Digitization Costs & Funding

Digital Library Workshop

Oct. 2, 2003
Digitization Costs

- Digital conversion of collections
  - in-house digitization or outsourcing to a vendor
  - Usually not cost-effective to outsource small projects
  - smaller academic institutions may not want to invest the time in creating their own in-house digitization capabilities
Digitization Costs


http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub103/appendix6.html
Digitization Costs

- Base-level digitization
  - Scanning, metadata creation, automated generation of OCR, minimally-encoded text
  - Associated activities, including identifying and preparing materials, quality control, and project management
Digitization Costs

- $5.32 per page
- For a 300-page book, this works out to $1,600
Digitization Costs

- Enhanced digitization
  - full SGML encoding to aid full-text searching and analysis
- $8.25 per page, or $2,500 per book
Comparative costs for book treatments

Comparative Costs—One 300-page Book
Calculated by the Library of Congress Preservation Directorate

- Binding/Boxing: $10
- Mass Deacidification: $15
- Preservation Facsimile: $65
- Microfilming: $185
- Conservation: $430
- Base Level Digitization: $1,600
- Enhanced Digitization: $2,500
Digitization Costs


http://www.rlg.ac.uk/preserv/diginews/diginews3-5.html#feature
Digitization Costs

- 1/3 the cost is digital conversion (32% overall)
- Slightly less than 1/3 the cost is in metadata creation--cataloging, description, and indexing (29% overall)
- Slightly more than 1/3 the cost is in other activities, such as administration and quality control (39% overall)
Digitization Costs

- **U.S. Steel Photograph Project**
- 2200 images from the U.S. Steel Gary Works Photograph Collection held by the Calumet Regional Archive at IU Northwest.
- Cost Share: $23,381
- Grant Funded: $16,349
- **TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:** $40,730
- $18.51 per image
- Completed in 18 months

*Courtesy K. Brancolini*
Digitization Costs

- **Charles Cushman Slide Collection**
- 15,000 archival color slides, the work of amateur photographer Charles Cushman, held by the University Archives at IU Bloomington.
- Cost Share: $189,041
- Grant Funded: $112,896
- **TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:** $301,937
- $20.13 per image
- Scheduled for completion in 30 months
Digitization Costs

- **Russian Periodical Index Project**
- Converting a 20-year run of a Russian periodical index to an online version
- 234,000 bitonal page images (text only)
- Outsourced to (Northern Micrographics):
  - **CREATION OF PAGE IMAGES (not the entire project):** $32,760
  - $.14 per page image
- Completed in 8 months
Funding

- Base Funding

- Grants
  - Institute of Museum & Library Services
  - Digital Library Research & Funding Links
    - [http://www.dlib.org/projects.html](http://www.dlib.org/projects.html)

- Partnerships