

**University of Zadar, Croatia**  
**Department of Library and Information Science**  
**PhD Study Programme:**  
**KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER**  
**Module I – Organization, Preservation and Use of Written Heritage**

**Summer School in the Study of Historical Manuscripts**  
Zadar, Croatia, 26 – 30 September 2011

**Topic IV: Historical Manuscript Collection Management**  
Friday, 30 September 2011

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**The Role of Collection Care to the Changing Needs of the Libraries  
as a Consequence of the Expanding Digital Agenda**

**Content and Objectives of the Lecture and Group Work on the Lecture Topic:**

Using British Library case studies throughout, the lecture will start by considering the changing role of Collection Care at a strategic level to finish at a more practical level with comments regarding conservation treatment approaches. The varied components of the digital agenda will be explained including distinctions between digital preservation and digitisation.

Dramatic changes in the strategic direction of libraries, in response to the digital agenda, will be examined to demonstrate how the perception of collections and collections management has altered in libraries within the last 5 years or so. Collection Care has an important part to play in both supporting and developing the digital agenda to enable access to collection items. These changes represent both opportunities and challenges to Collection Care as new work streams are developed and existing ones are given a different emphasis. Examples of how Collection Care activities and policy are being embedded within digital initiatives will be discussed.

The impact and role of external funding and collaborative projects is also significant as this will often determine the selection of collections for digitisation. Moreover, new work streams enable Collection Care to work alongside different departments within the library.

Development of new skills and the allocation of resources within Collection Care activities are important aspects of enabling the digital agenda. These will be considered in the light of recent projects at the British Library. Moreover, new outreach activities to encompass digital knowledge and skills are possible, and will be highlighted through the work of the Preservation Advisory Centre.

Finally, the level of conservation treatment required for digitisation projects will be presented. This is in contrast to work carried out to enable access for more traditional library users who use physical books rather than digital access. The question whether digital access generates more or less use of the physical items will be debated. The answer to this question directly informs Collection Care, hence, library policy.

Case studies discussed will include the Codex Sinaiticus project, Greek Manuscripts digitisation project, and two significant external partners working with the British Library.

**Assignment:**

Criteria to include some but not necessarily all of the following:

An appreciation of a change in strategic direction for libraries in response to the digital agenda and an holistic view of what constitutes a collection, to include both digital and physical objects.

The distinction between components of the digital agenda e.g. digitisation and digital preservation and born digital objects, web harvesting.

New workstreams arising from the digital agenda and how collection care can contribute and support these.

The current emphasis on external funding to enable the digital agenda in many libraries and the impact of external collaborations.

The impact of the new activities on more traditional collection care activities and an appreciation in prioritising work as a result of the additional work streams.

**Readings:**

British Library, 2011, The British Library Strategy 2011-15  
<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/strategy1115/>

British Library, 2011, The British Library 2020 Vision  
<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/2020vision/>

British Library, 2010, Digitised Manuscripts  
<http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/>

Codex Sinaiticus, 2010, British Library <http://codexsinaiticus.org/en/>

Ahmon, J. 2008 Digitisation of 1911 Census Schedules, *ICON News: the Magazine of the Institute of Conservation* , 14 (January) 25-8

Bülow Anna and Ahmon, Jess. 2010 *Preparing Collections for Digitization*. London: Facet Publishing

Hughes Lorna 2004 *Digitizing collections, strategic issues of the information manager*. London: Facet Publishing

Ramsholt, K. J. 2009, Digitization: threat or benefit to conservation? *Journal of Paper Conservation*, 10 (2) 21-4

Vervoorst, J. 2008 New conservation opportunities in a world of digitization and access. Sounders, D. Townsend, J. and Woodcock, S. (eds), *Conservation and Access: contributions to the London Congress 15-19 September 2008*, The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works