

# Managing digitized collections

## Physical and digital: a complementary relationship



# Brave old world: the physical collection is of primary importance – this does not change!

- ❖ Care for the integrity of the physical collection (never destroy a collection through digitization, never dismiss a collection after digitization, maintain the integrity and the well-being of the original physical objects)
- ❖ Maintain access to the physical collection whenever possible (physical objects have more to tell than digitization can show)
- ❖ Describe the original objects, the physical collection, search for hidden collections or information about the collection and make them accessible
- ❖ Continue developing and complementing the physical collection whenever possible, put it into a research context

# Brave new world: digitizing the collection - ongoing care

- ❖ Digitization demands strategic approaches (selection of objects, definition of digitization workflows, including aspects of preservation and conservation, equipment, longterm data archiving)
- ❖ Digitization arises in various contexts: internal, external projects, exhibitions, user demands and profits from streamlined workflows: one catalogue, one workflow tool
- ❖ Digitization is more than a copy – it calls for (more, better, clearer) description (metadata)

# Brave new world: use of the digital collection – ongoing concern

- ❖ Showcase your collection, your library
- ❖ Integration into larger contexts (digital libraries e.g. Europeana, WDL, research environments, Google)
- ❖ Easy access from everywhere – stimulates research and requests (provide services and expertise)
- ❖ Define access and reuse (licences, e.g. CC0, CC BY-NC-SA, etc.)
- ❖ Provide for annotations, transcriptions, user involvement, multiple use

# Brave new world: the hybrid library – ongoing care for original and digital material

- ❖ More – and less evident to answer – questions on the material (e.g. watermarks, book bindings, provenance, hidden traces)
- ❖ More demands for digitization, for comparison
- ❖ Digitization as special user format in the reading room (high resolution, calibrated monitors) and on demand (data for research purposes)

# Brave new world: digital collections

- ❖ More comparisons, more digital libraries, more virtual reconstructions by means of a sophisticated technology: linking, harvesting, viewers
- ❖ Care for digitally born material
- ❖ New scenarios: virtual exhibitions, image recognition, OCR, three-dimensional objects

# Ideas – Questions – Challenges

