

A Report from the Open Content Alliance Project

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Abstract

The Open Content Alliance (OCA) represents the collaborative efforts of a group of cultural, technology, nonprofit, and governmental organizations from around the world that will help build a permanent archive of multilingual digitized text and multimedia content. Jonathan Bengtson will give an overview of the Open Content Alliance project, its evolution, current status and future initiatives, within the context of related developments, such as the mass digitization efforts by Google Print and the Alouette project in Canada.

Biography

Jonathan Bengtson is the Chief Librarian of the John M. Kelly Library at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. He has held various senior positions in academic, research and non-profit libraries in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom --

including Executive Director of the Providence Athenaeum (founded in 1753) in Providence, Rhode Island and Head Librarian at The Queen's College, Oxford (founded in 1341). Jonathan has been a member of the United Kingdom Library Association's National Council and served as Vice-President/President-Elect of the Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing – the premier international organization for the study of book history. He holds a summa cum laude BA in history from the University of California and graduate degrees from Oxford University (medieval history) and University College London (library studies). Jonathan is active in publishing and teaching on topics in the history of the book, the history of libraries, modern library management and medieval history. The University of Toronto's Open Content Alliance digitization centre has been located in the Kelly Library since late 2004, since which time Jonathan has served as the UofT coordinator for the project.