

Alessandro Kraus music pamphlet digitization

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Alessandro Kraus Music Pamphlet Digitization

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ABSTRACT

The Alessandro Kraus Pamphlets project completed in Fall 2003 is among the first major digitization projects at Boston College. This poster describes the process of selecting and digitizing pamphlets from the Alessandro Kraus music pamphlet collection for inclusion in the Boston College Digital Library, and serves as an example for planning and choosing future digital library projects.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

J.5 [Computer Applications]: Arts and Humanities – *Performing Arts*.

General Terms

Documentation.

Keywords

PDF, music pamphlets, preservation, scanning.

1. INTRODUCTION

The project digitized a selection of music pamphlets collected by Alessandro Kraus (b. 1853, d. 1931), a private collector of musical instruments and musicologist living in Florence, Italy [1]. Subjects of the music pamphlets range from the history and science of music, instrument catalogs, composer and performer biographies and Gregorian chants. The materials were published in several different countries from 1800 until 1916. Languages represented include Italian, German, English, and French. Boston College Libraries purchased the pamphlets in the early 1990s.

The impetus for digitizing a selection of the Kraus pamphlets (36 of the 139 in BC's collection) focuses on the need to provide access to the pamphlets without damaging them. Because of their fragile nature, library staff were looking for a way to make the pamphlets available without risking destruction or damage to the physical items. Additionally, because of the original cataloging involved, this suggested the rarity of the pamphlets, and thus the value of making them available digitally for use among the international scholarly community.

2. SELECTING AND PRIORITIZING

The Kraus Music Pamphlets have a user base of musical scholars and music historians. Presumably this group will grow as researchers and students were not aware of the existence of these materials prior to their digitization. The goals of the Kraus Music Pamphlet project were to provide access to the music pamphlets through the online library catalog and the library web site, and reduce the handling of the documents to prevent further deterioration of these rare and fragile materials.

3. DIGITIZATION PROCESS

The digitization process took approximately one year to be completed (staff time for this project was limited to 30-50%, and there were two staff members involved in the scanning and image manipulation). The pamphlets were scanned using an HP Scanjet 4570c, with cover pages and color illustrations scanned with RGB 8 bit, and all other pages scanned as gray-scale 8 bit and resolution at 300 dpi.

We created a TIFF archival master file for storage, a JPEG working file that is used in production, and finally a PDF access file with EXIF (Exchangeable Image File Format) metadata that will be used for viewing and printing from the Internet. To meet our legibility needs, we aimed for a QI (Quality Index) of 5.0 or "good," for our derived access files, using the following equation, which shows that a resolution of 200 dpi will result in a QI of approximately 6.0 [2].

The scope of the project, defined early on as small-scale and aimed at providing access and preservation solutions, did not involve some of the grander or more exacting standards in larger digital library projects. This project served as a good model for us in our development of further digital projects.

4. REFERENCES

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- [2] Kenney, Anne R. and Kieger, Oya Y. *Moving Theory into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives*. Mountain View, CA : Research Libraries Group, 2000.
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/conversion/conversion-04.html>

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