

Digital Emblematica: Challenges of Digital Preservation

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Digital preservation plan should reflect the special characteristics of resources and unique procedures of the individual collection.

What is Digital Emblematica?

- Research grant project funded jointly by the NEH and the DFG.
- Digitize and create new derivatives and metadata for German language emblem books held in the RBML and in the HAB.

Three Objectives

1. Digitize (via OCA) all emblem books housed at UIUC.
2. Create emblem level metadata – i.e., SPINE – record for each emblem for the German language subset of emblem books.
3. Develop a discovery portal and interface that will help scholars access and make use of emblem books and the individual emblems.

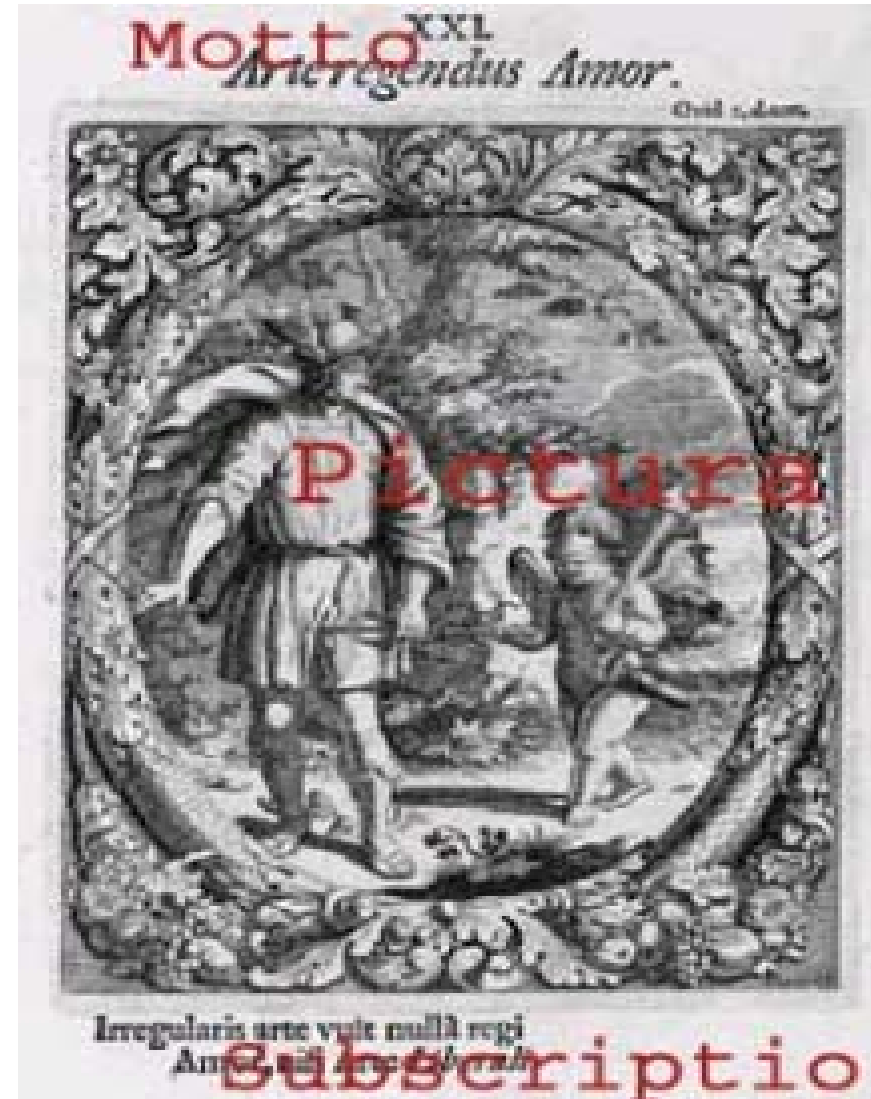
What is an Emblem?

- A symbolic picture with accompanying text developed in the sixteenth century.
- Emblem books exercised an enormous influence on literature and visual arts.
- Attracted the attention of scholars interested in painting, decorative arts, literature, illustrated books, iconography, symbolism, theories of representation, and social and cultural history.

What is an Emblem?

- Structure:
 - Motto
 - Pictura (illustration)
 - Subscriptio
(explanatory poem)

Herzog August Bibliothek(HAB)
<http://www.hab.de/forschung/projekte/emblematica.htm>



What do Emblem Scholars need?

- Book metadata
- Book structure
- Emblem metadata (SPINE)
- Emblem level image (includes all three parts of the Emblem)
- Pictura image

Compound Object

inside Compound Object

1. Image

- a. Scanning the whole book from cover to cover
(Create archival JP2 and cropped JP2 images).
- b. Creating emblem level image by stitching related images together using ImageMagik.
- c. Creating virtual pictura image by cropping an illustration using Djatoka.



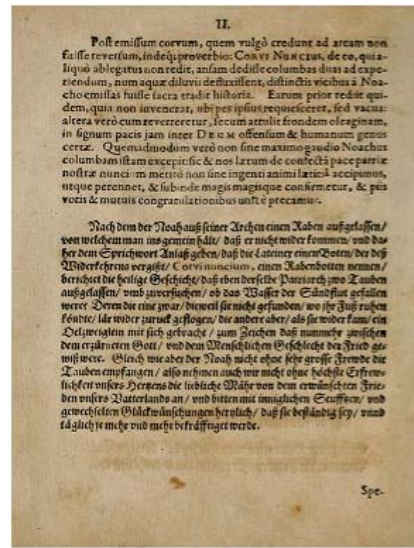
Scan the book & produce JP2



Stitch
associate
d images
together



Cropped
Pictura



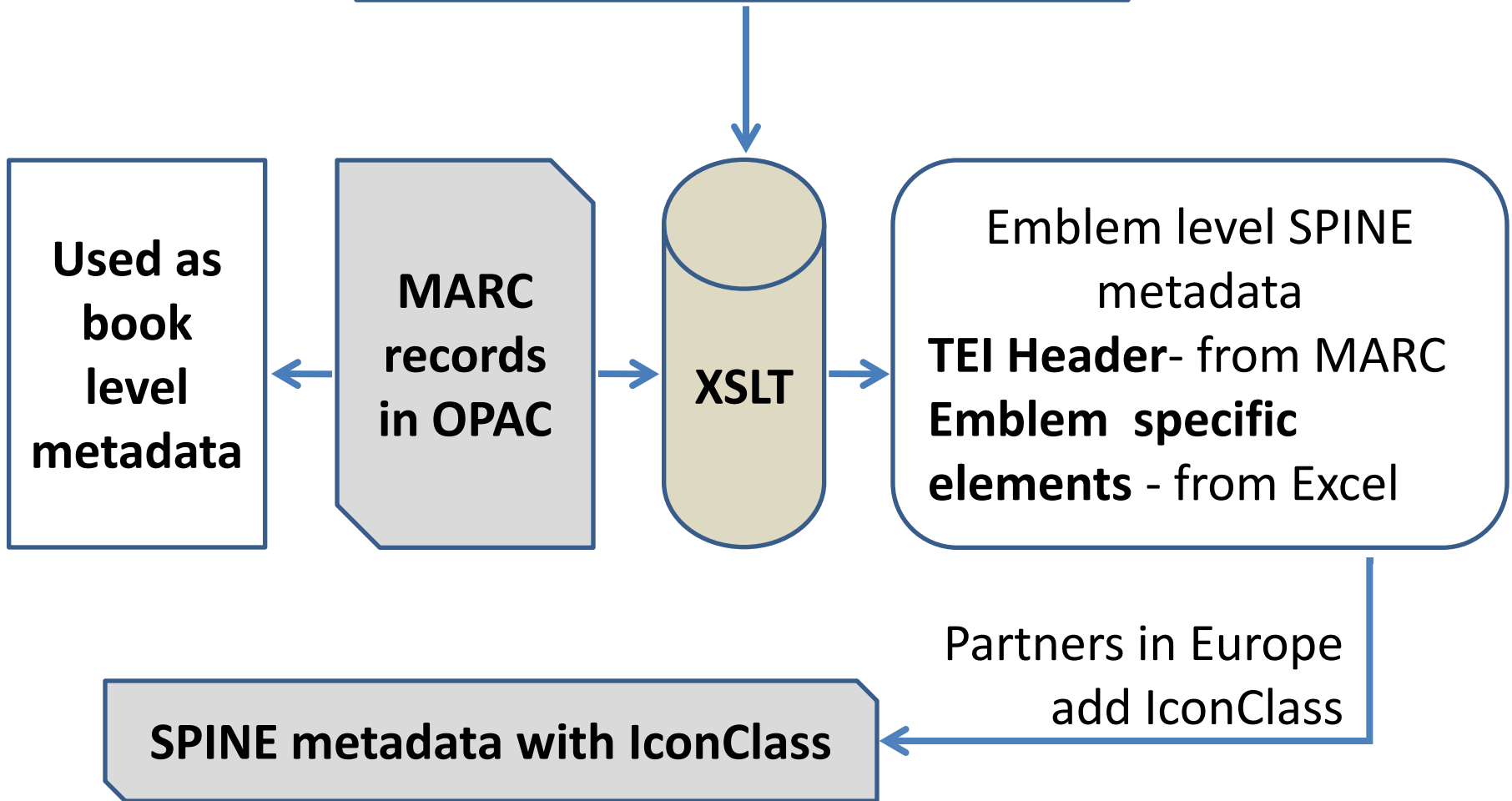
Compound Object

inside Compound Object

2. Metadata

- a. Library OPAC has book level MARC records.
- b. Subject specialists create the “Motto” (transcribed and normalized) in a spreadsheet and save it in XML format.
- c. Create emblem level SPINE metadata using XSLT (TEI Header with Emblem specific elements).
- d. Partners in Europe augment metadata with IconClass.

“Motto” created in Excel, saved as XML format



Used as book level metadata

MARC records in OPAC

XSLT

Emblem level SPINE metadata
TEI Header- from MARC
Emblem specific elements - from Excel

Partners in Europe add IconClass

SPINE metadata with IconClass

Challenges

1. Granularity

– Metadata:

- Book level MARC records
- Emblem level SPINE records
- Excel spreadsheets for original motto
- XSLT used for creating Emblem level records
- ? *What metadata standard to use*

Challenges

1. Granularity

– Images:

- Original JP2
- Cropped JP2
- Stitched Emblem images
- Cropped Pictura images

? *Process or objects*

Challenges

2. Identifiers

- Original
- Other derivatives: both metadata and images

3. Automation

- Human vs. machine

Challenges

4. Interoperability of metadata
5. Identify server to store preservation metadata
6. Strategy for maintaining preservation metadata
7. COST for creating, storing, and managing preservation metadata

Moving forward

- Community-wide best practices
 - Metadata interoperability
 - Identifiers
 - Metadata standards
- Institution-wide best practices
 - Human vs. machine
 - Identify server to store preservation metadata
 - Strategy for maintaining preservation metadata

Digital Emblematica Project

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