



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

- CLIR, *The Evidence in Hand: Report of the Task Force on the Artifact in Library Collections* (November 2001), reports figures from the Library of Congress

<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

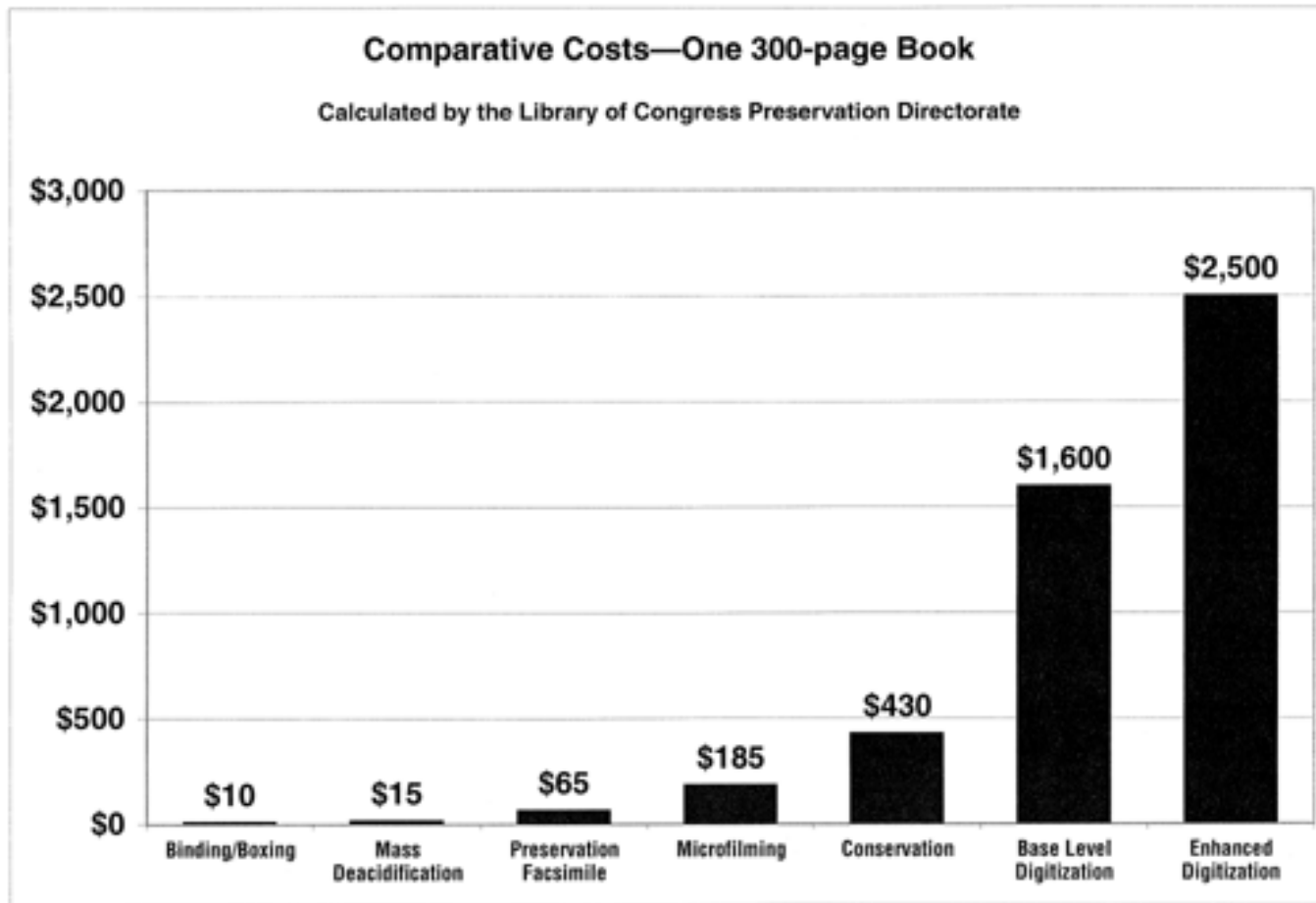
- \$5.32 per page
- For a 300-page book, this works out to \$1,600



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





Digitization Costs

- Steven Puglia's article, "The Costs of Digital Imaging Projects," in *RLG DigiNews* (October 15, 1999)

<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
 - <http://www.ims.gov/grants/index.htm>
 - Digital Library Research & Funding Links
 - DLIB Magazine, <http://www.dlib.org/>
 - <http://www.dlib.org/projects.html>
- Partnerships