

Digital Collections at The British Library

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Overview

 Introduction: The British Library and its digital collections

 Development of the Digital Library Store (DLS)

Collaborative research

The British Library

• Our vision:

'Making accessible the world's intellectual, scientific and cultural heritage. The collections of the British Library and other great collections will be accessible on everyone's virtual bookshelf – at work, at school, at college, at home.'

Digital Collecting

- Legal and voluntary deposit
- Purchased material
- Digital material created by the BL

Digital Materials

- Physical formats
 - e.g. CD-ROM publications
- Networked/online journals
- Special collections e.g. Manuscripts
- Digitisation & Library projects
- Web sites
- Audio

Main Strategies

- Collections strategies:
 - Ensure improved coverage of the UK's National Published Archive
 - Increase our collecting of digital materials
 - Focus on user needs and develop greater collaboration with other libraries in collecting, preserving and providing access to research material
- Access strategies include :
 - Make the Library's collections more accessible to users

Digital Library Store

- Aims to support the storage and long-term preservation of digital materials
- Requires developing new business processes for managing workflow, metadata and preservation strategies
- Based on the OAIS standard
- Principally stores digital objects with corresponding metadata

Metadata

- Descriptive
- Technical
 - to assist current use
- Preservation
 - to help maintain look and feel
 - record changes to the object
 - record preservation responsibility
- Rights
 - IPR and licensing
- Administrative

Digital Library Store

- Support for preservation strategies:
 - refreshing of storage media
 - emulation of hardware or software
 - migration to new formats
 - recording the history of each object
 - integrity checking and thorough backup regime

Collaborative Research

- Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)
- Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB)
 - National Library of the Netherlands
- OCLC-RLG Preservation Metadata Working Group
- LOCKSS (Stanford University)
 - Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe
- CEDARS