



# Digital Strategies for Heritage (DISH) 2013

2 & 3 December 2013, De Doelen Rotterdam

## Chefs' Table session

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**Table Host: Mitchell Davis**

**Title: A brave new world; How libraries and digital humanities will flourish in the 21st Century**

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### Introduction

Over the past two decades, a tremendous gap has emerged between the user experiences delivered by consumer companies like Amazon, Apple, and Netflix and those delivered by the library. In a media world that is faster and increasingly mobile, the library is not even mentioned as part of the general consumer media experience. What is at risk if libraries cannot keep pace with the general media experiences being delivered by consumer companies? How do cultural institutions fit into this picture as publishers and curators? What new audiences are being created for these digital humanities projects?

This table explored the importance of user experience in the digital realm, the role of the library as consumer media distributor and the changing nature of cultural institution as mainstream publisher.

### Discussion

There are two versions of Biblioboard: one for consumers and one for libraries

The library-version gives access when you have library-card <http://www.biblioboard.com/>

Most energy goes into the library-app...

What triggers libraries to sign up? In the states there's a movement for better user experience for patrons. Libraries buy a better "experience".

Ivo: heritage institutions should focus on discoverability, so companies can "provide" a good UX.  
Mitchell agrees, obviously.

PEW-research: 94% of the people think libraries are important for their community

Biblioboard created a technology that can assist.

Content only on Biblioboard when publishers license the content. Small, independent publishers respond -> graphic novels

UserVoice is used for user-feedback <https://www.uservoice.com/>, also creates FAQ-pages

Biblioboard: First bring it out, then improve

What about copyright?

Public domain content was the easiest place to start -> no stubborn publishers

When you put content in the system, you have to assert that you have the rights to do so.

1700 libraries of Massachusetts signed up for Biblioboard => whole state is White-listed, not the institutions

In Holland end-users don't want to pay for user-experiences with cultural information.  
But it's even difficult when it's free

About Retronaut: the brand means something

Mydaguerotypeboyfrind tumbler

But we need a technological discovery layer that make it possible

People will pay for the service layer for user experience and easy use

We should watch House of Cards, apparently...

Can Libraryboard send the stuff back to libraries?  
#MARCmustDie

Could your platform be a platform for "automated research"?

Anthology and digital collections -> a compilation of short pieces, it's a theme =>  
themes about bicycling, cats, railways  
Curators can add keywords in the creation-client

Can consumer make their own collections, like on Pinterest? No, not yet, they have to come to Biblioboard.

Use Soundcloud for audio-hosting en Vimeo, YouTube and InternetArchive for movies.

Native App for Android, Kindle and iOS. Windows not enough users yet  
The interface is English, but metadata and content is obviously multilingual.

Audience depends on the content: typical library patrons  
A high school class is creating a WW1-anthology in the Creator

BL: anyone in UK should have free access, because they pay taxes. They defined their community.

"What we build is better than I can describe."

Anthologies can be taken out of the app to form an app on it's on.

Today libraries can "brand" Biblioboard a little bit, vision is that in the future the apps will be "made possible by Biblioboard."