



FUTURIS XVIII DIGITISATION

ENGLISH SCRIPT

1.08

3D DIGITISATION, LEUVEN, BELGIUM

These doctoral students at Leuven University in Belgium are shedding light on one of history's mysteries.

Leuven University is a member of the EPOCH Network whose aim is to improve technology in order to preserve our cultural heritage.

Using a dome scanner, they're creating a digital image of a cuneiform tablet from the 4th Millennium BC.

The process can require up to 260 pictures, to create a virtual 3D image that can be manipulated by researchers as if they had the real object in their hand.

1.55

INT Geert Willems, Doctoral Candidate, University of Leuven

"If you have those surface properties, you have actually condensed all that surface information into a very small piece of data. Using that data you can then relight the virtual cuneiform tablet; you can have a different light put on it. You can actually try to remove the texture from it, but also have it automatically detect the wedges from the cuneiform tablet. All these things you can do because now you have the surface information."

2.23

In Haarlem, in the Netherlands, Ewoud Sanders, an historian and journalist, also employs digitisation.
for research.

He is in the process of creating his own digital library.

Separating the pages from the book's binding, he scans them in using a high speed scanner. So far, he's created a database of 1.5 million pages.

What once took days to research, now takes minutes.

2.58

INT Ewoud Sanders, Historian/Journalist (Part overlaid)



"In the old days I had to go to the library, all the way to Amsterdam which is about twenty minutes for me...go there, sit there maybe all day for weeks on end sometimes and do research. Now I can do most of this behind my desk."

3.10

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE.

Ewoud Sanders and Leuven University are both facets of a great enterprise: the creation of a European digital library in which our cultural heritage is accessible to everyone, preserved for ever.

3.22

The National Library of the Netherlands is in the process of digitising its entire collection, 30 million items.

Its website already allows access to books, manuscripts, photographs and letters many of which are locked away in vaults.

The library is currently digitising Dutch Parliamentary Papers. The collection, dating from 1814, numbers two and half million papers

3.52

While these books are not the only copies, digitisation requires the parliamentary papers which they contain, to be separated from their bindings.

4.08

Another of the library's projects is to digitise its collection of newspapers.

There are 8 million pages, dating from 1618, representing an invaluable source of eyewitness history.

4.21

The newspapers are stored in a vault beneath the main library building.

Astrid Verheusen is in charge of the project.

4.37

INT Astrid Verheusen, Project Manager, National Library of the Netherlands

"There are two main reasons why we are digitising. First of all, we want to make our collection as accessible as possible for scientists and the broader public, that's the first reason"



4.56

INT Astrid Verheusen, Project Manager, National Library of the Netherlands

"The second reason is that lots of our books and magazines and journals and newspapers are falling apart and we have to digitise these otherwise they will be lost for future generations."

5.10

The National Netherlands Library has also digitised part of its rare collection, articles that are seldom seen by the general public.

5.19

INT Reinder Storm, Collection Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

"To make it accessible to everyone, a book like this is digitised. It has been recently restored. When it was out of its binding, we had all the leaves loose which was an excellent opportunity to make good images for digitisation and for exhibition on the website."

5.42

As libraries and museums race to digitise our cultural heritage, organisations across Europe are responding with new technology.

We're in Vienna.

5.56

Beginning with an automatic page turner for musicians, Quidenus Technologies turned its attention to inventing a scanner that would digitise books quickly, without the need to cannabilise them.

6.05

The company's robotic book scanner took a team of 50 engineers and technicians to develop.

It will scan up to 2000 pages an hour,entirely automatically, turning a book's pages by itself, so they can be digitised and transferred to a database.

6.31

INT Vitus Bosch, Product Manager, Quidenus Technologies

"Each book has different characteristics, especially concerning the quality of its paper. Turning pages can therefore cause technical difficulties. We have imitated the movements of



the human finger and the human hand in order to turn different kinds of pages, pages of different qualities, thicknesses and weights."

6.53

SCANNING FACTORY, HEILOO, NETHERLANDS

In Heiloo in the Netherlands, the digital revolution was the stimulus for Pictura Database Publishing.

Run by a former art teacher, Pictura scans thousands of photographs and documents a week for libraries and museums, including the newspaper collection of the Royal Library of the Netherlands.

7.18

INT Onno Zaman, Managing Director, Pictura Database Publishing

"I think digitisation is going to grow enormously in the next couple of years because the very large institutions haven't done so much at the moment in Europe. So everything has to be done still, and I think everything will be done eventually. So, I think we get a lot of work...I hope."

7.39

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE.

For most of us, libraries occupy a special place in our hearts. They have been both a source and a symbol of knowledge for millennia.

But our traditional concept of a library is now being transformed.

All revolutions create changes that are both exciting and unsettling at the same time.

Digitisation is no different.

8.01

INT Reinder Storm, Collection Specialist, National Library of the Netherlands

«If you want to give people the opportunity to feel the historical sensation of seeing the real thing, like mediaeval manuscripts, then I think digitisation will never replace the original.»

8.18

INT Ewoud Sanders, Historian/Journalist

"I don't feel it's the destruction of books, or the cannibalisation of books, it's just giving them a new life form. It's a second life for books, I'm convinced about that."



8.33

INT Geert Willems, Doctoral Candidate, University of Leuven

"You can have virtual objects in your possession, even though the actual artifacts are on the opposite side of the world."

7.42

INT Astrid Verheusen, Project Manager, National Library of the Netherlands

"In ten or twenty years from now, when a book is not digitised and available on the web, it won't exist at all."

9.00 ENDS