Stanford's book scanning report
Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources (SUL/AIR) has published “Robotic Book Scanning at the Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources: Report on the Status of Digitization Facilities and Services for Bound Library Materials.” The report describes their investigation of a Swiss-made page-turner and scanner called Digitizing Line (DL). This new equipment is a key component in their Digital Library Program (DLP), which is intended to increase access to the libraries' resources.

DL processes books face-up, turns between 500 to 1,160 pages per hour, and accommodates books with differing sizes, book structures, and types of paper. SUL’s Media Preservation Unit did extensive testing to determine whether books would be damaged by DL, and concluded that there would not be any more damage than that produced by face-down photocopying. DL will not be used on rare or brittle materials. Its first large-scale project will be digitization of approximately 2,500 books published by the Stanford University Press. The New York Times covered this story in an article on May 12, 2003, entitled “The Evelyn Wood of Digitized Book Scanners” by John Markoff.

The report is available online at http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/dirofif/DLStatement.html.

Orphan films
The National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) awarded its 2003 federally funded grants to 33 archives for preservation of 65 historically or culturally significant orphan films. These small grants, normally $3,000 to $6,000 each, support production of new film master elements and public access copies. Orphan films are narrowly defined as those abandoned by their owners or caretakers, but more commonly defined as those outside the commercial mainstream, e.g., public domain materials, home movies, industrial and educational movies, independent documentaries, ethnographic films, and small or unusual gauge films. NFPF was created by Congress in 1996 as a charitable affiliate of the National Film Preservation Board of the Library of Congress.

More information about NFPF and this program is available at http://www.filmpreservation.org/sm_index.html.

Photograph preservation

The article is available from libraries or from the Washington Post online archives for $2.95 at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-adv/archives/front.htm.

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