Enduring Access to Special Collections: Challenges and Opportunities for Large-Scale Digitization Initiatives

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Abstract
As we explore the evolving information landscape and institutional context of rare and manuscript collections, one of the critical matters is to consider the implications of large-scale digitization initiatives (LSDIs) for our programs. Although most LSDI efforts thus far have focused on general collections, it is inevitable that the attention will soon be turned to special collections. With the current networked information environment and increasing reliance on digital content subscriptions, rare and manuscript collections increasingly define the uniqueness and character of individual research libraries. The goal of this article is to characterize current LSDIs and discuss the potential implications for . . .

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until the launching of the large-scale digitization initiatives. The prospect of assuming the responsibility of a large body of digital content prompted the library staff to take quick steps to develop a preservation program. The three legs of the Cornell digital preservation program include organizational framework, technological infrastructure, and resource requirements (Kenney & McGovern, 2003). That arrangement proved most cost-effective when we investigated the options for large-scale storage. At the beginning of our search, we expected to store JPEG page images and assumed a need for about 100 terabytes. Enduring global access to knowledge requires sustainable models for ensuring that past and present knowledge is available long into the future. The Task Force imagines library-run educational opportunities might include course-based instruction, drop-in workshops, Independent Activities Period courses, online courses and modules, and more. In the Institute Archives and Special Collections, less than 1% of our collection of manuscripts, faculty archives, rare books, and other items are available in accessible digital formats. The Task Force recommends that the MIT Libraries conduct a detailed time and budget analysis of the large-scale digitization program. Institute-wide Task Force on the Future of Libraries—Preliminary Report 12. proposed here. CARICOM: Challenges and Opportunities for Caribbean Economic Integration. Summary. In 1973, the smaller, largely English-speaking countries of the Eastern Caribbean launched the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), an integration plan intended to coordinate and
Eastern Caribbean launched the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), an integration plan intended to coordinate and enhance the collective economic and social development of 15 countries. In each case, overcoming the disadvantages of small scale has been a driving concern, whether seeking scale economies from an enlarged domestic market, greater intraregional trade, shared costs in the provision of public sector goods, or integration of policy responses to negotiate from a stronger unified position in the international arena (see Small Countries: Are They Naturally Disadvantaged?, below).