



Auto Docs captures social history from classic publications for global researchers using leading technology from i2S DigiBook supported by Spigraph Network

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Pamela Tod, Director, Automated Document Services Ltd. (Auto Docs)

OBJECTIVES

To capture the entire content of five historical periodicals published between 1869 and 1990 from originals held at the Mary Evans Picture Library, Blackheath, London. The capture solution had to:

- Deliver consistent, high-quality images from the original copies of the periodicals for use by on-line social researchers worldwide.
- Be capable of being housed on-site at Mary Evans in the very limited space available in the library facility.
- Meet very aggressive on-line publication deadlines set by the content publisher.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

The project was completed using book scanners from French technology provider i2S DigiBook and supported by Spigraph Network, i2S's exclusive distribution partner in the UK. The solution comprised:

- Two CopiBook Cobalt RGB A2 book scanners operated by Auto Docs staff on-site at Mary Evans scanners.

- Capture quality management and project management from Auto Docs' Glasgow service bureau.
- Project governance compliant with ISO 27001 information security and ISO9001 project management standards.

ADVANTAGES

Auto Docs took advantage of a number of factors in ensuring a successful outcome to the assignment:

- Many years of experience of scanning historic books using specialised book scanners.
- Experienced staff that could leverage the full capabilities of the i2S Copi-Book scanners.
- Effective project management that maximised throughput, minimised re-works and ensured the project was delivered on-time for the on-line publication deadline.

Auto Docs's industry certifications include ISO 27001 information security standards and ISO9001 quality management accreditation.

CUSTOMER

Automated Document Services Ltd. (Auto Docs)

SECTOR

Document Scanning and Data Capture Service Provider, Specialist in Digitisation, Preservation and Storage Services for Heritage Clients, including Archives, Museums and Libraries.

DOMICILE

Glasgow, Scotland

WEB

www.autodocs.co.uk

THE SOLUTION

Digitising historic periodicals using two i2S CopiBook Cobalt RGB A2 book scanners delivered by Spigraph Network

BUSINESS CONTEXT

The Mary Evans Picture Library located in Blackheath, London, began life in 1964, with a philosophy that has remained unchanged for over 40 years: to make available and accessible images created over the centuries that were originally published in books, on posters, in advertisements, or as prints. Included in their collection are original copies of many popular illustrated periodicals whose content are of great value to researchers worldwide as they provide a window into society's past. But accessing their content meant either a visit to the Mary Evans library in person, or piecemeal requests for copies.

ProQuest, head-quartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is in the business of providing content access solutions for researchers and libraries globally. In 2014 ProQuest obtained the digital rights to a portfolio of five historic periodicals held at the Mary Evans from the copyright holder, Illustrated London News Ltd. The portfolio consisted of Tatler, The Sphere, The Graphic, The Sketch, and Bystander, all periodicals published between 1869 and 1990. In March 2014 ProQuest issued an RFP for a service provider to capture the entire content of the collection for on-line publication. The challenge for the bidders was that scanning was required to be undertaken on site, but the space available within the library for setting up a capture operation was extremely limited. A further challenge was the delivery dates required by ProQuest – they wanted to launch the collection on-line in September 2014 with at least a partially complete catalogue. Including magazine covers, advertising pages, picture pages as well as printed text, the periodical collection was estimated at over 900,000 separate pages.

SOLUTION

Automated Document Services Ltd. (Auto Docs) – is a document capture services agency based in Glasgow, Scotland. Auto Docs's core team have over fourteen years experience specialising in the digitisation of books. Auto Docs is unique in Scotland as being the only agency certified to ISO 27001 information security standards, as well as having ISO9001 quality management accreditation.

When the ProQuest RFP was issued in March 2014, Auto Docs was exceptionally well-placed to make a strong bid as they had available both the scanners and the skilled operators required for the Mary Evans project. Key to their capture capability was their CopiBook Cobalt book scanners from i2S DigiBook. Auto Docs is supported by Spigraph Network, exclusive distribution partner for i2S in the UK. ADS chose the CopiBook Cobalt as it is the leading A2 book scanner available in the market and is well-known for its superior image quality and high productivity. ADS's experienced operators appreciated its easy-to-operate ergonomic design and versatility with numerous automatic and intuitive capture modes capable of scanning books, manuals, newspapers, photos and other document types..

The primary challenge for Auto Docs was balancing ProQuest's project time-line with the extremely limited on-site space & time available for the capture operation. The floor space available to host the digitization operation was approximately 4m by 2m and, because of this, Auto Docs would be limited to installing only two capture workstations. Would this be enough to capture the estimated 900,000 periodical pages in the time available?



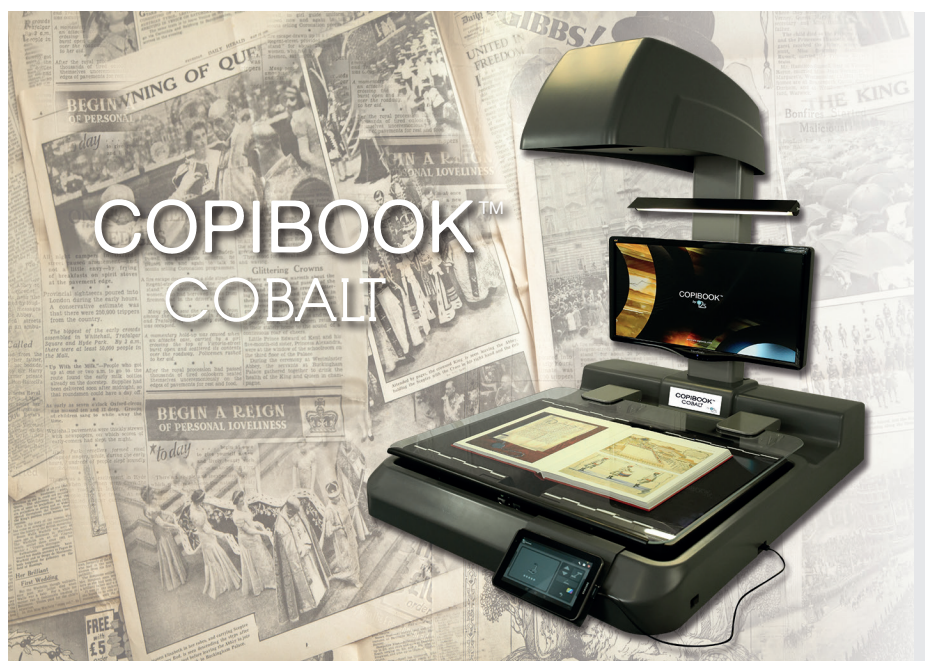
"Our CopiBook Cobalt book scanners provided the efficiency and best-in-class technology which enabled our team to deliver the project within the required time frames and with virtually no rescans" said Pamela Tod, Director of Auto Docs.

Given the skill and experience of their operators, and the information governance procedures backing them up, Auto Docs believed they could meet the deadlines and they successfully bid on ProQuest's RFP. By 28th April, one week after being awarded the project, Auto Docs was on-site at Mary Evans setting up the capture operation and training local staff. Production capture started at the end of May at a rate of 300 images per hour per scanner, a rate that allowed ProQuest to launch the periodical archive service by their September deadline, and for Auto Docs to complete the project and be off-site by mid-March, 2015.

ADVANTAGES

Auto Docs were able to overcome the on-site operational restrictions inherent in the Mary Evans project and meet the project deadlines by making use of their extensive experience with the i2S scanners, backed by a project governance regime that ensured consistent and effective quality management throughout the capture operation. Images and data captured on-site by the two scanner operators were transmitted to Auto Doc's Glasgow location for image quality management, data quality management and meta-data verification. On a daily basis, data identifying which periodical volumes were pulled, what was scanned and their disposition status was captured and compiled into detailed weekly reports for customer ProQuest.

ProQuest have been extremely satisfied with the services provided by Auto Docs. Due to the work from ProQuest and other customers, Auto Docs are now opening a London Docklands bureau to be closer to the location of the many important national archives that are located in London.



"The team at Auto Docs feel privileged to have had the opportunity over the last year to successfully complete the quality digitization of British Periodicals for ProQuest. Our CopiBook Cobalt book scanners provided the efficiency and best-in-class technology which enabled our team to deliver the project within the required time frames and with virtually no rescans" said Pamela Tod, Director of Auto Docs. "It has been a pleasure to deliver this project and work with the fabulous teams at Mary Evans, Illustrated London News & ProQuest. Our experienced team looks forward to completing many more such projects over the next few years, and we appreciate the support of our partner Spigraph Network in implementing our business growth plans and to the further expansion of our service bureaus in Glasgow and London".

"Spigraph Network is pleased to support Auto Docs in providing industry-leading technology, strong vendor partnerships and industry expertise" said Wayne Davey, CEO Spigraph Group. "With over 20 years of experience in delivering best-in-class digitisation, preservation and document automation solutions across EMEA, we are pleased to partner with Auto Docs to help them drive business growth, deliver high-quality service and bring unique value to clients in the UK".





Auto Docs and Spigraph Network are partners in delivering industry-leading technology, high-quality service and support to clients across the UK.

About Automated Document Services Ltd.

Automated Document Services Ltd is one of the longest established and trusted document scanning and data capture service providers in the UK. Their history can be traced back over 13 years and in that time they have carried out some of the most important and prestigious capture projects for a large number of clients. Auto Doc's services include book scanning; document scanning; data capture; data validation/verification; data analysis; secure document destruction; image archive storage & retrieval and online hosting.

www.autodocs.co.uk

About i2S DigiBook

Dedicated to image capture and processing for digitization projects, i2S DigiBook is part of i2S company, European leader and expert in Machine Vision. Since more than ten years, i2S DigiBook designs, manufactures and markets high resolution book scanners, image processing software, digital library solution, and related services. This global offer is dedicated to all knowledge digitization projects: cultural heritage, scientific, administrations or industries. Today, more than 3,500 book scanners are installed at more than 800 customers' sites around the world.

www.i2s-digibook.com

About ProQuest

ProQuest connects people with vetted, reliable information. Key to serious research, the company's products are a gateway to the world's knowledge including dissertations, governmental and cultural archives, news, historical collections and ebooks. ProQuest's technologies serve users across the critical points in research, helping them discover, access, share, create and manage information.

ABOUT SPIGRAPH NETWORK

Spigraph Network is the leading provider of intelligent scanning, capture and document process solutions in EMEA, with over 20 years of industry experience. Our robust portfolio includes document scanners from the world's leading manufacturers, best-of-breed capture software and comprehensive services to automate document-driven business processes.

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