

**Contributors/Presenters:**

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**Title :**

***Collaboration is Key***

***The importance of collaboration and partnership in digitization projects***

**Abstract:**

In 2003 the national library of Luxembourg (BnL) started with its first digitization projects in image-only mode. Very quickly the BnL realized that full text search was expected by users and so the library started using METS/ALTO in 2006 during a first trial with CCS. The digitization project is annual, with an annual budget and an annual European tender. This restrictive working mode is necessary because of budget issues but has also helped the BnL by allowing the iterative improvement of processes each year.

From 2000 – 2003 CCS Content Conversion Specialists GmbH (CCS) collaborated in the EU funded METAe project with 12 library and university partners. The project aimed to develop a comprehensive software product for the digitisation and conversion of printed historical documents. CCS provided its software technology as well as digitisation expertise and learned from the project partners about their business and requirements regarding digitisation, preservation and access. Through the fruitful collaboration with libraries and universities this project represents the model a successful partnership. Since 2005 CCS has been engaged in various mid- and large-scale digitisation/conversion projects. It became obvious that both service provider and institution should be open to learn from each other and share experience to lead the projects to a success.

The BnL has always thought that it's important to share and collaborate with others. So, just as the BnL is a grateful recipient of knowledge, experience and tools from companies and the library community, it also open-sourced its newspaper viewer and publishes its tender documents for the inspiration of others. Good collaboration improves our processes and our results, which produces better service for users. It also helps to find solutions to unforeseen problems. The BnL and CCS would like to share with IFLA members the story of their collaboration on the most recent digitization project.

**Biographies:**

**Yves Maurer** joined the national library of Luxembourg in 2007 after working for 6 years at Atril Language Engineering, a Computer-Assisted Translation software company in Spain. He holds a Masters of Computer Science and Mathematics (Imperial College London, 2000). At Atril, Yves was responsible for development of various parts of the flagship Déjà Vu product, as well as participating in research. At the national library of Luxembourg, he's responsible for the digitization projects and the delivery platform eluxemburgensia.lu which is based on ExLibris's Digitool. The open-sourced newspaper viewer was developed in Yves' team, as well as custom QA software and an iPad application to browse and search the same contents. Since 2007 Yves is actively participating in Digitool section of the International Group of Ex Libris Users and has appeared as speaker at different

conferences and events. Yves also represents the national library at different European and international programmes, including the Europeana Newspapers project.

**Claus Gravenhorst** joined CCS Content Conversion Specialists GmbH in 1983, holds a diploma in Electrical Engineering (TU Braunschweig, 1983). Today he is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at CCS leading business development. For 10 years Claus was in charge of the product management of CCS products. During the METAe Project, sponsored by the European Union Framework 5, from 2000 to 2003 Claus collaborated with 16 international partners (Universities, Libraries and Research Institutions) to develop a conversion engine for books and journals. Claus was responsible for the project management, exploration and dissemination. The METAe Project was successfully completed in August 2003. Since 2003 he is engaged in Business Development and promoted CCS technologies as a speaker on various international conferences and exhibitions. In 2006 Claus contributed as a co-author to “Digitalization - International Projects in Libraries and Archives”, published in June 2007 by BibSpider, Berlin. Since 2012 he is collaborating with 18 European partners in the Europeana Newspapers Project, partially funded under the EU ICT PSP programme, and takes care of the conversion of 2 million newspaper pages to highly structured content.