

HOW DIGITIZING THE PAST HELPS SHAPE THE INSTITUTIONAL SHARED FUTURE

The case of digitizing the Students' Publications of the American University in Bulgaria

Project background

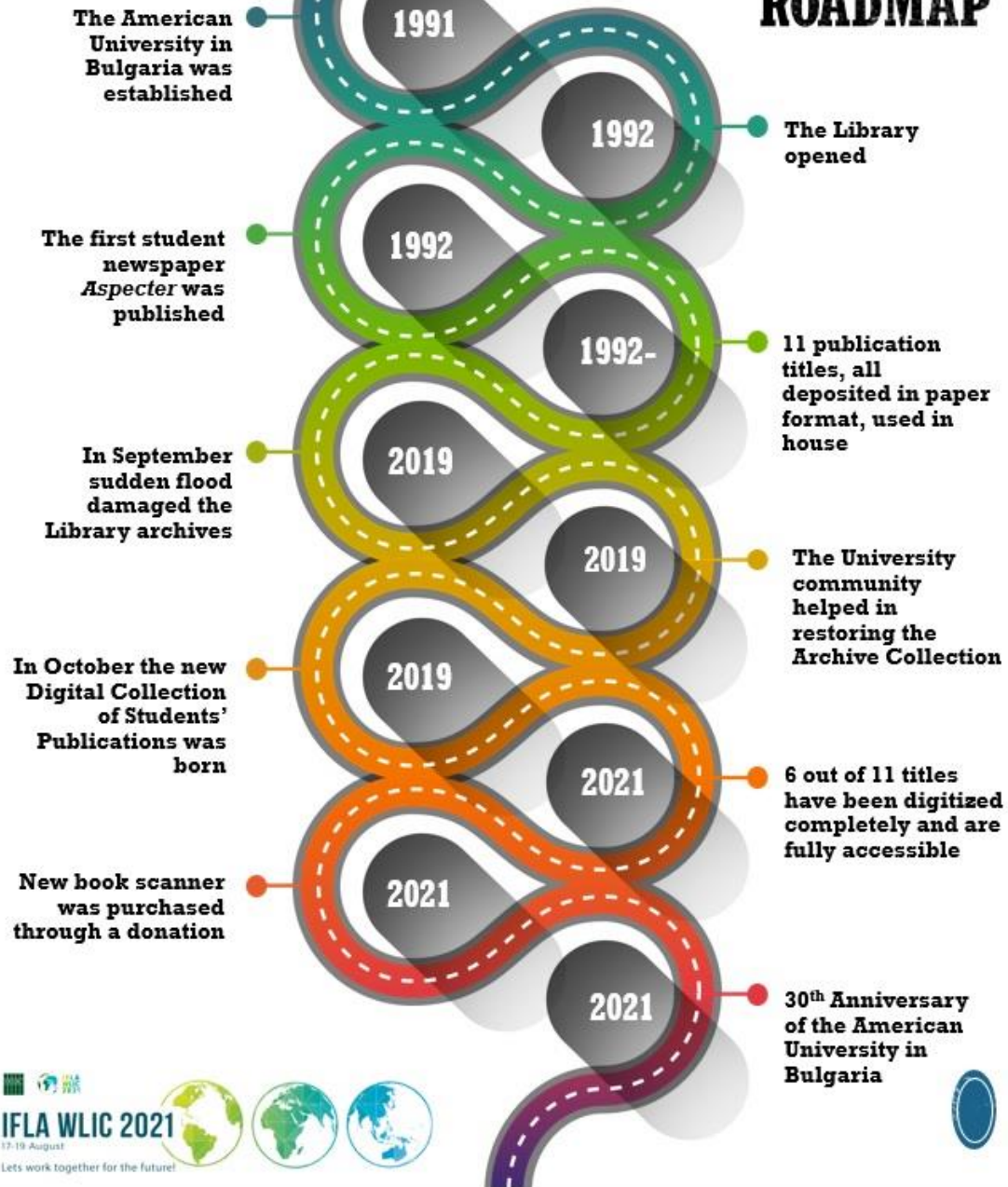
- Unique and fragile collection
- Danger of losing the paper copies
- Alumni demand for access
- Students and faculty research
- Institutional history preservation and dissemination

Objectives

- Preserve the collection
- Provide equal access to it
- Increase visibility and enhance access
- Choose a suitable platform and enrich the content

Students' Publications Scope

- The majority published in the first years of democracy in Bulgaria
- Multicultural experience – unique for the 90s in post communist countries
- Strong civic engagement
- Powerful statement of the students' opinions on social justice, political issues, freedom of speech



The Start

- The flood in September 2019 "pushed" the digitization process to start
- Prior to that – only small scanning initiatives

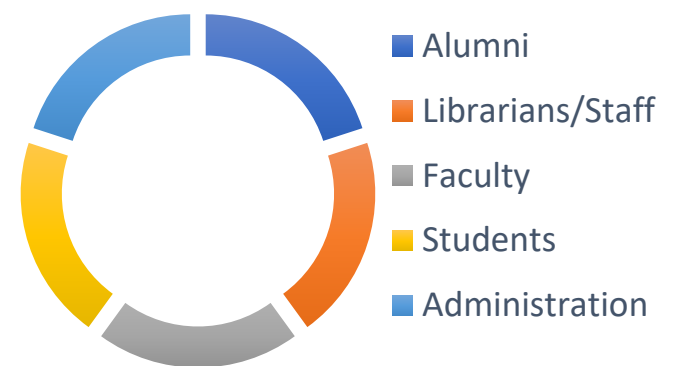
Cooperation

- A call for help for restoring the Archives was sent to the University community
- Many got involved with tracking down and collecting old issues of the Students' newspapers and magazines
- Alumni, staff, students, faculty collaborated in this project
- Administrative support received

Technical Settings

- The Library drafted a plan for the digitization process
- Selecting the standards for description, formats, and other requirements
- DSpace platform with NALIS Foundation cooperation
- Started scanning immediately

INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY PRESERVATION



The Result

