundraising activities would have guideposts to inform opportunity seeking and building cases for funding.
- Curators, subject specialists, and area studies specialists would have more tools to engage with University faculty and students, pointing them to digital copies of the Libraries' more distinctive book collections.
- Under-represented voices and perspectives would receive renewed attention via increased and expanded distribution of their historic published works.
- Current and future partners such as members of digitization cooperatives would benefit from an increased digital text corpus for use in their home institutions.

### **Necessary resources: What are the estimated recurring and one-time costs?**

Costs for developing the plan will be one-time. New work informed by the plan could point to needed implementation resources.

Resources for the plan:

- Time from individuals across the organization coming together to engage with the initiative.
- Analytics could require resources for tools, staff time

**Necessary resources: Will any effort from other University Libraries units be required? Has this need been discussed with those units?**

Exploratory discussions have included and obtained support for this initiative: Interim Head of Preservation and Reformatting, Head of Access Services, Collection Strategist, Head of Reformatting, Head of Interlibrary Services, Interim Head of Area Studies and Head of Special Collections.

Management Committee is the best platform for a broader discussion.

As the initiative launches, a process will need to be created for broad stakeholder input, gathering existing relevant information, etc.

**Identify the project lead(s)**

Co leads – Collection Strategist and Preservation & Digitization Strategist

**Identify the project sponsor(s)**

AD for Content & Access

**Timeline and milestones:**

Launch:

- Start of appointment of Publishing and Digitization Strategist

Months 1-12 following launch:

- Engagement of stakeholders
- Surfacing possibilities
- Analytics to support decision-making
- Consideration of dependencies and synergies
- Production of “report” identifying proposed cluster of priority digital collections to build through book digitization

Months 13-24 following launch:

- Integrate priorities into existing book digitization workflows
- Identify and pursue potential partnerships
- Identify and pursue expanded funding opportunities
- Learn, iterate, modify plans and priorities

Resolution:

- Products of initiative are integrated into ongoing work.

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