HERDING BIG CATS

African experience of collaboration

DLF Fall Forum 2005
The lion sleeps…

- Transformation objectives
- Organisational structures
- Aligning context with content
- Partnerships
DISA: Digital Imaging South Africa

- National collaboration
- Transformation objectives
- Project objectives
- Workflow
The Inception

A workshop on Digital Imaging, held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in September 1997, and sponsored by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, was the starting point of the DISA initiative to undertake an imaging project in this country.

The aim of the DISA project, which is expected to last three years, is to make accessible to scholars and researchers world-wide, South African material of high socio-political interest which would otherwise be difficult to locate and use. In addition the project aims to provide experience and develop knowledge and expertise in digital imaging amongst archivists and librarians in this country. It is intended that DISA be the first in a series of projects dealing with South Africa’s fascinating social and political history. If successful, the Committee hopes to tackle more ambitious projects in subsequent phases.

Much time, creative thought and debate went into the selection of the content, taking into account a number of criteria established by the Committee. Many journals of historic importance, from indigenous African newspapers to English language publications, were considered; the final selection is based on the breadth of the various aspects of South African history.
Project objectives

- Pilot feasibility study
- Technological advancement
- Skills development
- Access
Transformation objectives

South Africa’s Struggle for Democracy: Anti-Apartheid Periodicals 1960-1990

- Opposition to apartheid rule
- Black consciousness movements
- Spectrum of political views
- Diversity of subject areas
- Social and political history of the period
Production Workflow

- Text scanning & OCR
- Tiff images
- Journal mark up by issue - TEI
- Keyword indexing
- Web presentation – XML/XSLT
- XML preservation format
- Full text searching
- OSS
Aluka

- Regional collaborative
- Ithaka Harbors, Inc.
- Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa
The lion awakes…
aligning content and context

- Partnerships with:
- users to build context
- Individuals & institutions to provide content
- DL workflow
Aligning context

• Participatory culture of accretion
• Scholarly engagement
• Subject architecture
Topic 100 APARTHEID

located in +

resistance by +

entrenched by +

impacting on +

reported by +

+ is related to

+ is part of

+ enforced by

+ leading to

+ as told by
Aligning content

- Public & private collections
- Agreements
- Equipment & training
- Distributed production
- Workflow
DISA - Dublin Core Metadata Generator

Please fill in the relevant fields, making use of the drop down lists where applicable. Once you have completed the form, press the Preview the Dublin Core Record button once.

**Title** (required)

**Identifier** (required)
Repository Collection Folder

**Creator** Enter one per field

**Contributor** Enter one per field
Add another value

**Publisher**

**Description** (required)

**Language** Choose one from the drop down list
English
Add another value

**Subject** Enter one per field Please only select terms from the DISA thesaurus
Add another value

**Coverage** Enter one per field Where utilised, please only select terms from the DISA thesaurus
Add another value

**Date**
DISA 2 Production Workflow

- Sign scholars
- Track scholars’ submissions
- Approve scholars’ submissions
- Pay scholars
- Production agreement
- Sign MoA

- Submission and QC
- METS wrapper
- Fedora ingest
- Secure IP rights
- Publish to the Web – XML/XSLT
- XML preservation format
- Full text searching
The lion roars..

- Appropriation of African heritage
- Commodification
- Dissemination across Africa
- Competition to archives
- Sustainability
Partnerships

- Library capacity building in Africa, or the exportation of technolust?
- Grant funding models
- Mutual benefit
http://disa.nu.ac.za