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# Making the Connection Between Digitization Strategies and Collective Print Initiatives

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[crkn-rcdr.ca](http://crkn-rcdr.ca)



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# Agenda

- Introduction
- National perspective, CRKN
- Regional perspectives, COPPUL
- Institutional perspective, University of Toronto Libraries
  - Keep@Downsview project
- Discussion

# CRKN's Digitization and Preservation Services

CRKN leverages the infrastructure and capabilities built for the Canadiana Collections to make Canadian digital heritage content more widely available and preserved for future generations.

## **Services:**

- digitization
- hosting
- preservation



# CRKN Survey Insights

Material members would like to digitize, but don't have the equipment or capacity:

- Audio
- Video
- Oversized items (e.g. maps)
- Microfilm

Main challenges in digitization:

- Funding
- Lack of qualified staff
- Lack of necessary equipment
- Issues around rights management

78% of members frequently or occasionally outsource digitization

60% are interested in having their digital content integrated into the Canadiana Collections

40% are interested in preserving their digital content in CRKN's TDR

“CRKN could **create a stable of specialized/ hard to obtain equipment** that could be loaned out to facilitate digitization projects at member locations that can be shared in Canadiana.”

“Focusing on the content that other orgs struggle with is important. CRKN being willing to **fill the gaps** in content/subject matter and material type would be a huge benefit!”

“Provide usable, **cost-effective services** for storing and preserving digitized files, with excellent technical support.”

“[By] leading **coordination on a national scale** of digitization priorities and projects.”

“Infrastructure and **reduced consortial pricing** of services for institutions.”

# What CRKN can offer on a national level

## Infrastructure

- Full life-cycle support (digitization → preservation)
- Wide variety of equipment
- Staff expertise in various types of scanning
- Materials can be integrated into the Canadiana Collections
- Rights statements pilot project

# Looking Forward – Opportunities

- National (and international) funding opportunities and projects
- National coordination of large-scale digitization projects
- Adding member and stakeholder content to the Canadiana collections
- Growing the Canadiana collections with member-identified priority content → connection with collective print initiatives
- Updating services and pricing (including member only pricing)
- Supporting the recommendations and priorities of the NHDS
- Partnering with other organizations on large-scale digitization projects (e.g. CRL)

# Future Directions

## Implement recommendations from the Heritage Content Priorities Task Group's Final Report

“... it is recommended that digitization, hosting, and long-term preservation services be clearly identified and made available to both members and stakeholders. CRKN should launch a targeted marketing campaign to increase awareness among members and stakeholders of the strengths and capacity of CRKN's digitization and preservation services.” **Recommendation no. 5**

“CRKN convene different types of fora (such as conferences or virtual meetings) to enable an exchange of expertise on topics such as digitization strategies and priorities, the logistics of sharing of equipment, digital preservation, funding opportunities, and more.” **Recommendation no. 9**



# CRKN and Collective Print Initiatives

## Recommendation from the Heritage Content Priorities Task Group's Final Report

“It is recommended that CRKN work collaboratively with the Canadian Collective Print Strategy Working Group as it analyzes collective print collections in Canada. A significant factor in determining the level of risk of print collections is to assess whether digital surrogates exist, and what digital preservation measures are in place for their long-term stewardship. Partnership and collaboration initiatives exist as the community links national collection analysis with national digitization efforts.”

**Recommendation no. 7**



# Connecting Shared Print and Digitization at COPPUL

Rebecca Dickson, COPPUL CDSN Coordinator  
Doug Brigham, COPPUL SPAN Coordinator

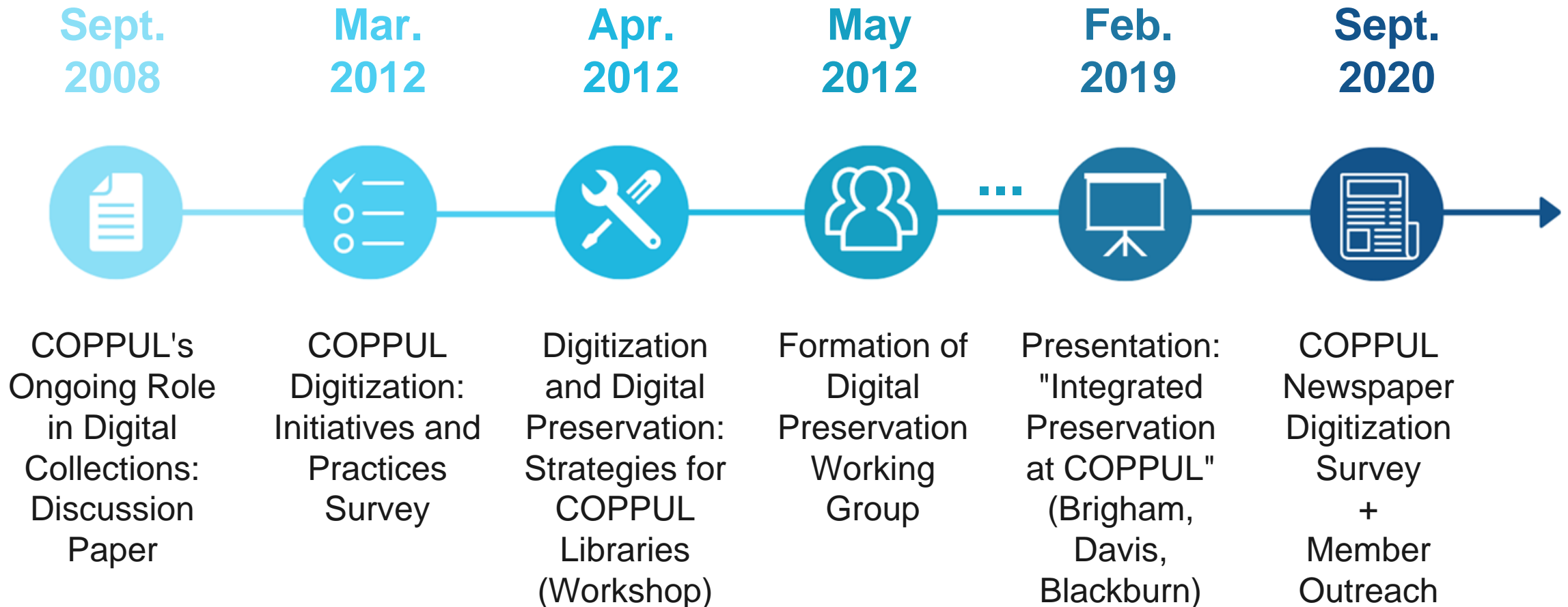




# Outline

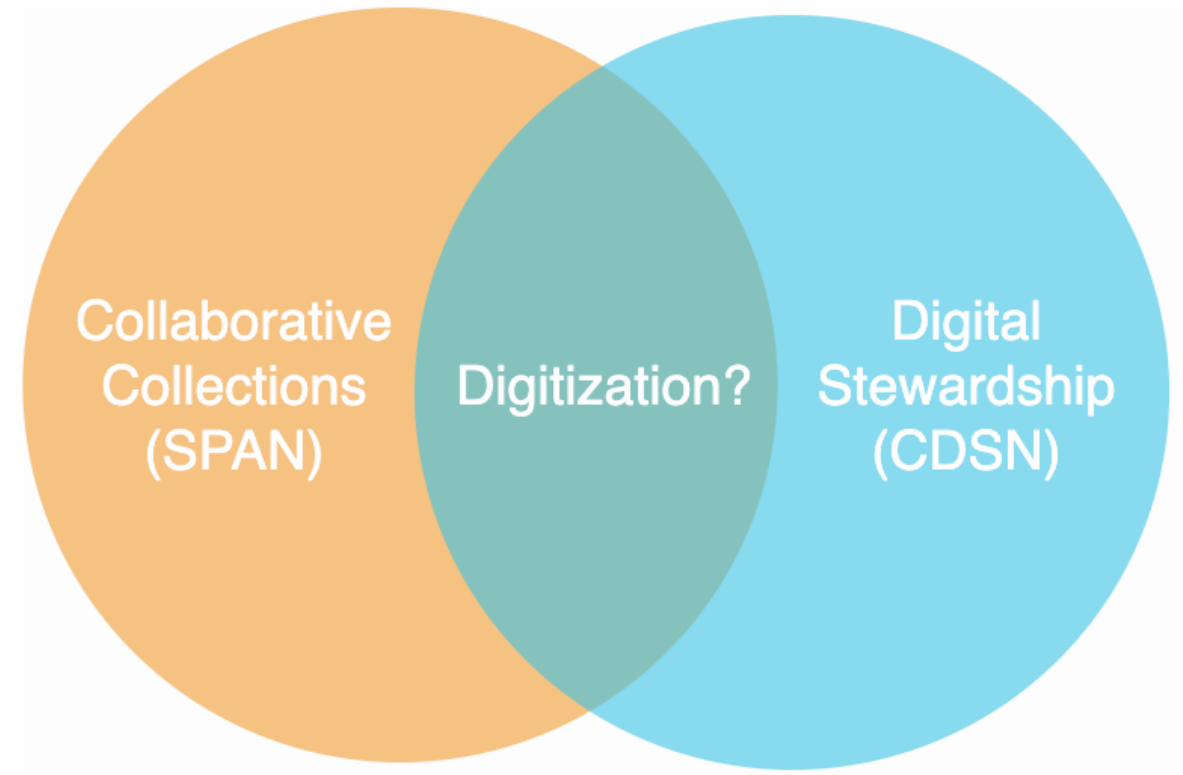
1. Past digitization discussions within COPPUL
2. Summer 2020 digitization outreach: approach and findings
3. COPPUL newspaper digitization survey
4. Discussion of proposed directions

# A brief history of digitization at COPPUL



## A new approach

- Collections perspectives were not a major part of past COPPUL digitization discussions.
- How might COPPUL leverage the strengths of its SPAN and CDSN programs to support digitization and preservation of Western Canadian documentary heritage?



## 2. Summer 2020 Outreach: Conversations with our 22 member libraries





# Conversation Participants

## **COPPUL**

Executive Director  
CDSN Coordinator  
SPAN Coordinator

## **Member Libraries**

Directors  
Librarians  
Archivists  
Staff



## Discussion themes

1. Members' current digitization work & long-term goals
2. Digitization content priorities
3. Possible supporting roles for COPPUL
4. Suggested partnerships, models to emulate



## Some key takeaways:

- Success stories
- Surfacing shared content priorities
- Common obstacles to realizing digitization goals



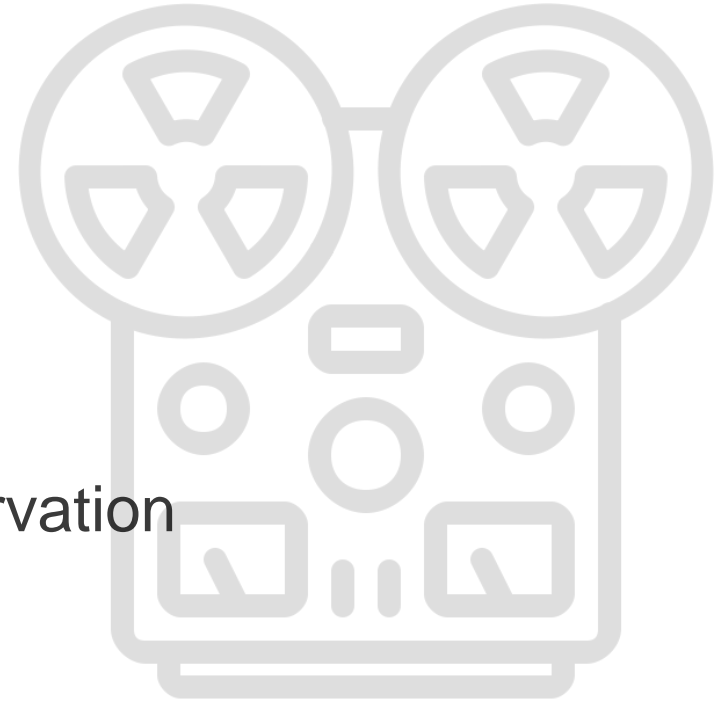
## Success stories

- Grant-funded projects as means of developing specialized digitization program capacity & expertise
- Inter-institutional partnerships, both formal and informal, addressing resource disparities & providing mutual support
- Innovative solutions to technical challenges
- Self-organizing to address COVID-related challenges (e.g., copyright issues associated with remote resource provision)
- Remote work as opportunity to improve metadata



## Common content priorities

- Newspapers (historical and contemporary)
- Archival / unique materials
- Materials related to local area
- Audio-visual materials for access and preservation
- Institutional research outputs
- Materials related to Indigenous knowledge
- Materials to support immediate teaching & learning needs





## Commonly cited challenges

- Constraints of grant funding model: how do we move from ad-hoc projects to sustainable digitization programs?
- Limited access to specialized expertise and/or hardware
- Backlogs in processing of physical archives limit ability to digitize certain unique & valuable content

### 3. COPPUL Newspaper Digitization Survey: Some preliminary highlights

15,832

19,415

17,440

12,963

13,727

11,295

10,078

14,088

10,000

15,619

13,853

12,578

14,181

142,37

made

1 war

der or negotiate. It expresses the hope that he will make "a speedy and clever decision."

#### JUPITER GETS THE BLAME FOR INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

SAN FRANCISCO.—The dates of the present Spanish Influenza epidemic which he said was now on the decline, and the tremor which shook the Grecian archipelago on October 21st were accurately forecasted by Prof. A. E. Ports, an Oakland scientist, it developed here Friday. The influenza epidemic was related to a certain conjunction of Jupiter with other planets, according to the forecasts and explanations of Prof. Ports. This planet arrangement is now passing, indicating that the epidemic is on the wane, he said.

#### REPUBLICANS PROTEST

Washington, Oct. 28. — A protest

Sei





# Newspaper digitization survey

- Invitations sent to Directors at COPPUL member and affiliate institutions in early Summer 2020
- Reasonable geographic representation in responses, slightly low response rate given timing
- Survey results aligned with the themes that emerged in the course of our Summer digitization conversations

# 70%

Of respondents were actively engaged in newspaper digitization at the time of the survey.

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Of those, most reported digitizing from **film (73%)** and/or **paper copies (55%)**.

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# 92%

Said they would digitize more titles if copyright were not a barrier, and expressed interest in a consortial approach to seeking permissions from publishers.

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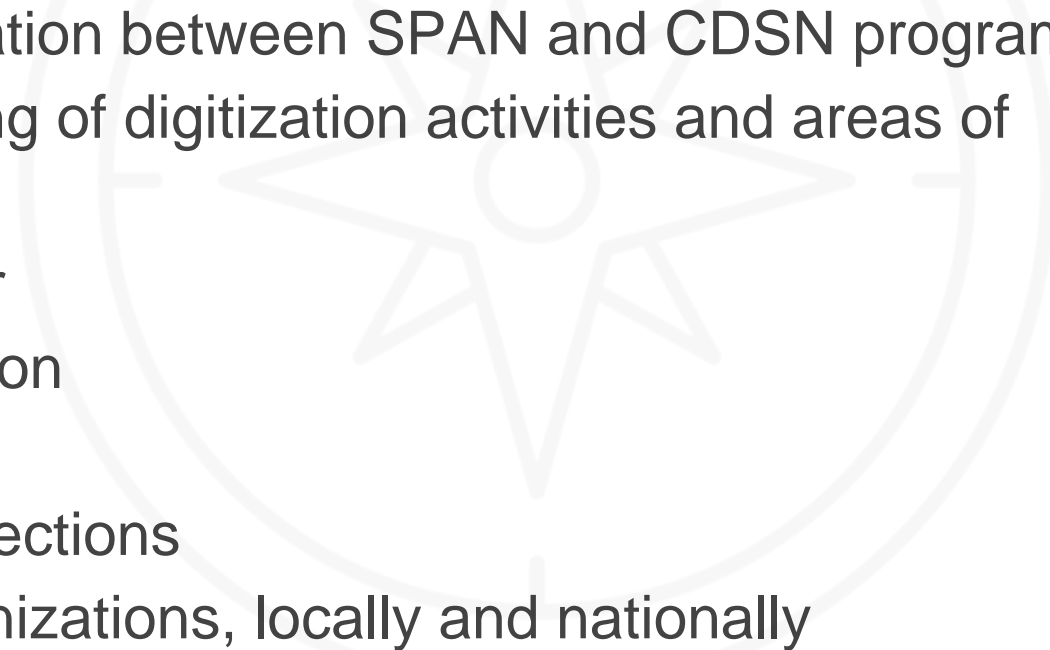
Most commonly desired support from COPPUL was **amplification of existing digitized resources** through improved harvestability or discoverability\*

\*77% of respondents





## Proposed directions:

1. Develop mechanisms for collaboration between SPAN and CDSN programs
  2. Strengthen collective understanding of digitization activities and areas of expertise within COPPUL
  3. Explore collaborative strategies for
    - Content selection for digitization
    - Pursuing funding
    - Amplifying existing digital collections
  4. Build partnerships with allied organizations, locally and nationally
- 



## Many thanks to:

- The **representatives of COPPUL's 22 member institutions** who took time to speak with us in Summer 2020;
- **Ben Hyman (VIU) and Bronwen Sprout (UBC)**, for developing the COPPUL Newspaper Digitization survey;
- The **COPPUL Directors**, for their helpful September 2020 feedback on these proposed directions.



# Thank you!

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LIBRARIES

## Digitization at the University of Toronto

### The beginnings: **Mass Digitization**

As an Internet Archive site, digitized all out of copyright holdings.  
Available through IA

### Now: **Project Based Digitization**

Internal projects – Special Collections and at risk materials (next slide has a non-exhaustive list)

Community projects – OCUL and Provincial Government Documents

Digitization for other institutions

Contributions to external projects



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## Where to find UofT Digital Collections

Canadian Libraries portal on the Internet Archive Canada

<https://archive.org/details/toronto>

From the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

- Over 23,000 volumes of rare materials holdings available via IA (UofT funded)
- Fisher Flickr site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thomasfisherlibrary/albums>
- Local digital collections (grant funded) <https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/resources/digital-collections>

From the University Archives (UTARMS)

- Over 5,000 print items and 2500 photographs
- <https://utarms.library.utoronto.ca/archives/online>

Special Media formats (UofT funded preservation projects)

- Educational videos from OISE
- University of Toronto promotional films
- At risk early films (for example Secrets of the Night from 1924)  
<https://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/rediscovered-lost-silent-film>

## Keep@Downsview Partners are ***Developing*** a Digitization Strategy

### DRAFT Objectives and Actions:

#### Develop a strategy for digitization

1. Perform a critical evaluation of the role of K@D as a preservation facility and nexus where print and digital come together, including building more knowledge and awareness of what is in K@D.
2. Develop a plan for strategic digitization at K@D (digitization for preservation):
  - Identify best practice (including risk mitigation and tools)
  - Leverage the IA scribe at Downsview and the McMaster HPL IA scribe
  - Explore controlled digital lending
3. Explore digitization beyond K@D and how to leverage opportunities to build a resource sharing network (digitization for immediate access):
  - HathiTrust membership
  - Borrow Direct service-style option

# Discussion