News and views

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OCLC to use Olive Software to digitize historic newspaper collections

OCLC Digital and Preservation Resources will use Olive Software to help libraries provide full online searchable access to their historic newspapers, so that these valuable resources can be preserved and made accessible on the Internet.

Through a unique process that builds an index of every article, photograph and page, newspapers in print or on microfilm can be quickly and easily converted to digital format and delivered back to the library to make accessible via its own Web site.

Olive Software enables digitization of historic materials by providing two unique benefits: making digitization practical by significantly reducing time and cost; and enabling browser-based, user-friendly access to and searching of retrospective newspaper collections. Collections digitized using Olive Software are fully searchable down to the article level.

"Through this partnership with Olive, OCLC is taking a leadership role in helping libraries preserve some of their most valuable resources", said Meg Bellinger, vice president, OCLC Digital and Preservation Resources. "The large volume of pages we can process at our facility in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, greatly enhances the usability of important content, creating for the first time highly-functional, affordable newspaper digitization opportunities for all types and sizes of libraries to serve their users."

Digital Preservation Coalition launches Web site and online version of digital preservation handbook

The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)
Web site – www.dpconline.org – has gone
live, providing a platform for the
dissemination of DPC research and writing
and making available an online version of the
Preservation Management of Digital Materials:
A Handbook – an authoritative and practical
guide to the subject of managing digital
resources over time and the issues in
sustaining access to them.

As digital information becomes increasingly important to our culture, knowledge base and economy, the DPC Web site will provide a resource for all those involved in the creation and management of digital materials.

The DPC was officially launched at the House of Commons, in February 2002. The aim of the coalition is to secure the preservation of digital resources in the UK and to work with others internationally to ensure that access to our global digital memory and knowledge base is not lost.

The launch of the Web site, and online version of the Preservation Management of Digital Materials, marks the next phase in the DPC's development and is a significant step towards addressing one of the coalition's main goals: the commitment to disseminating information and sharing outcomes.

Gabriel – gateway to Europe's national libraries – now available in a new and totally revised format

After five years of existence, Gabriel has been completely redesigned and updated in a new and more user-friendly layout.

Gabriel is the World Wide Web service covering 41 European national libraries from the 39 countries that are represented in the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL). This multilingual Internet service offers access to consistently structured information about European national libraries, with details about their printed and electronic collections as well as instructions on how to gain access to their online catalogues and services. Information is offered in the most commonly-used European languages; namely, English, French and German.

In order to be globally available and to guarantee rapid access, Gabriel is "mirrored" and is available simultaneously via five European servers, thus ensuring that the service is always available.

Gabriel is accessible via the following Web addresses:

- http://www.kb.nl/gabriel/ (The Netherlands);
- http://www.bl.uk/gabriel/ (United Kingdom);
- http://www.ddb.de/gabriel/ (Germany);
- http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/gabriel/ (Finland); and
- http://nuk.uni-lj.si/gabriel/ (Slovenia),

(See the Internet column in this issue.)