

**VISK 7 – National Funding Mechanism for the digitization and long-term preservation of the newspapers endangered by the degradation of the paper. Looking back over more than 15 years of the cooperation of the Czech libraries.**

**Abstract:**

At the beginning of 2000 new Czech funding mechanism for the development of the libraries was established by the Czech Government. Probably no one from past politicians, nor librarians, did expect those days, that this funding program will be still open in 2018 and will be more and more important for many fields of librarianship, including the preservation and digitization of newspapers endangered by the degradation of the paper. The wide range of more than 15 years is great possibility to evaluate all the benefits and changes of the supported activities, practices and impacts of the program.

From the early beginning VISK 7 program was used for the protective formatting of the newspapers. During the first years, participated libraries were microfilming their paper collections, round 2005 so called hybrid technology (microfilms and digital copy together) was accepted as the only one possible way of reformatting and round 2010 almost all the libraries started to use just the digital copy. Within this decade more than 800 titles of newspapers were digitized, that means more than 6 000 000 pages – all the documents have been accessed to the users, what slowed down the speed of original documents degradation. Together with the reformatting the new tools were developed for visualisation (digital library Kramerius), coordination (Digitization Registry) and metadata creation (digitization workflow ProArc) – all of the on the basis of open-source, what makes all the mentioned processes very effective.

During several last years, VISK 7 program is more and more open also for other activities, which support long-term preservation of the newspapers – including deacidification, conservation, production of the sleeves from acid-free cardboard etc. All these activities strengthen the position of the VISK 7 as the progressive, systematic and conceptual funding mechanism, which is open for every single public library, where more than 30 Czech libraries collaborate together to preserve our culture heritage for the future generations.

The presentation aim is to provide the information about the more than 15 years history of the VISK 7 funding mechanism, describe achieved results and benefits, and share the reached best-practices including the main developed open-source tools.

**Information about the presenter:**

Mgr. Tomas Foltyn studied between 2002 and 2008 the Culture History at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Pardubice. From 2007 he worked in the Digitization Department of the National Library of the Czech Republic, first as Project Manager, then as Head of the Metadata Creation and Management Department. From January 2013 till now he is responsible for the modern collections management as the Collections' Management Division Director. Tomas Foltyn participates on the implementation of many national and international research projects as well. More detailed information are available via his LinkedIn Profile (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/foltyn-tomas-a3564226>).

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