Digitization Guidelines and Practices in a Federal Depository Library

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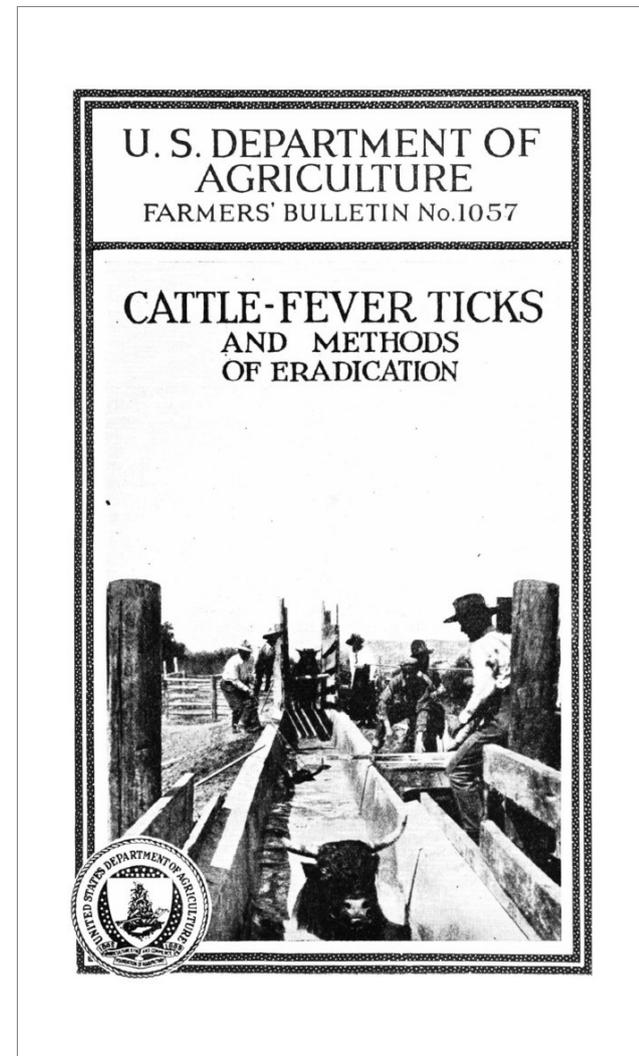
Depository Library Digitization

- FDLP Libraries got involved with digitization early on.

- Most institutions view it as an extension of their historic goal to provide access to government information.

- A way of providing greater access to a wider range of users.

- Many early project featured government documents in their collections (Making of America).

Digital Content Online

- Once a number of depository libraries began digitizing content we wanted to know who was doing what.

- A way of not duplicating effort

- A way of providing greater discoverability to our newly digitized collections.

- GODORT – Ad-Hoc Committee of Digitization of Government Information (2002)

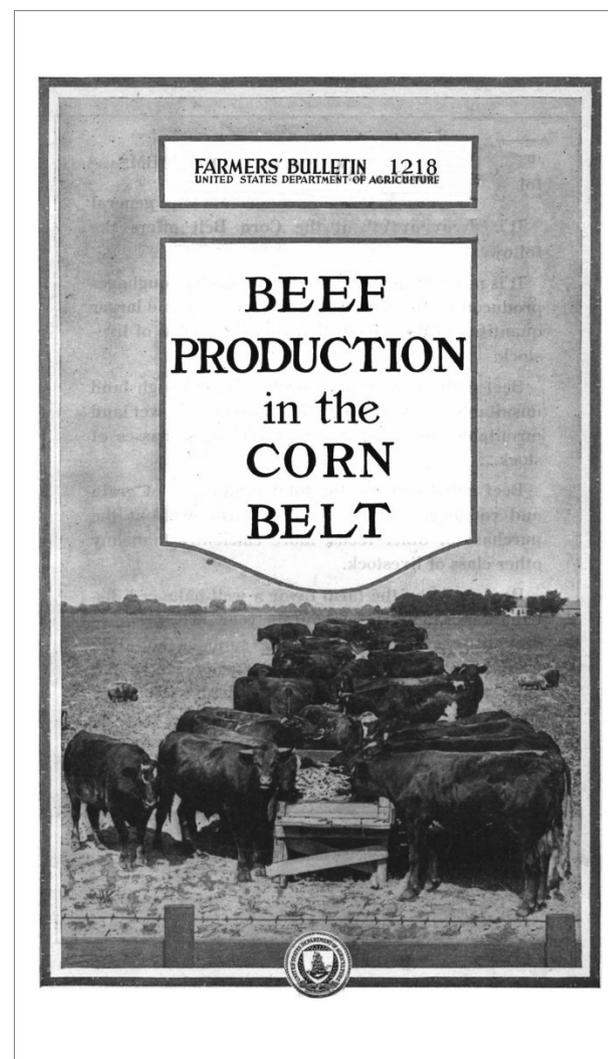 http://www.ala.org/godort/sites/ala.org.godort/files/content/godortcommittees/gitco/dgi/report.pdf

Digitization Projects Registry

- Began as a project of the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT)

- Moved to GPO as part of the FDLP

  http://registry.fdlp.gov/

- 150+ project listed

Digitization Guidelines

- Minimum Digitization Capture Recommendations (2013)

  http://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/minimu m-digitization-capture-recommendations

- Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials: Creation of Raster Image Master Files

  http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov/guidelines/FA DGI_Still_Image-Tech_Guidelines_2010-08-24.pdf

- Benchmarking digital reproductions of printed monographs and serials (2002)

 http://old.diglib.org/standards/draftbmfunctions.htm
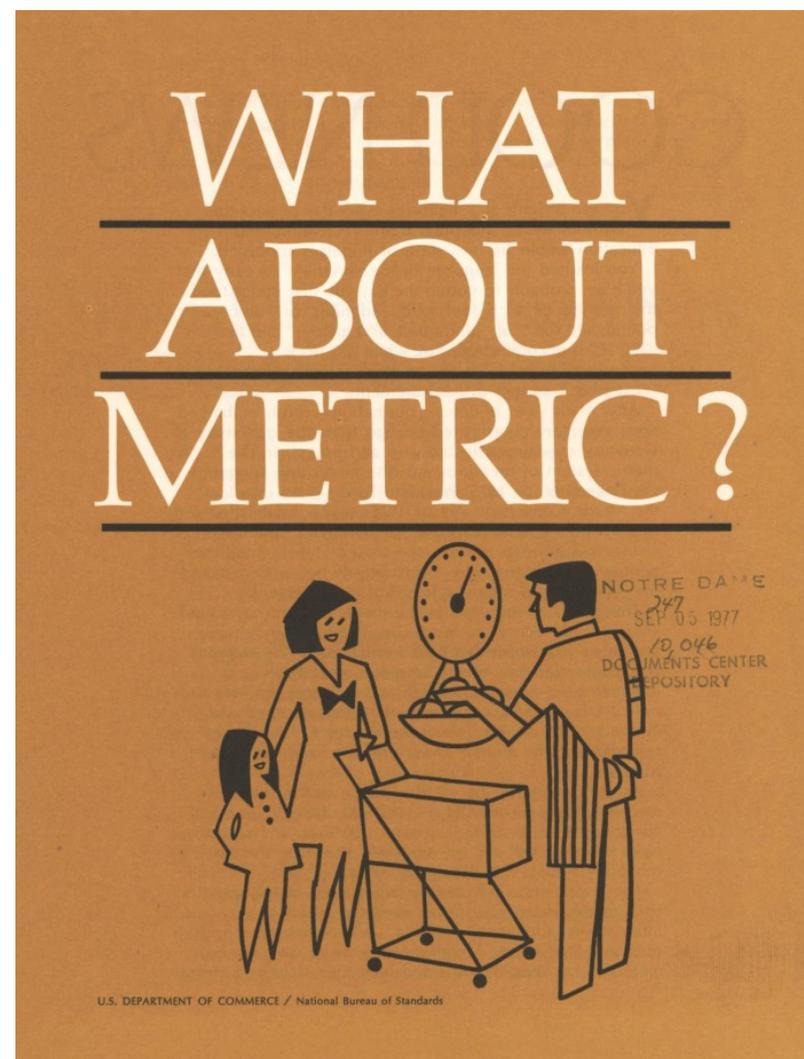
Moving forward

- FDLP Libraries continue to meet the needs of their user communities by digitizing for preservation and increased access

- New collaborations and partnerships are testing the structure and models of the FDLP program as it moves forward with changes in digital world.

- How does locally digitized content play into the national agenda?

- How can GPO capitalize on the investments made by FDLP libraries?

Locally Important Digital Collections

- Many FDLP Libraries are interested in digitizing locally important documents.

- Federal documents usually don't have the rights issues associated with other digitization projects.

- As content is digitized many institutions are adding these collections into their local digital library infrastructure.
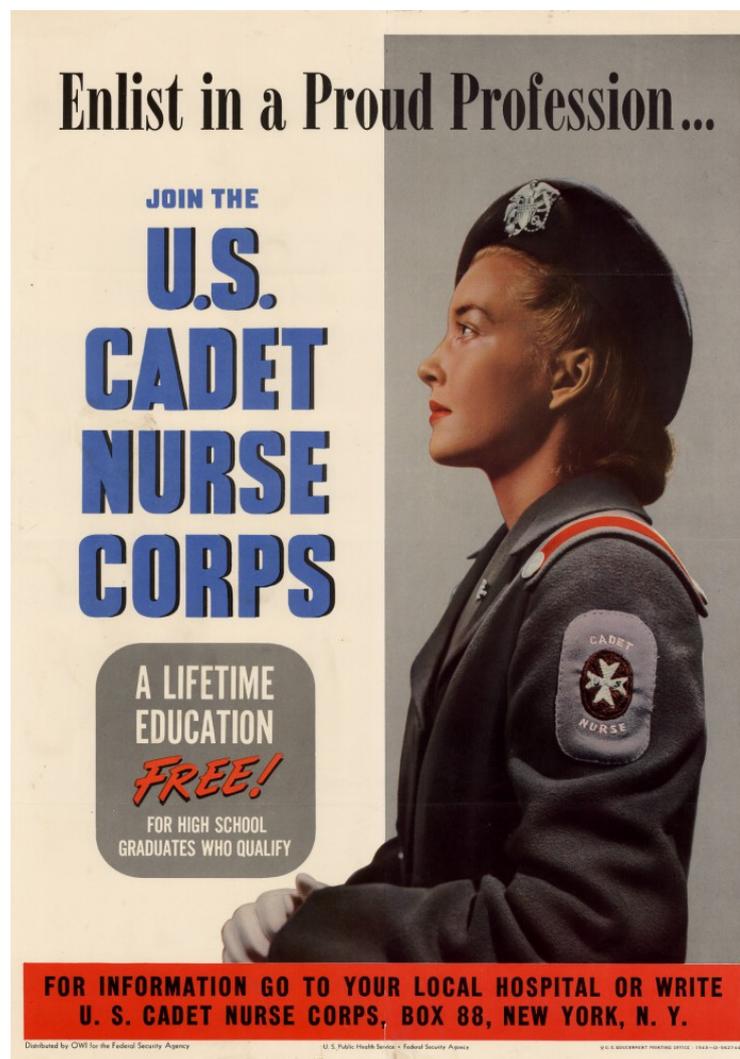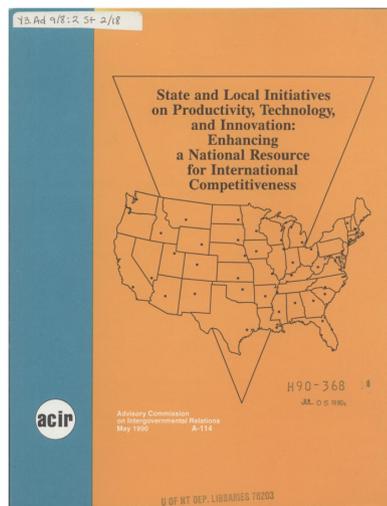
Case Study: University of North Texas
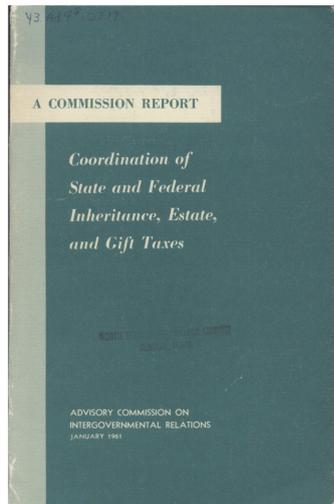
The UNT Libraries has digitized FDLP content for over a decade.

The focus of the digitization projects has varied widely over the years.

Local importance, supporting the research interest on campus, projects based on opportunity, projects used to test out new ideas and push boundaries
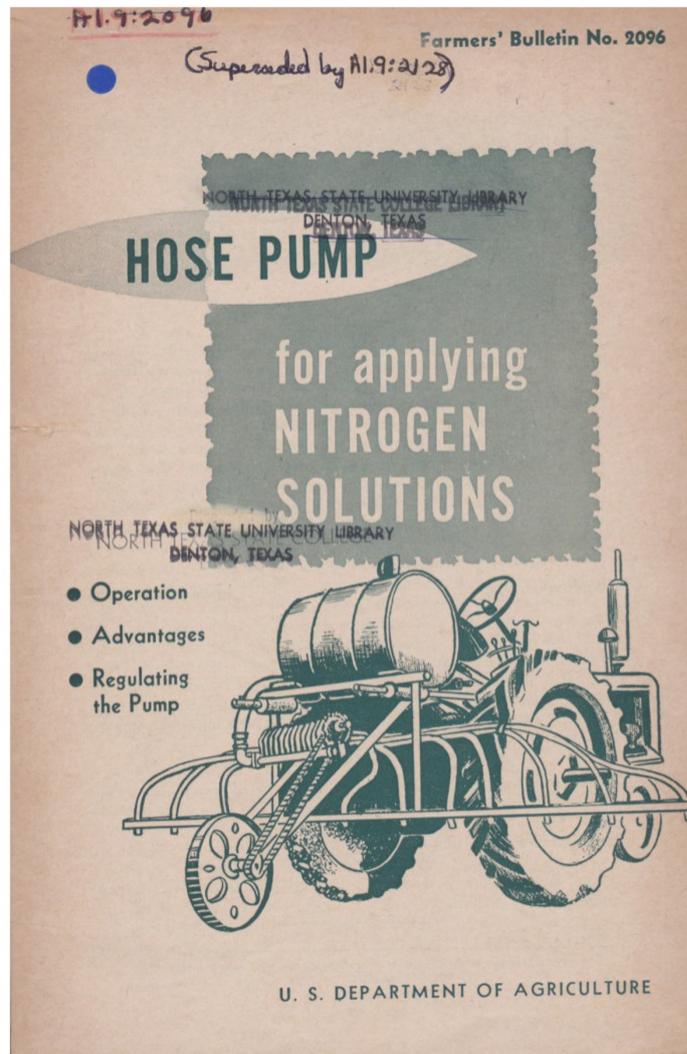
UNT Digital Library

- All digitized FDLP content is made freely available to the public by the UNT Digital Library or The Portal to Texas History.

- Metadata is harvestable and is shared with projects such as the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)
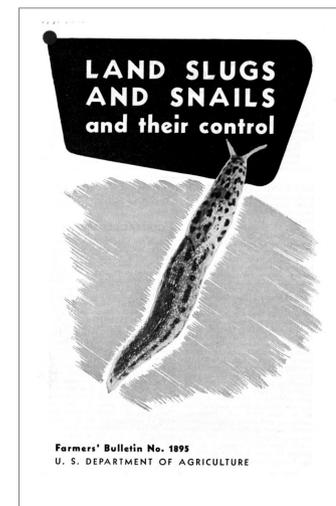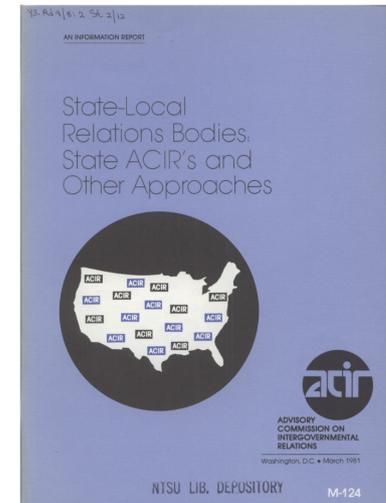
Utilizing Technical Guidelines

- Digitization activities make use of accepted guidelines and best practices in the community

- There is an understanding of how local digitization standards and practices relate to the FADGI technical guidelines.

UNT Digitization Guidelines

- Guidance for locally digitized collections

- Quite stable in their suggestions

- http://www.library.unt.edu/digital-projects-unit/standards/

Volume 5, No. 24, Pages 6947 to 7198,
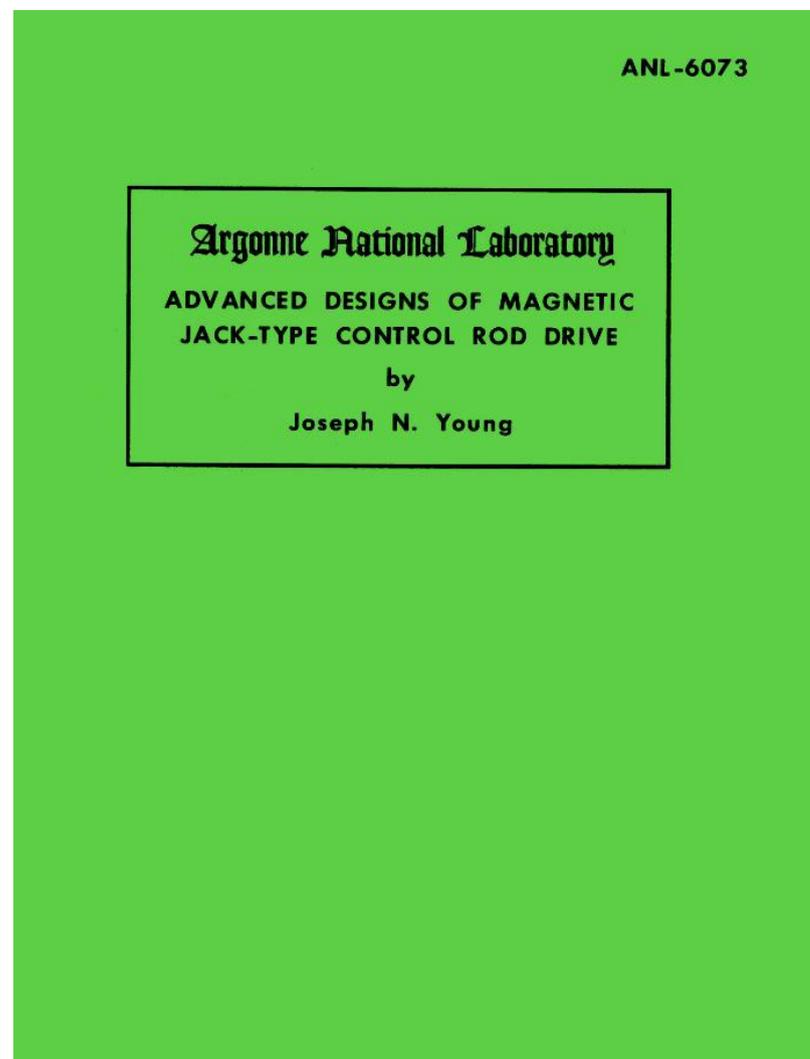November 19 - November 30, 1990.

FCC Record

A comprehensive compilation of decisions,
reports, public notices and other documents
of the Federal Communications Commission
of the United States.

Guidelines only tell part of the story

- Most institutions want to know if they scan at 300/400/600 dpi/ppi at 1/8/24 bit is that "good enough"

- Defining concepts such as "too much skew"

- Do you scan the backs of items?

- Scanning covers, blank pages, inserted pages?

- TIFF/JPEG/JPEG2000

- Access? PDF? Page turning software?

- Many GovDocs are quite large which challenge systems.

ANL-6073

Argonne National Laboratory

ADVANCED DESIGNS OF MAGNETIC
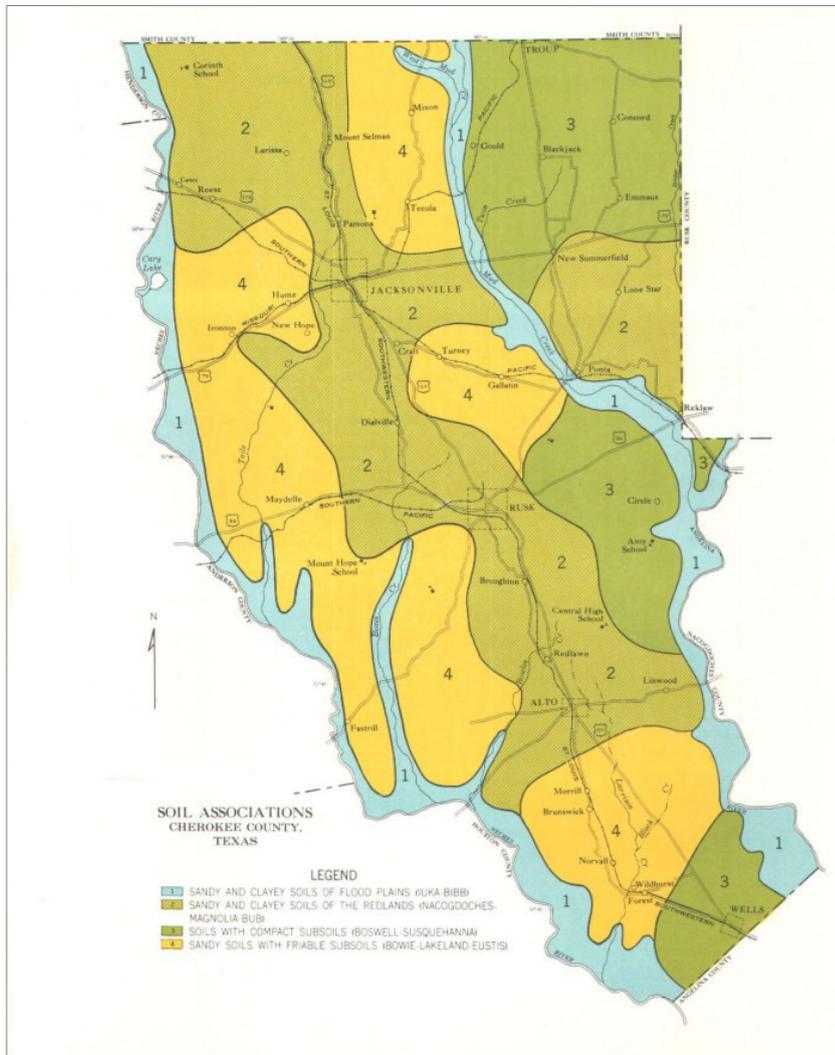JACK-TYPE CONTROL ROD DRIVE

by

Joseph N. Young

Understanding intended use

- Digitization for Access vs Preservation

- Digitization of priceless/unique vs common/mass produced

- What is the goal of the project.

- How does this play into decisions related to digitization?

- How do these decisions change the cost.
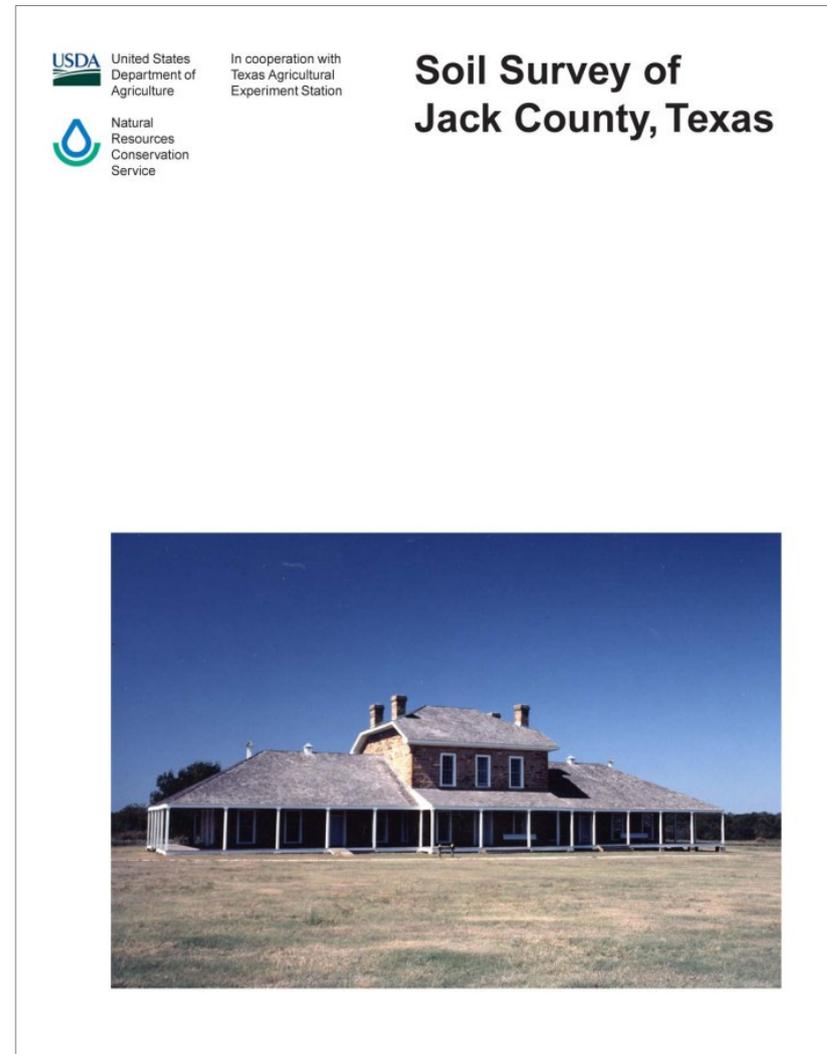
What we know

- We really understand the process of digitization

- We recognize "good" vs "bad" work.

- We have the ability to scale projects with need.

- We have systems/standards/guidelines/tools for delivering high quality products.

- We know what to do vs what not to do.

- Don't believe people when they say "there aren't any standards out there"

Open Questions

- What does one digitize?

- How does a local digitization project fit into the greater picture of FDLP digitization?

- How does one ensure longterm access to locally digitized items?

- How should institutions be collaborating to digitize resources?

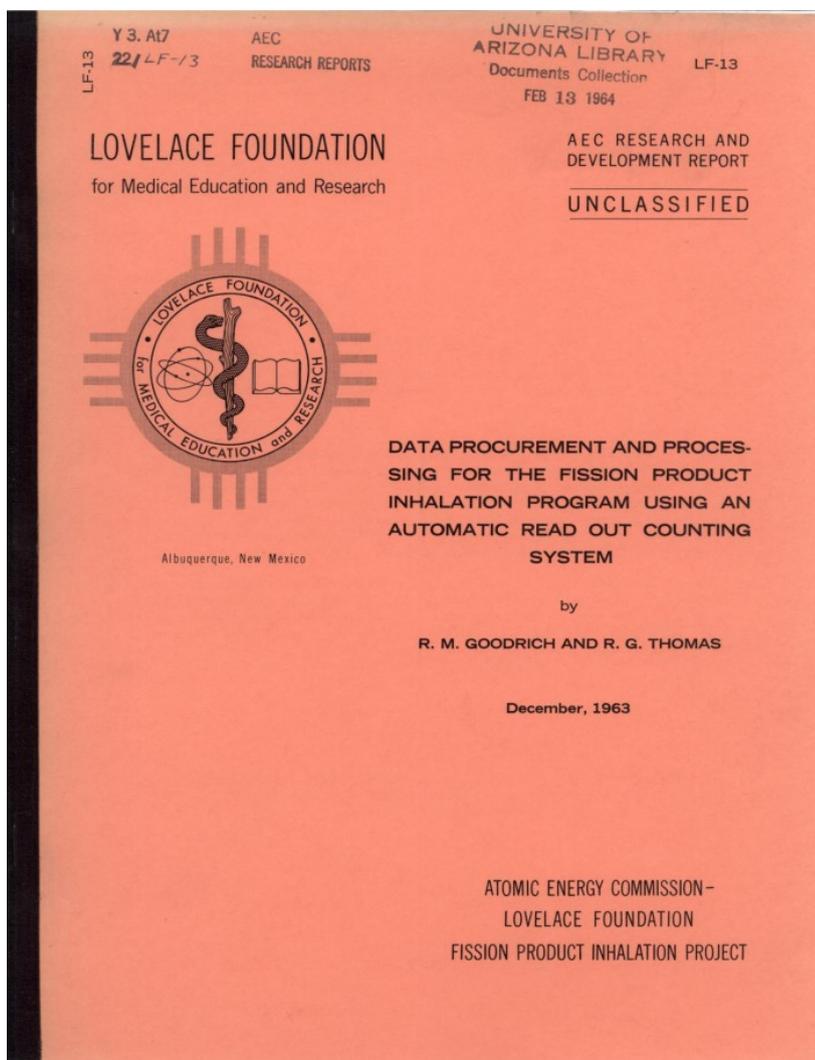- Is there a list of "items to digitize"?

Other things to consider
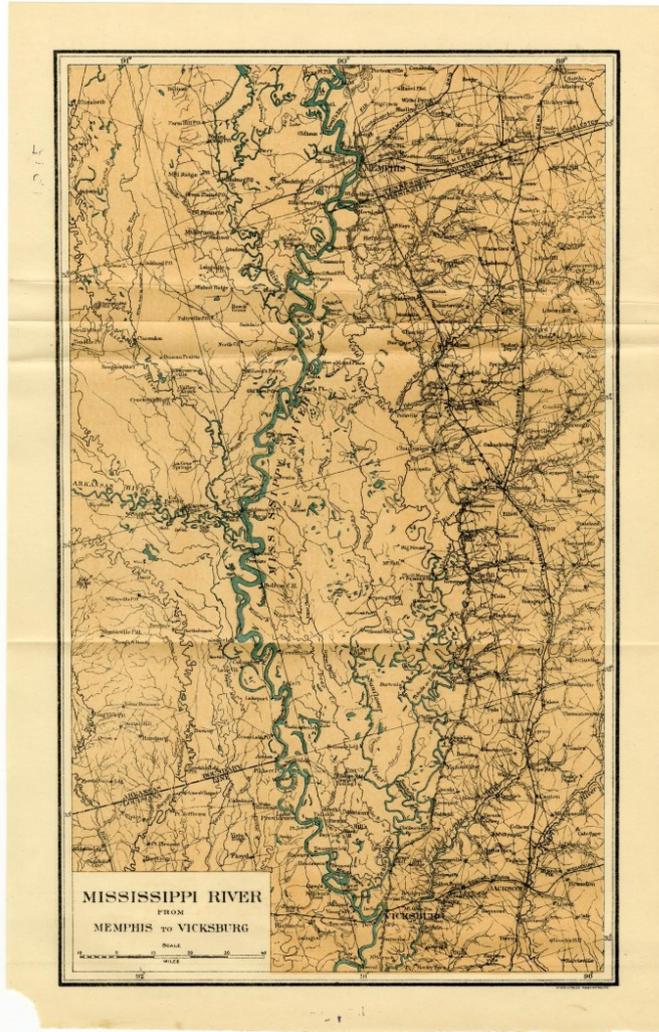
- How do born digital collections complement digitized tangible collections?

- More conversations seem to be aimed at local digitization than locally building collections of born-digital items

- Again, what is locally important to the depository library.

- How do large initiatives shape the scope of local projects?

Questions?

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