

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PRESS BACKLIST DIGITIZATION

DALE COLEMAN, MLIS & BRITTANY HONAN, MLIS



OBJECTIVE

The aim of our capstone was to create a sustainable backlist digitization solution, with supporting procedural documentation, for the University of Washington Press. Our work initiates a process that will give new life to thousands of out of print books and enhance the Press’s long-term product pipeline

BACKGROUND

The University of Washington Press is an academic publishing house that operates as a self-sustaining unit within the Graduate School of the University of Washington. Founded in 1915, UWP has published approximately 4,400 books across a range of academic fields, including but not limited to Asian studies, environmental history, Western history, anthropology, Native and Indigenous studies, and art. Increased demand for digital offerings, and the potential to better serve customers and enter new markets, makes backlist digitization at scale a high priority at the Press. Our project helps address this goal



SETUP & INVENTORY

Initial setup involved collecting asset reports across multiple databases and compiling a master working inventory report.

TITLE PRIORITIZATION

Titles were prioritized according to asset availability, and publication/out-of-print date. This allowed us to quickly move titles into the digitization pipeline, and iterate on our process.

RIGHTS CLEARANCE

Before digitized titles can be published, format rights and royalty rates must be verified on a per-title basis. We pulled the individual contract files and assessed rights and royalties for priority titles.

ASSET COLLECTION

The collection and prep of both physical and digital assets across a range of storage space and media was a key component of this project.

DIGITIZATION & MAINTENANCE

Digitization services for UWP are provided through Ingram Content Group, who do the file format conversions and actual scanning of physical books. We fed titles to Ingram, and dealt with problematic outputs

DOCUMENTATION

Creating procedural documentation was a key deliverable for this project. With over 3,000 titles on UWP’s backlist, our work is part of an ongoing effort. UWP staffers will use our procedural documentation to continue to bring out-of-print titles back into circulation

IMPACT

Our work extends the reach of Press, by renewing access to currently out of print titles, increasing opportunities for tie-in promotions, and generally allowing UWP to leverage their entire collection in new and exciting ways. In addition to providing benefit for the Press and their authors and publishing partners, increasing worldwide access to UWP’s unique collection through libraries, retailers, academic institutions, and community partners will add potential value to scholarly and cultural conversation around the globe.

