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A PARTNERSHIP THAT UNDERPINS SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PPT

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A PARTNERSHIP THAT UNDERPINS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

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Context of paper and consultations

- Private archival collections
- Practitioners in the academic and commercial sectors
- Historical Papers, Wits experience



- Digitization process, the scanning of digital images of paper originals

CHALLENGES

- A lack of national infrastructure, primarily poor access to bandwidth
- Funding; in the current economic climate, this will become more limited
- A lack of digitization skills
- Knowledge of digitization standards and processes

A productivity model

"Where a large quantity of material has been assembled, ... consideration should be given to driving the production of digitized images as a factory-type operation, with attention to appropriate staff skills, production targeting and quality control. These do not often feature in the day-to-day running of libraries and museums and specialist advice may be required." *(Carnegie, NRF. 2010)*

- Optimize the use of funding
- Recognise the institution's core competencies
- Identify partnerships that assist in developing knowledge and capacity building

Grant funding

"Assuming that grant funding will always be available is not likely to lead to a successful sustainability plan." *(Ithaka, 2008)*

POSSIBILITIES	PITFALLS
Digitize a collection	
Acquire digitization hardware	What about future maintenance?
Acquire software	Cost of upgrades/licences?
Train/employ staff	Budget for salaries in the future?
Go online	Cost of continuing and enhancing the online presence

Grant funding

CONDITIONS and COMPROMISES	PITFALLS
Limited delivery period (condition)	Time to digitize AND establish infrastructure?
Outsource scanning (compromise)	Opportunity to establish infrastructure?
Publish on a prescribed platform (condition)	Loss of independence, locked in
Preservation	Is this included?

Contracts with private publishers

- Limited rights of use of digitized collections
- Public access is limited
- No development of digitization capacity
- Lack of control over metadata and digitization standards
- Proprietary catalogue or metadata database
- Fragmentation of a collection

National Archives

- Defining minimum metadata and technical standards
- Establishing a national database
- Identifying and leading national digitization projects
- Identifying training requirements and sources for training
- Lobbying Government to improve infrastructure
- Developing a national strategy and plan

Mixed funding models

- Re-examine the funding models commonly accepted
- Negotiate terms and conditions, educate and negotiate
- Collaborate with academic digitization specialists
- Form partnerships with other institutions to extend knowledge transfer and share resources
- Plan for the future now; every project's funding should be a step toward the future goal

Extending the community model

- Digitization of paper resources is not unique to libraries, archives and museums

- Digitization, like printing, is commonly used in everyday business and is provided as a service to the community.

- Digitization is often part of the delivery chain for knowledge transfer; projects by United Nations and development organizations stipulate knowledge transfer in their programmes.

- The development of digitization capacity within the community should be considered.

The advantages to the institution

- The maintenance of infrastructure and staffing for high-volume scanning would be ‘outsourced’

- At the same time, the institution oversees the maintenance of digitization standards

- The community service utilizes unused capacity to offer the public and businesses digitization services

- Profits would not only pay salaries, but be invested in maintenance and gradual upgrading to digitize more complex media

- Investment in the economic health of the community

Factors that support the engagement of communities

- There are educated and motivated young people who cannot find work.

- The level of familiarity with technology is high with social networking, the use of cell phones and other mobile devices and, for some, computers.

- In urban areas, despite the lack of infrastructure, entrepreneurs have small shops providing Internet cafes, technical support, cell sales and services.

- The local university/college has the staff who teach and provide training in business skills.

- Financial support from a funder, the government, business and (aiming higher), the United Nations.

Building the extended community model

- Government to provide an enabling environment for this no-profit organization (NPO)
- Salary subsidization for the employment of youth and acquisition of hardware
- Harnessing of business skills from the community and academics
- Standards, processes and service level agreements
- Pilot projects with apprenticeship and predefined levels of competency
- Moving towards NPO independency

The size of the challenge ahead

On 29 October 2011, The European Commission adopted a Recommendation asking Member States to partner the private sector in order to more rapidly increase digitization of European culture. (EUBusiness,2011)

This task cannot be done without partnership.

The estimated cost of this European digitization is €100bn.
The estimated cost of African digitization is unknown.

Or is this an investment?

Unemployment for 15- to 24-year-olds is 51 %, more than twice the national unemployment rate of 25 % *(SA Survey, South African Institute of Race Relations, 2011)*

THANK YOUT

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