BRIEF FOR DIGITAL GLADSTONE CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Background

Digital Gladstone is a digitisation project which will make a collection of international significance and relevance widely accessible for the first time and safeguard it for future generations of scholars, teachers and students.

The first major project of Digital Gladstone is externally funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The three-year project began in January 2018 and will result in a fully-catalogued digital collection of 15,000 nineteenth-century manuscript letters and 5,390 annotated printed books. These will be partially transcribed and hosted online in a free-to-access CMS, making one of the world's most significant Gladstonian collections available to all. The project builds on the work undertaken to create [GladCat](#) – part of our successful online catalogue – and ensure that the online presence of Gladstone's Library is as unique and distinctive as the physical institution.

Gladstone's Library was founded in Hawarden, North Wales in 1894 by William Gladstone, one of Britain's greatest Prime Ministers. Not only was he a great statesman, he was also a voracious reader - a true Victorian polymath – who built up a vast collection of books at his home in Hawarden Castle. He wanted these books to be used by others after his death and decided to set up a library in Hawarden to house them. Today, Gladstone's original donation of some 20,000 volumes remains at the heart of a world-renowned collection of some 200,000 printed items focusing on theology, history, politics, culture and literature from the nineteenth century to the present day. This unique collection is housed in a Grade I listed building. It is Britain's national memorial to Gladstone, its only Prime Ministerial library and its finest residential library.

Within the world-renowned collection held at Gladstone's Library are two special collections of particular significance: the Manuscript Archive and the Gladstone Foundation Collection. Both are unique and irreplaceable in terms of their cultural and historical importance.

The Manuscript Archive comprises approximately 300,000 documents of which around 15,000 relate directly to William Gladstone i.e. letters written by or to him and papers that pertain to crucial events in his own life and that of the British nation. With the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the US Friends of Gladstone's Library, the Library is undertaking a three-year project to digitise Gladstone's correspondence and, when all legal and copyright issues have been addressed, make them available online.

The Gladstone Foundation Collection comprises some 20,000 books which have been positively identified as belonging to William Gladstone because they bear his handwritten annotations and/or were listed by him in his diaries. Previous work undertaken on the Foundation Collection in 2006 in partnership with the University of Liverpool resulted in a dedicated catalogue, GladCat, an electronic research resource which provides extensive searchable details of Gladstone's annotations and marginalia. Work will be undertaken to enrich and update GladCat, making use of the latest technology so that the Gladstone Foundation Collection can be made more widely accessible as part of a full digital repository.

https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/reading-rooms/digital-gladstone

Existing Resources

Library Catalogue (Heritage, provided by ISOxford):
http://gladmaincat.cirqahosting.com/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search1

Website: https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/

Gladstone's Library has no cloud storage at present, nor large-scale digital storage of any kind.

Technical Details

Metadata is held in an Excel spreadsheet and comprises:

- Digital Filename
- Original Resource Identifier
- Transcription (first line only, of every manuscript page)
- Creator
- Contributor
- Date
- Description
- Extent
- Source
- Rights Statement
- Digital Specification
- **Full line transcription and subject keywords will be added at a later date, as part of a connected project.**

We are scanning with a Zeutschel OS 1600. We are scanning to preservation standard: large-scale TIF files. The print output of each TIF file is set at 400dpi.

Manuscript letters are scanned per page, and each page is saved as a separate file. File size per page (TIF) averages 17828-18169KB (1 or 2 pages per TIF)

Printed books are scanned per page, but the finalisation process results in one TIF per book. File size is: Book 1, with 193 image files (TIF) – 3.5GB

        Book 2, with 625 image files (TIF) – 18GB

        Each book page TIF (2 pages per file) average 30000KB

CMS Priorities

The content management system must:

- Comprise storage and front end (web viewer, web page, etc);
- Include an integrated (preferably automated) integration system between storage and front end, which combines metadata with digital image;
- Output in IIIF;
- Store large TIF files ('preservation copies') in cold or cool storage, to reduce costs. We estimate that while a few files will be requested for publication, many will not be accessed from year to year;
- Use only restricted-quality JPG as dissemination copies;
- Offer a front-end viewer with 'page turning' abilities;
- Work with Heritage or offer a comparable library catalogue feature;
- Offer storage which complies with GDPR, particularly with regard servers within the EU;
- Take into account the Library's staffing: IT and web support are managed by external agencies;
- Have annual operating and maintenance costs that are realistic for a small independent charity.

Not a priority, but desired options include:

- Option to purchase/request higher-quality copies for publication;
- Option for viewers to submit transcription of handwritten manuscript letters;
- Options for catalogue records/images to be tagged or otherwise publicly engaged with;
- OCR capability.

Examples of front end

Wellcome Collection: https://wellcomelibrary.org/item/b20417081#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=0&z=-0.9434%2C-0.0828%2C2.8868%2C1.6564

Archive.org: https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_S_w9AAAAcAAJ/page/n677

Future Projects (unconfirmed and confidential)

Significant WEG collections are held at Lambeth Palace, the British Library, National Library of Wales and the Bodleian. Smaller WEG-related items have been found at the Wellcome Collection and multiple local Record Offices.

Linking up with any of these institutions is outside the scope of Digital Gladstone (Carnegie) but interoperability is a high priority. The combined archive must number close to one million items – digital is the only way they will ever be even partially reunited.

Systems which permit easy interaction with the above institutions will be prioritised.

Timescale

All quotations should be submitted to Gladstone's Library by Friday 23rd March 2019.

A final presentation must be made at the Library's AGM in early July 2019.