Wits- NRF Digitization Partnership
Capacity Building Initiative 2017-2020

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Wits Libraries
11 May 2018
Coverage

The Foundations
• Digitization at Wits: The Early Days
• Reimagining the Wits Library Bindery for a Digital World
• Wits Digital Library & Archives

Wits-NRF Digitization Collaboration
• Wits-NRF Digitization Collaboration, 2013
• Wits-NRF Capacity Development Initiative, 2017-2020
• Concluding Remarks
Digitization at Wits: The Early Days

- Motivation - To preserve & widen access to research collections & outputs, e.g. previously hard to find and endangered Africana materials
- Historically achieved through different conservation measures
- Early digitization projects (2000s):
  - Small scale scanning of documents & photos using flatbed scanners
  - Digital content stored on portable devices
- 2006 milestone: finding aids & some photos were scanned, uploaded & displayed online.

Based on report by G. Mohale for Senate Library Committee Meeting, 26 Apr 2017
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

The Old Bindery
Reimagining the Wits Bindery for a Digital World²

• With space constraints on campus, the old bindery in the William Cullen Library (WCL) was cleared of its equipment to create space for a Digitisation Centre, 2011-2012

• The 1st bigger piece of equipment, BookEye Scanner, was commissioned in WCL in 2012.

• Additional equipment to scan different material formats was acquired in 2012-2014 resulting in expanded digital collection development & management activity.

• How was this possible?

The vision of late F. Ubogu & retired M. Pickover is acknowledged
The Wits Digitisation Centre

- Restructured information resources budget to accommodate funding of digitization
- SLAs with different service providers
- Partnerships:
  - Atlantic Philanthropies grant: Equipment, staffing and software
  - Co-authorship of NRF Training Manual\(^3\) 2010 to guide practice
  - ArchProteus and Artefactual collaboration: ATOM implementation
  - Digitisation skills training: Co-founded the South African Digitisation Initiative (SADI)
  - Goethe Institute collaboration: colour management workshop
  - Digital content creation in collaboration with:
    - Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)
    - Palaeontology Department
    - Oppenheimer Memorial Trust grant
    - 500 Year Archive Digital Humanities Project, University of Cape Town
    - Bernstein family grant

Digitisation Centre: The Old Bindery Transformed

- Camera stand
- Camera
- Slide scanner
- BookEye scanner
Wits Digital Library & Archives Collections (24.88 TB)

1956 Treason Trial

Lee Berger Collection

Helen Suzman Papers
Wits Digital Library & Archives: Standards

- International Council on Archives ('ICA')/Access to Memory (ATOM) standards for historical papers collections
- The *Dublin Core* Schema for Wits institutional repository
- Resource Description & Access (RDA) standard for cataloging

**Implementation framework:** Compliance with Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH): ICA-Dublin Core-RDA through EDS platform: https://www.wits.ac.za/library/
# Wits-NRF Digitization Collaboration

**Hosting of CCNY/NRF Digitisation & Preservation Centre, 2013**

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<tr>
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<td>Training Needs Survey</td>
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<td>Zeutschel book Scanner</td>
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<td>Technical Training &amp; Managing Digital Projects &amp; Programmes Workshops</td>
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The survey identified the following skills and knowledge needs:

- Digital Repositories, Digital Preservation & Digital Asset Management
- Metadata Schemas, Standards & Guidelines
- Discovery tool & Platform for sharing Digital content
- Copyright
- Technical Training – processes, workflow, standards & guidelines
- Project Management – managing digital projects & programmes
CCNY/NRF Digitisation & Preservation Centre, 2013

Facilities

Zeutschel OS 15 000 Scanner

Digitisation Centre
CCNY/NRF Digitisation & Preservation Centre, 2013

Workshops

Hands-on, Digitisation Centre, 12 Sept
Demo of Zeutschel, National Library 17 Sept
Outcomes

• A functional & fairly well equipped digitisation centre, accommodating up to six hands-on trainees
• Digitisation & preservation skills were promoted & developed
• Foundational capacity was built in 19 institutions to undertake digitisation & preservation.
• The Technical Training Workshop was at a basic entry-level.
CCNY/NRF Digitisation & Preservation Centre, 2013
Gaps: Wits Experiences & SADI survey

- Digital systems development skills & knowledge
- Metadata skills & knowledge; Practical metadata creation
- Sufficient & skilled staffing
- Further hands-on training
- A follow up session which is more practical than theory
## Wits-NRF Digitization Collaboration
### Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020 Plan

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1. Yellow represents the projected time frames; progress to date is shown in green.
# Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020 Plan

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<td>ATOM &amp; Archivematica</td>
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<td>Standards &amp; Metadata</td>
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<td>National Aggregator Pilot</td>
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1. Yellow represents the projected time frames; progress to date will be shown in green
Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020: Facilities

Project information website: https://www.wits.ac.za/library/wits-nrf-projects/

Hands-on workroom

William Cullen Library Training Centre
Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020: Equipment

National Equipment Database

1. Mekel Mach 2 Universal Microform
2. Mekel Mach 5 Microfilm Scanner
4. Hasselblad Flextight X5 with slide feeder
5. Avision Book Edge Scanner (2)
Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020

What should be accomplished by end 2020?

At the end of these workshops, it is expected that institutions will be able to:

- Set up ATOM & Archivematica software platforms
- Capture standardized metadata
- Apply standards to establish the foundations of a National Digital Library Aggregator Pilot Project
- Compile & implement comprehensive digitization plans
- Tap into synergistic partnerships with the Programme in African Digital Humanities, the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE) & other partners to realize the vision of a National Digital Portal of documents & artefacts.
Wits-NRF Digitization Collaboration
Capacity Development Initiative 2017-2020

Concluding Remarks

On behalf of collaborating institutions here today & in the upcoming workshops, Wits Libraries is grateful for the opportunity to partner with DST & NRF in this national capacity development project.

It is noted that DST has indicated that there are possibilities to deepen these efforts beyond 2020. The heritage sector couldn’t ask for more, let’s maximize on this initiative.

Thank you
Q&A

P. Muswazi
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Wits Libraries
11 May 2018