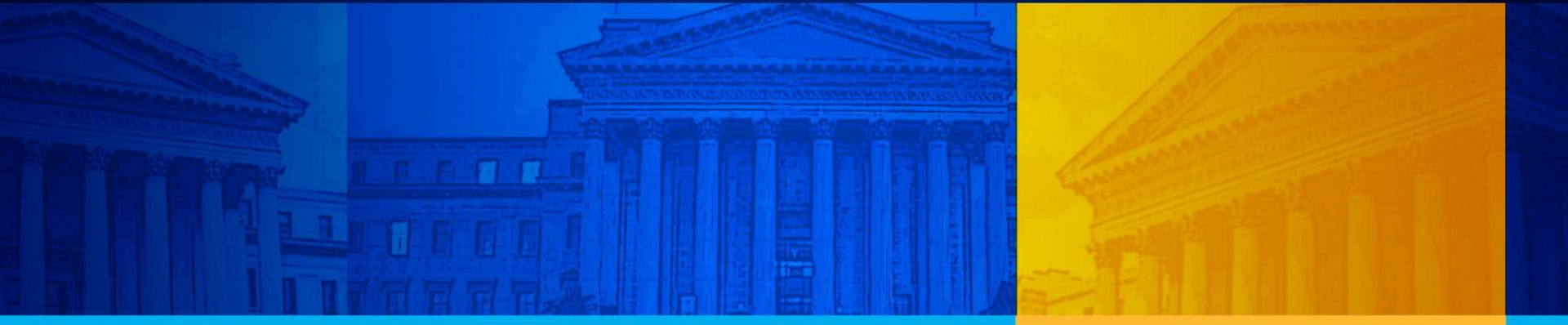


# A PARTNERSHIP THAT UNDERPINS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

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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

- Digitize a collection
- Acquire digitization hardware
- Acquire software
- Train/employ staff
- Go online

### PITFALLS

- What about future maintenance?
- Cost of upgrades/licences?
- Budget for salaries in the future?
- Cost of continuing and enhancing the online presence



## Grant funding

### **CONDITIONS and COMPROMISES**

Limited delivery period  
(condition)

Outsource scanning  
(compromise)

Publish on a prescribed platform  
(condition)

Preservation

### **PITFALLS**

Time to digitize AND establish  
infrastructure?

Opportunity to establish  
infrastructure?

Loss of independence, locked in

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 YOU!***

A PARTNERSHIP THAT UNDERPINS SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

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