Národní digitální knihovna

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Czech National Digital Library and Digital Preservation

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History:
Digitisation, Harvesting and Acquisition of Born-Digital Documents without Digital Preservation

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- **Digitisation:** 1992: card catalogues (Retrocon), 1996: historical manuscripts (Manuscriptorium), 2000: endangered newspapers and monographs (Kramerius)
- **Web harvesting:** 2000 (WebArchiv)
- **E-deposit**: Acquisition of born-digital documents + digital preprints of printed documents: 2011 (Pilot project)
- Limited budget, digitisation versus digital preservation
- HW infrastructure, bit stream preservation, no LTP system

NDL Project: Goals

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- **Digitisation:** Bohemica, 26 million pages by 2014, 50 million pages by 2019, 300,000 volumes
- **LTP:** 300,000 volumes form NDK, 200 000 volumes from Google, WebArchive, e-deposit
- **Access:** integration

NDL Project: Budget and Schedule

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- **Budget:** 12 million EUR
- EU Structural Funds, Integrated Operational Programme (85%), state budget (15%)
- **Schedule:** 2010-2014 (2019)

NDL system

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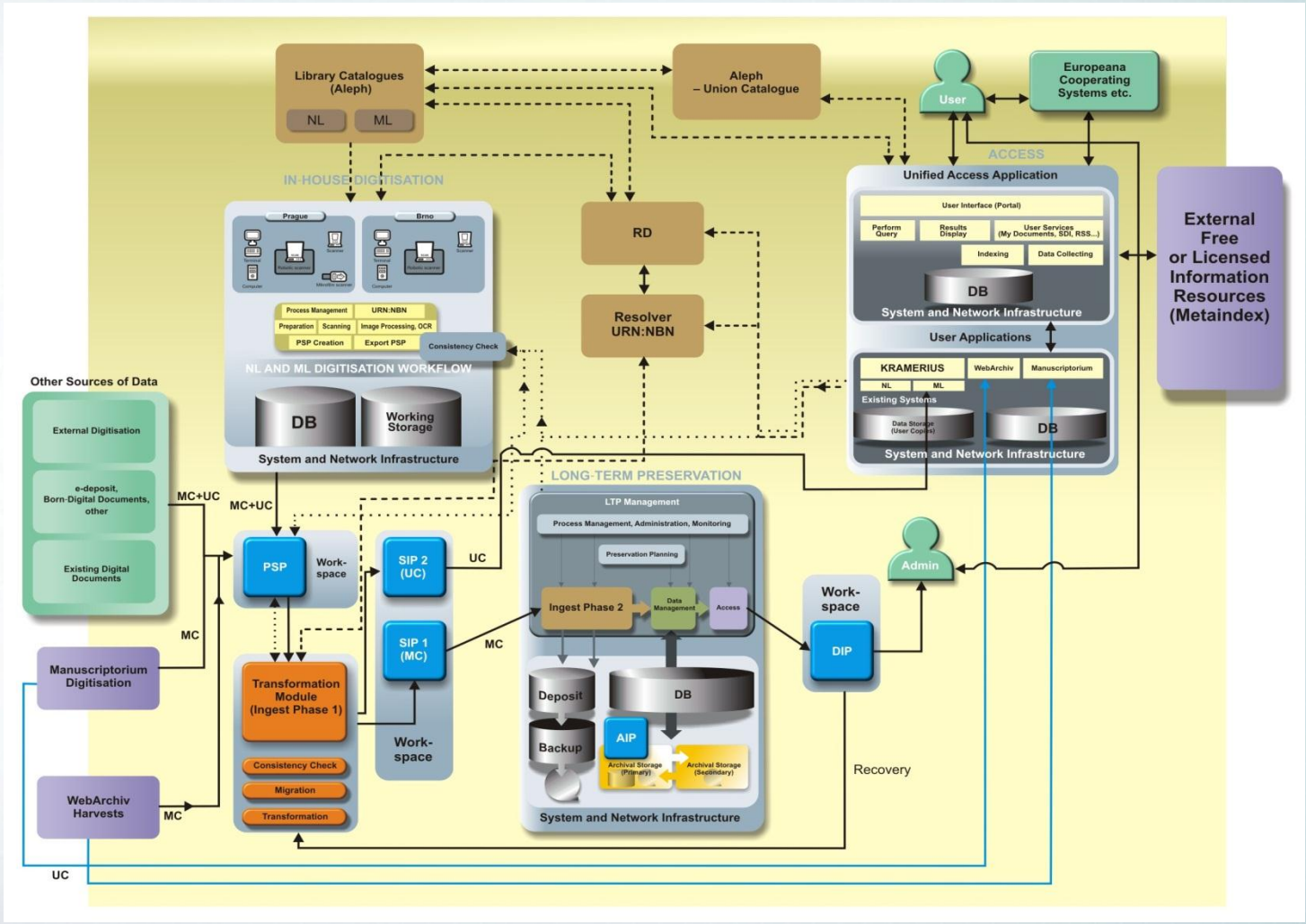

Strategic and Economic Aspects

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- Manuscriptorium and Kramerius – independent projects, small independent teams
- WebArchive – small reorganisation needed, library not „disturbed"
- National Digital Library Project – complex project requiring deep reorganisation, new people, new strategy, different priorities, not very popular in conservative memory institution
- Digital preservation – financially demanding area, benefits not visible at first sight
- Printed books and periodicals – protection from water, fire or entry of unauthorised persons well understood
- Digital preservation – underestimated, sometimes even ignored in order to digitise more documents

International Context

- **DPE – 2006: understending the LTP in its complexity, building staff, meeting experts from other projects (PLANETS, CASPAR)**
- **Translation and using tools like DRAMBORA, PLATTER etc.**
- **Other tools: PLATO, JHOVE and DROID – used in the NDL workflows**
- **Visits: NL of th Netherlands, New Zealand NL, NL of Australia, German NL, Welcome Trust Library**
- **Analysis and testing of commercial and free SW**
- **All experience included in the project**

Conclusions and Recommendations

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- **Digital preservation should be an inseparable component of all of the projects dealing with the digitisation of analogue documents and/or the acquisition of born-digital documents forming the national cultural heritage.**
- **Digital preservation is not a luxury which can be postponed until later or even entirely jettisoned. Ensuring adequate protection for digital documents should be just as natural as protecting the space for the deposition of analogue documents from water, fire or intrusion of undesired persons.**
- **There are several substantial differences between the securing of analogue and digital documents: digital documents are more vulnerable than analogue documents – digital preservation has not only a physical but also a logical level.**
- **Whereas the preservation of analogue documents is locally limited to the areas of their deposition and movement, the idea that digital preservation takes place somewhere on the grounds of IT and begins and ends with the procurement of suitable HW and SW is mistaken.**
- **Invest in the HW and IT staff, but do not dismiss the project management part. Strategies, preservation plans, setting-up processes, documentation writing are time-consuming. The stakeholders have to acknowledge that the digital preservation is not solely an IT issue; it is also an issue of management and financing. Often meet people as well as institutions' representatives in different countries still believe the back-up policy is a sufficient means of long-term preservation.**

Conclusions and Recommendations

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- **Digital preservation affects an institution very complexly and creates the need for a transformation of the routine approaches and organisational changes.**
- **The unpreparedness of the institution for relatively fundamental changes could become a more serious hurdle for digital preservation than a lack of financial means for investment.**
- **Preservation policy is more important than one would think at the beginning of one's digital preservation efforts.**
- **From the wider perspective, the strategy and coordination of digital preservation on a national level are crucial as well. The recipients of public funding (libraries, museums, archives) should be impelled to concentrate on digital preservation, share the knowledge base and develop tools among institutions.**
- **Some funding should be clearly focused on archiving and preserving only the digital data. When all of the national programmes and funding schemes 'produce' just digital data without relying on a clearly defined national strategy for digital preservation with resources committed to this area, it is a disaster and a waste of money.**
- **Considering that it is a relatively new area with which a number of memory institutions are only now beginning, it is exceptionally important to share experience and the results achieved on the international level.**