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Going Digital: Strategies for Access, Preservation, and Conversion of Collections to a Digital Format

Donald L Dewitt

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Going Digital: Strategies for Access, Preservation, and Conversion of Collections to a Digital Format offers you succinct and analytic views of the problems and benefits of digital resources in the traditional academic library. Library administrators, collection managers, and librarians will learn the advantages and disadvantages of traditional and digital collections and the costs of providing local access or implementing remote access to digital collections. Originally presented at a series of five symposiums sponsored by the Research Libraries Group, the articles inGoing Digital will help you decide upon a cost-effective collection method that will meet the needs of your library, your patrons, and your budget.The chapters in this text are written by the nation's leading librarians who pose and answer questions about hardware and software needed for digital libraries, the costs involved, establishing and maintaining access to digital collections, copyright concerns, and long-term preservation problems. Going Digital gives you insight into factors that will help you decide what will best meet the goals of your library, such as:

- the advantages and disadvantages of preserving microfilm and digital conversion
- choosing the correct hardware and software for your digital preservation program
- the changes required from librarians when shifting from collection development to digital resources
- examining the selection process for collections from perspectives of access, public service, technological requirements, and preservation
- ways to improve access to traditional collections
- cost comparisons between digital and hard copy resources
- devising a technical plan for successful digital conversion of projects
- involving the user's wants when selecting collections for digital conversion and recognizing the central parts patrons play in the selection processIn light of the changing ways we receive and keep our information, Going Digital discusses new collection preservation criteria and suggests that access and informational values, not just deterioration, should be equal factors in selecting materials to be converted to digital form. Proving that digital collections are changing every facet of library operations, Going Digital shows you the most cost-effective way to begin a digital collection and how to choose what materials to digitize in order to provide your patrons with the information they want and need.

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