


DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS

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Friends of Irish Research



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WHAT IS A DIGITAL LIBRARY

❖ An electronic or digital library is a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media), along with means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection.



FORMAT DISTINCTIONS

- ❖ Born Digital
- ❖ Converted



SOURCES

- ❖ Academic repositories
- ❖ Public / Government repositories
- ❖ Town and County libraries
- ❖ Private libraries (i.e. Friends of Irish Research)



THE PROJECT

❖ Large scale digitization projects are underway at Google, the Million Book Project, and Internet Archive. With continued improvements in book handling and presentation technologies such as optical character recognition and ebooks, and development of alternative depositories and business models, digital libraries are rapidly growing in popularity.



ADVANTAGES

- ❖ No physical boundary
- ❖ Round the clock availability
- ❖ Multiple access
- ❖ Information retrieval
- ❖ Preservation and conservation
- ❖ Spaces
- ❖ Added value



COPYRIGHT ISSUES

- ❖ Digital libraries are hampered by copyright law because, unlike with traditional printed works, the laws of digital copyright are still being formed.
- ❖ In 2010, it was estimated that twenty-three percent of books in existence were created before 1923 and thus out of copyright. Of those printed after this date, only five percent were still in print as of 2010. Thus, approximately seventy-two percent of books were not available to the public.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

- ❖ **Digital Collections:** <http://dcollections.bc.edu/R>

Boston College Libraries offers this database to find relevant records and more to the general public.

- ❖ **Digital Commonwealth:** <http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>

The purpose of the Digital Commonwealth is to promote the creation of digital resources by libraries and other cultural organizations in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to provide public access to these resources. This resource also contains links to smaller collections within the state that are sponsored by local and regional efforts by individual and collaborative libraries and museum projects.



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

❖ **Northeast Massachusetts Digital Library:**

<http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p9002coll1/id/124/rec/3>

The NMDL is a project to enhance access to an ever-growing digital collection of items located in or items related to northeast Massachusetts, defined by 54 towns within the service area of the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System (NMRLS).

❖ **Friends of Irish Research:** <http://www.friendsofirishresearch.org>



TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

❖ **A good scanner**

- Sheet feeder
- Flatbed
- Portable

❖ **Good software**

- Paperport

❖ **Pictures vs Documents**


- Color photos in JPG
- Documents in PDF



ORGANIZATION PLANNING

❖ PaperPort, provides a structure for organizing your pictures and documents.

❖ Import into Family Tree Maker or Legacy or online with FamilySearch or Ancestry

A decorative white scrollwork border frames the entire page. At the top center, there is a floral crest. Below the title, a horizontal line with a small scrollwork ornament in the center separates the title from the contact information.

FRIENDS OF IRISH RESEARCH

❖ Friday evenings 7:30 – 9:30pm

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