



Almaty, March 8th, 2023

Increasing the output of scanning rare material

In autumn 2022 the ScanRobot® was installed to speed up the scanning process. at the Central Scientific Library "Gylym Ordasy" in Almaty Kazakhstan.

Project overview

The Central Scientific Library in Almaty has a huge collection of rare books. The library has several floors and the shelves are fully packed with books of high value. The digitization department was already scanning for some time and the amount of scanned books did grow constantly. But given the huge amount of books, there was no end in sight. Therefore, in 2020 the scanning department decided to buy a scanner to increase the scanning output.

Books are the precious heritage of our educational institution based on the library, which is considered the food of the spiritual soul of a person, our wealth. A book does not come to the world easily, it takes a lot of work. Its creation process from writing to editing and printing did take a long time; especially in the past.

Scanning hardware and solution

The digitization team was already scanning with different types of scanners, like overhead and planetary scanners. And therefore the team looked for alternatives to scan more pages during a day. Increasing the personnel was unfortunately not an option. Therefore, a solution was needed that increases the output with the existing personnel and without damaging the books.

Keeping each book in its original condition is the main goal of the library. The ScanRobot® is designed in such a way that it does not damage each page, starting from the cover of the book. Together with its high speed and image quality the Central Scientific Library decided to acquire the ScanRobot®.

Installation and training

In autumn 2022 the ScanRobot® was delivered and installed. During the training the team was very motivated to learn all options the ScanRobot® offers and to start working the scanner.

Due to the language barrier the training was done with a professional interpreter. In addition, there is very specialized vocabulary in digitization that is not always easy to translate. Although communication was therefore sometimes difficult, the trainer Wolfgang Novak from Treventus designed the training very well. His professional but at the same time relaxed manner managed to keep the training intense but at the same time entertaining. Only after the training we realized how much information we got not only about the ScanRobot®, but also about the software and digitization in general.

The 3 days of training seem a lot at the beginning. But with all the discussions about the project goal, institution and especially sharing of experiences from other projects we wished to have more time for information exchange.



ScanRobot® experience

Now 6 months after the installation we draw our first conclusion.

The difference between the ScanRobot® and other scanners is that, first of all, the scanning pattern of the book is captured as in the original version, the book is quickly checked. Before starting the scanning process, the operator can pre-clean the dusty books on the shelves by taking the air pistol which is located on the right side of the ScanRobot®.

The place where the book is placed on the ScanRobot® is made of wood, so it does not damage the covers of the books. The work process is carried out directly with the help of the operator. The ScanRobot® can save an electronic copy of a book in three formats at the same time.

It is possible to cut, align and reorder the pages of the book using the included software ScanGate®. During the scanning of books, the ScanRobot® collects dust from the books. To keep high image quality it is recommended to clean it when needed and to calibrate it once a month.

In addition, regardless of whether the book is large or small, thick or thin, the original electronic version is used without increasing the amount of time. You can adjust the time interval according to your level of experience.

The library is an open space. Today, I can say that the ScanRobot® scanning device can solve the problem of digitalization of books and documents, i.e. downloading them in pdf, jpg, tif formats at the same time in a copy of the electronic catalog.

Transition to the digital system is a serious business, preservation of rare books, manuscripts and national literature is our main goal and the main direction of modern demand.

Summary

From the decision until the purchase and installation of the ScanRobot® some time passed. But the ScanRobot® with its good image quality, high range of books that can be scanned and high throughput is a very good addition to the scanners we already have. In addition with its software we are able to scan more books in the same time and therefore offer more services to the public, our customers.

Therefore, the originally set goal to increase the output with the same amount of people is met with the purchase of the ScanRobot® solution.