Building Digital Collections Through Partnerships: BYU's Harold B. Lee Library and Internet Archive

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BACKGROUND
Since June 2009, BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library (HBLL) has worked in partnership with the Internet Archive (IA) to scan library holdings for public access in the Internet Archive’s digital library (www.archive.org). While many libraries send microfilm, monographs and serials to IA Scanning Centers for digital imaging on site, HBLL is one of very few academic libraries working with the Internet Archive in a “no-cash model” partnership. This partnership is based on an exchange of goods and services.

The Internet Archive provides:
- Scribe scanning stations (one in June 2009; two additional in January 2011)
- Relevant software
- Post-scan processing

The Harold B. Lee Library provides:
- Monographs and serials to be scanned
- Student employees and a project manager to operate the Scribes for a minimum of 40 hours per week.

CHALLENGES
To maintain scanning productivity of 25,000 – 30,000 pages per week, HBLL has established an approach for selecting content, preparing images and managing the workflow that involves multiple departments across the library. Ongoing priorities include:

- Coordinating across multiple departments, including subject specialists, access services and the digital imaging unit.
- Selecting the best content and enough content.
- Consistent communication with Internet Archive. The Digital Imaging Lab Supervisor plays a critical role in maintaining this communication.

CONTENT SELECTION

Subject Librarians (General Collections)
- Collecting strengths: local histories, genealogy
- Reference materials in the public domain
- Faculty and publisher requests: American Journalism
- Materials previously slated for Book Repair

Patrons (All Collections)
- Materials published before 1923 and circulated within previous year
- Books requested in Special Collections reading room

General Content Selection Guidelines
- Material must be in the public domain or have received copyright clearance.
- Material should support curriculum, research and patron interest.
- Consideration should also be given to the uniqueness of material; the demand for the material; the condition of the physical material; and the prevalence of existing digital copies.

CONTENT SELECTION

DIGITIZATION

After the materials have been selected and prepared for scanning, the HBLL Digital Imaging Lab uses the pick list to identify the catalog record for each item to be scanned and transfers the catalog record into the Internet Archive digital library.

Using the Scribe workstations, student employees in the Digital Imaging Lab work in two-hour shifts to digitize the items selected. Students also work in shifts on quality assurance and republishing.

CATALOGING

IA SCRIBE SCANNING STATIONS @ HBLL

After digitization, pick lists are forwarded to the cataloging department. As necessary, HBLL has refined its approach to cataloging these new digital objects.

Pilot Phase: The Technical Services Systems and Content Database Unit updated the existing MARC record for the print item by adding to the E56 field a URL pointing to the digitized material. A second MARC record was created for the electronic record.

Current Phase: The Special Collections and Formats Cataloging Department creates a master and an institutional provider neutral e-monograph OCLC record for each digitized book added to the Internet Archive. The institutional e-monograph records are added to the HBLL catalog.

These changes make newly digitized IA assets visible in WorldCat and the HBLL catalog. By extension, the materials are also visible in HBLL’s installation of the Ex Libris search product, Primo, known to our users as ScholarSearch (https://lib.byu.edu).

SUCCESS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Operating a workflow that quickly scans materials mitigates concerns about sending rare materials off-site for scanning or concerns about keeping vault materials off the shelf for an extended period.
- HBLL fulfills inter-library loan requests for Special Collections materials through digitization. HBLL has also scanned (with permission) IS materials requested from other libraries to support campus curriculum.
- Library exhibits comprised of materials from Special Collections have a deeper online presence because items on display are represented by full-length digital surrogates on exhibit websites.
- Future: HBLL’s current IA scanning strategy excels in reformating print monographs and serials. A potential future challenge will be making adjustments in metadata creation to expand HBLL’s IA scanning operations to include manuscript and photographic collections.

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