New Horizons: Integrating the Last 20 into Digital Projects

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What is the Last 20?

The Last 20 refers to a specific section of current U.S. copyright code (§108h)

- During the last 20 years of any term of copyright of a published work, libraries or archives may “reproduce, distribute, display or perform in facsimile or digital form a copy or phonorecord of such work, or portions thereof, for purposes of preservation, scholarship or research.” (Section 1)
- As of Jan 1, 2019, this window would be works from 1925–1944
§108h exceptions

- The work is subject to normal commercial exploitation
- A copy or phonorecord of the work can be obtained at a reasonable price, or,
- Copyright owner or its agent provides notice pursuant to regulations... as set forth in the previous bullet points
- Musical works, artistic works, motion pictures and other audiovisual works are also excluded
How did we start a last 20 project?

At Kent State, we thought about a few ways to approach this type of project:

- How can we best assess our collection for Last 20 titles?
- Who can complete research around works to be included in this initiative?
  - Collection Development Librarian
  - Copyright Librarian
  - Digital Projects Librarian
  - Lead Applications Support Analyst
Right book in the right place initiative

The goal of this initiative is to optimize the library collection for efficient use of space, point of need access and sustainable financial support.

Collections are being analyzed in terms of use, age, subject, program relevance, and duplicated availability of copies in digital format.
Assessing physical print collections

Asked state library consortium (OhioLINK) to run a report on our unique holdings (printed, catalogued items) as a starting point, BUT

Found issues determining unique titles due to various cataloging problems... so then....

We then turned to OCLC to run a report, which proved to be more concise and accurate, and reflected unique holdings at KSU.
ITEMS PUBLISHED BY YEAR (1085-2019)
Digging deeper: work cont.

More questions:

● Are any of these orphan works?
● Are they titles that would not be impacted commercially if digitally reproduced?
● Also, would circulation information be helpful here to identify titles of special interest?
Next steps

Once we have a list of selected titles of interest, we can also check if they are available in digital form elsewhere (HathiTrust, Google Books, etc.)

After analysis, items will be selected for digitization and put into our production queue for inclusion into the institutional repository
THANKS!

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