Strategies for Digital Stewardship
Sustainable Open Access: A funding model for documentary heritage

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A Forum for Collaboration

- Not-for-profit, registered charity for 35 years
- Mission ~ to make Canada’s documentary heritage accessible for Canadians and the world.
- Governed by Canada’s Memory Institutions
  - LAC, BAnQ, CARL, University Libraries, Public Libraries,
- Services for Stakeholders
  - Digitization, Preservation & Access
  - Custom Hosting, Scanning, Metadata
Partnerships
Projects

🍁 Early Canadiana Online Collections
  ❖ eco.canadiana.ca
  ❖ 100,000 titles ~ 4,000,000 pages
  ❖ GovDocs, Books, Periodicals from 1558 to 1967

🍁 Canadian Metadata Repository & Discovery Portal
  ❖ search.canadiana.ca
  ❖ Over 1 million titles ~ 65 million pages
  ❖ 37 digital repositories

🍁 Héritage
  ❖ heritage.canadiana.ca
  ❖ 800 archival collections ~ 60 million pages

Who Pays for it?
Past Funding Sources

Grants and contributions are important but inconsistent & insufficient to meet the need.
Recent Grant Requests

- 2007 Canada Project - Mass Digitization Proposal
- 2009 Canada Online - Mass Digitization Proposal
- 2010 War of 1812 - Commemoration Fund
- 2011 War of 1812 (retry)
- 2012 SSHRC Partnership Fund w/Stratford Institute

None succeeded
Funding options for NPOs

- Subscriptions
- Sale of assets
- Centre of Excellence services
- Advertising
- Derivatives
- Grants & Donations
- Collaborations
Héritage Project

- A Pathfinder Initiative for Self-funded Open Access
- Library & Archives Canada’s Most Popular Holdings
- 800 Series / 60 million Pages
- Mid-1600s to mid-1900s
  - Genealogy (Immigration, Church, Land)
  - First Nations
  - Government
  - Military 1812 – WW2
  - Prominent Canadians’ Papers
  - And much, much more
Héritage Project

- 10 year project
- Collaborations in place and planned
  - CARL, CRKN, CRL, ACA, CCA, etc.
  - History & Genealogy Societies
  - Canadian Public
- Self-funding pathfinder project
  - Much to learn & need to be flexible
- Ultimate Objective
  - Perpetual Online Open Access
Challenges

- 60 million pages of archival records
  - Mostly poor quality microfilm images of hand-written documents
- No metadata exists
  - Each page needs to be described/transcribed
- Creating a metadata architecture
  - Maximizes discovery and data mining
  - Standards based
  - Linked Open Data
- Ensuring broad collaboration with stakeholders
  - Standards & Priorities
- Maximizing amount of metadata
- Crowd-sourcing
  - Logistics
  - Quality Control
Héritage Phase I ~ 2013-2015

- Set-up Collaborative sub-projects
- Standards & Priorities Advisory Committees
- Digitize 60,000,000 images
- Create & link series level metadata
- Infrastructure
- Metadata architecture
- Tools to describe & transcribe
Héritage Phase II – 2013 to 2023 and beyond

- Create Metadata
- Describe & Transcribe
- Massive data repository
- Crowd sourcing
- Collaborative funded projects
- Innovative technologies
Héritage Goal - Open Access

- Free access to digital copies heritage.canadiana.ca
- Same finding aids as microforms at LAC
- Free access to microforms at LAC remains
- Source documents remain in public domain
- 10% of digital copies move from Free to Open Access each year

If access is free, how is it funded?
Funding Héritage

- Collaboration Projects
- Sponsors & Advertising
- Metadata Creation
- Revenue
- Premium Subscriptions
Kick-start Funding

CRKN MEMBERS
Acadia University
Athabasca University
Brock University
Carleton University
Concordia University
Dalhousie University
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Lakehead University
Laurentian University
McGill University
McMaster University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Mount Allison University
Mount Royal University
Queen’s University
Ryerson University
Saint Mary’s University
Simon Fraser University
St. Francis Xavier University
Thompson Rivers University
Trent University
Université du Québec à Rimouski
Université du Québec à Trois Rivieres
Université Laval

Université Sainte-Anne
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Guelph
University of Lethbridge
University of Manitoba
University of New Brunswick
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Ottawa
University of Prince Edward Island
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
University of the Fraser Valley
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
University of Western Ontario
University of Windsor
University of Winnipeg
Vancouver Island University
Wilfrid Laurier University
York University
Premium Subscription

- Sophisticated search
- No advertising
- Researcher tools
- Derivatives
- Free premium access - users of subscribing & partner institutions

Funds metadata creation & infrastructure for perpetual access.
Conclusions

- Canadiana is a forum for collaboration
- Canada’s memory institutions & public want digital collections
- New funding models are required
- Héritage Project is a pathfinder model for sustainable Open Access
Thank you!

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