Developing a Distributed Print Monographs Archive

The HathiTrust Print Monograph Archive Planning Task Force

HathiTrust 2014 Partners Meeting
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The $64,000 Question

- Why are we talking about a print monograph archive at a HathiTrust meeting?
The Collective Collection

• Represents a shift from what a library has to what a library can provide access to....

• Leading to changes to how we perceive collection management....

• Cloud Libraries and Mega-Regions....
  – Do not – at present – replace local decisions.
  – Do confirm what we know, i.e., libraries don’t need to duplicate everything and can share items, bringing greater benefit to the whole.
HathiTrust & PrintOverlap (2009 – 2010)

Academic print book collection already substantially duplicated in mass digitized book corpus

June 2009
Median duplication: 19%

June 2010
Median duplication: 31%

Rank in 2008 ARL Investment Index

% of Titles in Local Collection
Growth of overlap... (2010 – 2014)

• ARL overlap
  – 31% in June 2010
  – 33% in Dec (adjustment: adding little-held works)
  – ~1% per 225,000 vols
  – 45% by December, 2011
  – >50% for ARL institutions in 2014

• Oberlin Group overlap
  – Close to 9% points higher
  – 41% in December, 2010
  – Close to 50% in May, 2011
  – Higher rate of overlap per added volume?
Hathi’s Goals

• To build a reliable and increasingly comprehensive digital archive of library materials converted from print that is co-owned and managed by a number of academic institutions.
• To dramatically improve access to these materials in ways that, first and foremost, meet the needs of the co-owning institutions.
• To help preserve these important human records by creating reliable and accessible electronic representations.
• To enable the digital archive to be accessible to persons who have print disabilities.
• To stimulate redoubled efforts to coordinate shared storage strategies among libraries, thus reducing long-term capital and operating costs of libraries associated with the storage and care of print collections.
• To create and sustain this “public good” in a way that mitigates the problem of free-riders.
• To create a technical framework that is simultaneously responsive to members through the centralized creation of functionality and sufficiently open to the creation of tools and services not created by the central organization.
The Print Monographs Archive Planning Task Force

• Ballot Initiative passed at the 2011 HT Constitutional Convention (Con-Con)
  – “To develop a print monographs archive corresponding to volumes represented within the HathiTrust”

• HathiTrust Board of Governors approved appointment of a PSC-designed task force to begin planning in June 2014
Membership

- Clem Guthro, Colby College
- Bob Kieft, Occidental College
- Erik Mitchell, UC-Berkeley
- Jake Nadal, ReCAP
- Jo Anne Newyear Ramirez, British Columbia
- Matthew Revitt, Maine
- Matthew Sheehy, Harvard University
- Emily Stambaugh, California Digital Library
- Karla Strieb, The Ohio State University
- Thomas Teper, Univ. of Ill. at Urbana-Champaign (Chair)
Ballot Initiative Called For....

• A print archive founded on formal agreements with print repositories of member institutions or their affiliated agents

• Agreements that would establish retention commitments to ensure continuing availability of the archived holdings to the HT members

• Provision of financial support to the designated repositories sufficient to secure and maintain these agreements

• The initiation of a formal planning process by which necessary policies, operational plans, and business models required would be established to sustain a distributed archive
Issues to examine...

- Exploration of the model needed to identify and preserve print resources
- Qualifications of participating repositories
- Analysis and identification of appropriate content for inclusion in the archive
- Additional criteria for participation, such as geography, repository type, breadth of contribution, institutional commitment...
- Retention periods
- Discovery, access policies, and service models
- Business and financial models
- Roles and relationships among HT and other libraries and organizations engaged in collaborative management of print collections.
Working Group’s Timeline

• June – September 2014: Talking and Thinking.
  – Developing and Challenging Assumptions
  – Goal of 50% Completion

• October – November 2014: Initial Drafting
  – Committing Pen to Paper and Initial Integration of Ideas
  – Goal of 90% Completion

• December – January 2014: Substantial Completion
  – Drafts Ready for Broader Feedback
  – Goal of 95% Complete
Founding Assumptions

• The archive will mirror the monographic holdings of the HT digital archive, will be built from the collections of HT members, and will serve the members;
• The archive will be distributed for security purposes, which means that a potentially large number of libraries could participate;
• The archive will be persistent and preserve the print record; it is thus continuous with the mission of the digital archive and the historic mission of many HT members with respect to analog materials. HT will be a leader in print archiving as it has been in digital preservation;
• The archive will be governed, managed, further developed, and financially supported by the Trust, not by a subset of members;
• The archive’s existence represents a “new paradigm by which research libraries and other academic libraries can develop shared reliance on a scholarly print record that is collaboratively stewarded and supported as a public good.”
HT Print Monograph Archive Should...

- Be a loose-tight organization with an underlying audit process;
- Be a building block upon which others can develop local plans, make local decisions, and implement local initiatives;
- Distinguish itself from others initiatives through unique elements:
  - A focus on monographs
  - A digital corpus
  - A print commitment
  - A set of tools that will support local work
What will a Print Monograph Archive Look Like?

- To be determined, but there are questions that our group would like input on:
  - What do you envision the value of this enterprise being to your institution?
  - While not every member would be an archive holder, one of our assumptions is that membership in Archive is not divisible from membership in Hathi. Does this ring true?
- Costs:
  - In-kind work
  - HathiTrust Costs
  - Remuneration for and at what stage...? Commitments? Storage?
Thank You