Audience in Focus – Democratisation of Digitalisation in Libraries

Jelena Andonovski
andonovski@unilib.rs

Nikola Krsmanović
krsmanovic@ubsm.rs

*University Library
"Svetozar Marković"
Belgrade, Serbia*

In the most general sense, digitalization has allowed for permanent preservation of only a small part of the material of cultural heritage, both in the world and in Serbia. An even smaller percentage of this kind of stored material has been processed and therefore effectively available to users. In recent years, the institutions have controlled the processes of digitization defining the flow of information created based on the use of digital materials of cultural heritage. Today's technological capabilities enable individuals to control digitalization processes, opening up a number of issues related to digitization of books and cultural heritage. University Library "Svetozar Marković" in Belgrade is an associate partner of the H2020 READ (Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents)[1] project team, which is implemented from 2016 to June 2019. The core objective of READ is to provide a service platform for the automated recognition, transcription and searching of historical documents, Transkribus[2]. The main objective of Transkribus is to support users who are engaged in the transcription of printed or handwritten documents, namely humanities scholars, archives, members of the public and computer scientists. The basis and main precondition for the use of Transkribus services are digitized documents. In order to simplify and speed up the digitization process, researchers at the Computer Vision Lab Laboratory at the Vienna University of Technology[3] are developing a mobile DocScan

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[1] Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents, on-line

[2] Transkribus, on-line

[3] TU Wien, Faculty of Informatics, Institute of Visual Computing & Human-Centered Technology, Computer Vision Lab, on-line

application and a portable ScanTent device. The DocScan is an Android app designed for the ScanTent. It detects pages in the live preview and makes high-quality scans. An automatic series mode takes an image once a page is turned. It therefore enables you to scan books or documents quickly without interacting with your mobile. DocScan is an open source and is available on the GitHub platform, as well as on the Google Play Store. The ScanTent is a portable piece of equipment that holds a smartphone in place above a document. In combination with the DocScan app it enables users to hold a document with both hands and to scan it with your smartphone without pressing any button.
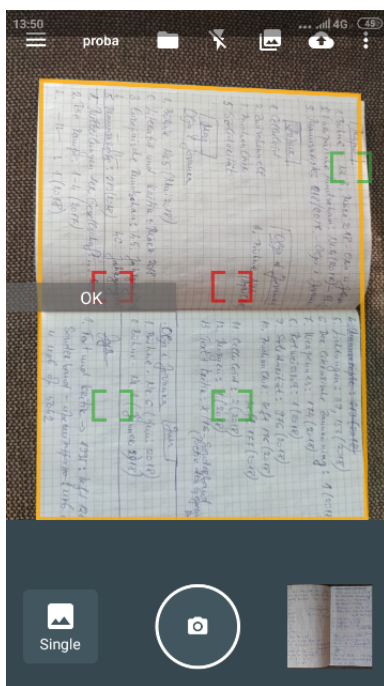

Figure 1. DocScan app
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Figure 2. ScanTent device

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Parts of the H2020 READ program were realized in the University Library "Svetozar Markovic" in Belgrade, within the framework of projects financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia: "The New Horizon of Digitization" for 2016, "The Ready Old Serbian Cyrillic: Hand-written Handwritten History" 2017, "The Readiness of the Old Serbian Cyrillic: History and Tradition at Your Fingertips" for 2018. Also, in cooperation with the City Library of Novi Sad it was organized project "Democratization of Digitization in Libraries" supported through the "Audience in Focus" open call of the Foundation "Novi Sad 2021" with the funds allocated from the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for 2017.[4] The aim of the project was to train librarians, as well as to involve as many users as possible in the process of digitization of library resources in order to make library and archive resources more available. During October, November and December in 2018, as well as in March, April and May in 2019, it was held more than 30 workshops in order to present the new technological possibilities based on digitization. The workshops were held in the University Library in Belgrade and the City Library of Novi Sad by the team of the University Library for the development and improvement of new technologies in the field of digitization. In December 2018 (20th and 21st), were held two national workshops under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia in the University Library in Belgrade and the Historical Archive of Novi Sad. Workshops were led by Dr Ginter

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[4] Democratisation of Digitalisation in Libraries, on-line and on-line

Milberger, the leader of the pan-European team for the development of new technologies in digitization.

Figure 3. The National workshop in Belgrade
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Figure 4. The National workshop in Novi Sad
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Further work and training of the mentioned technologies continues in the University Librar "Svetozar Marković" in Belgrade within the project "Luxury of fully read Serbian Cyrillic: living manuscript heritage from Branković to Obrenović" financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the

Republic of Serbia for 2019, and the accredited program for professional development "Democratization of Digitization in Libraries" by the authors Nataša Dakić, Aleksandra Trtovac and Jelena Andonovski. After completion of the H2020 READ project, a pan-European Collaborative will be established to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's results.