



Dematerialisation of trench journals and unit magazines from the Great War in Duxford (UK)



THE CLIENT

The Imperial War Museum is a national organization of British military museums.

It was created in 1923 and today comprises five sites, including three in London. The Duxford site, in Cambridgeshire, is the largest aviation museum in the United Kingdom. It particularly exhibits a collection of British and American planes and has about 720 newspaper titles, i.e., more than 9 000 documentary units.

THE REQUIREMENTS

As part of the commemorations of the centenary of the Great War, ProQuest sought to give access, via its dedicated platform, to an exceptional archive bringing together testimonies from the soldiers of the first world war through trench journals kept at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford in the United Kingdom.

The fragility of the objects to be scanned has prompted ProQuest to entrust Numen, expert in the digitization of ancient and precious funds, with the digitization of these journals. Moreover, the fact that these documents are mostly unique requires the digitization to be carried out on the premises of the museum in order to avoid any risks related to moving them.



A European leader in heritage digitisation, Numen brings a unique set of solutions for dematerialising rare and precious works, extracting their contents and ensuring their multi-channel distribution

SOLUTION

OUR SERVICE

The project 'Trench Journals' involves the digitisation of 112 000 pages in 5 months, from journals, magazines and books (English, German, French, Belgian, Polish, Italian, Russian, etc.) created by the soldiers during the first world war.

This service includes:

- Reception of the books and their storage in a dedicated zone within the workshop,
- Scanning on equipment enabling digitisation without damaging the object,
- Managing the return of the books, once scanned, to the museum reserves,
- Quality control of each captured image (off-site),
- Indexing based on the customer's precise specifications,
- Recognition of characters by OCR (optical character recognition),
- Generation of delivery formats
- Storage and backup of the data.



FACTS & FIGURES

Approximately 112 000 journal pages digitised in 5 months

THE ISSUES

The precious and fragile character of the works involves installing digitisation workshops on the premises of the Museum.

The IT logistics are important for the transfer of images and for saving them to the central site (Luxembourg).

Very short deadlines so that all of the documentary funds be put on-line for the commemoration.

In addition, the management of a team from afar, from Luxembourg, requires a rigorous project management.

THE CONTEXT

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War, ProQuest launched a new digital database 'Trench Journals and Unit Magazines of the First World War': a vast and unique collection of magazines put together by and for the veterans of the armed forces.

BENEFITS

These journals could until now not be consulted, stored in highly secure premises, and reserved exclusively for authorised persons.

The proximity of the curators allows great reactivity in case of difficulty during the digitisation of a document (fragility, risk of damage).

CONTACT

HUMAN RESOURCES

- **In Europe:**
 - 1 Project Manager,
 - 1 project leader specialized in heritage digitization,
 - 2 scanning operators on the premises of the client.
- **In Madagascar:**
 - 1 project leader
 - 56 multilingual operators (quality control, indexing, etc.)

MATERIAL RESOURCES ON SITE

- 2 scanners of the type I2S COPIBOOK A2 book scanner (equipped with CCD area sensor cameras),
- IT and telecommunications infrastructure.



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