Brittle Books Page-Turner

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Digital Library Program Brown Bag Series
2004-11-05
Outline

• history of brittle books digitization
• technological overview
• BBPT web application demo
• use of METS in BBPT
• next steps
Brittle Books: Selection, Triage and Treatment

• Selection: Where do these books come from?
• Triage: How do we know they’re brittle?
• Treatment: And what will we do with them if they are?
Status of the Problem

• 14-21% of IUB Main Library Collections show severe brittleness.
• Approx. 420,000 - 630,000 vols. in Main.
• As many as 1.5 million system wide
Capacity for Treatment

• Enclosures: up to 20,000 / year
• Includes ALF fill and Shelf prep.
• ALF-R: safe handling and environment
• Scanning: up to 100 vols. / year
Using that capacity

- High-volume tools (Enclosures, ALF) for moderating the brittle books problem.
- Low-volume tools (Reformatting) for solving the brittle books problem.
- So... we have to be selective.
Some lessons learned

• Quota systems break both ways - limiting reformatting for desirable items, and bringing in undesirable items.

• Regular review cycles don’t always match up to needs and timelines for reformatting.
Some lessons learned

• Reformatting is often needed “on-demand”
• Circulation can be a poor indicator of demand.
• Collection managers liaisons with faculty and other patrons are best indicator of need.
## Brittle Books: Selection, Triage and Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>Collection Managers and Patrons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Triage</td>
<td>Preservation Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Preservation Department DLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Reformat every item that is specifically selected by a collection manager.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severely Damaged</th>
<th>Rarity or Scholarly Need</th>
<th>Artifactual Value</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Enclosure and return to Circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Enclosure and return to Circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Enclosure and ALF-R</td>
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<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Enclosure and ALF-R</td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Enclosure and ALF-R, and Digital Fascimile</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>Enclosure, ALF-R, and Digital Fascimile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The past

• Many different approaches taken since 1998.

• 450 vols digitized. 300-400 are easy candidates for retrospective addition to the new system. Remainder involve rights or other issues that are harder to resolve.

• Era of big microfilming grants is ending, but the era of big preservation digitization grants is still taking shape.
The present

• Transition from analog (paper to paper) to digital (paper to digital) reformatting.

• This requires much more attention to bibliographic control, rights, and care of the original object.

• This also enables genuine preservation reformatting: durable, easily replicated copies from a reliable and accurate master.
The Future!

- Starts with the page turner John will be showing today.

- Immediate future is creating the workflow for using this new tool.

- Longer range is increasing our reformatting volume, through some combination of increased staffing, improved equipment, or contracting for services.
Technological Overview

- Programming Language: Java (http://java.sun.com/)
- Web Application Framework: Struts (http://struts.apache.org/)
- Java & XML Data Binding: Castor (http://www.castor.org/)
- Build & Deployment Platforms: Ant (http://ant.apache.org/) & Tomcat (http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/)
Application Structure

- Navigation Tree
- Bibliographic Metadata
- Page Image URLs
- Java Objects
- Data Access Objects (DOA)
- Castor
- METS Files
- Image Files
Demo

• Caveat: The demo is an unfinished prototype.

• http://iucat.iu.edu/
Next Steps

• create data entry tool for preservation staff to enter structural metadata for METS documents

• work with other units (e.g., preservation, tech services) to establish work flow procedures

• add more digitized brittle books to BBPT

• generalize and document Web application for use with other collections and for distribution to interested parties