

The Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Performs Digital Archiving Mass and Class

Eight million pages are more than a little thing. This amount of archived documents is digitized in a project of the Archive for Christian-Democratic Politics of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. Most different kinds of paper in most different quality must be processed. Here, they use a heavy-duty scanner from Microform that can process up to 160 pages A4 per minute, and the Capturing-Software DpuScan from Janich & Klass.

It is a huge digitizing project that the Archive for Christian-Democratic Politics (Archive for Christian Democratic Politics) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation has started: Within an integration project of the Foundation, documents from archives with far more than eight million pages shall be scanned and made available in future in digital form. „It is not only a big volume of documents, but also the papers have most different formats and most different quality“, Dr. Hubert Salm, Managing Director of the oia GmbH in Düsseldorf, describes the project. The oia GmbH acts as external consultant for archiving projects of the ACPT. „It was also important for us that not only the hardware works fast and safe, but that the software can be expanded flexibly according our demands“, says Salm.

They chose the premium color scanner S 655 from Microform. Due to its high processing speed of 160 sheets A4 or 320 Images per Minute at a resolution of 200 dpi, the S 655 is suited for scanning high amounts of data. The unique Microform transport system without belts serves for trouble-free process and prevents precious originals from being damaged in a paper jam. „Another advantage is that the units have an alternative exit for scanned documents – in one line with the feeder“, adds Salm. „This way, we can process also delicate documents that may not be folded.“

Color Recognition instead of Sorting Efforts

The next advantage of the Microform systems is the capturing software DpuScan from the technology partner Janich & Klass; all units are equipped with this software. This way, the units grant - besides a high amount of safety during processing and an excellent image quality – also a multitude of intelligent functions for the comfortable preparation of subsequent processes.

Most interesting for the Archive of Christian-Democratic Politics is the automated color recognition and color processing with which documents can be assigned to certain processing steps. In one work process, the documents are taken from the archives, are released from tucker needles or similar, are pre-sorted and receive a color mark. One color stands for the begin of a new document, a second color separates originals with different signatures and thus eases the capturing effort: Signatures must be newly captured only if "signature change" is marked: Thanks to the automatic color recognition, the scanner detects the marks and stores images already during the scan process document units and signature units.

Post-Processing on Separate Workstations

For further processing the scanned documents, the Archive for Christian Democratic Politics decided to install two QSI modules, in addition to the scanner. QSI stands for „Quality Safety and Indexing“ and makes it possible to do indexing on the images on a separate workstation, to check and to post-process them without influencing the productivity of the scanner. So, the images can be indexed and post-processed at the Archive for Christian Democratic Politics on two workstations, using the DpuScan software, after being scanned. In case of the Archive for Christian Democratic Politics, the image files must be indexed according their signatures, the date, and the source. The next post-processing step is the full-text OCR. For this application, the oia GmbH writes a specific filter program. It makes sure that only the wanted index information is taken over from the full-text recognition. „The DpuScan software of the Microform systems is flexible enough to be expanded trouble-free by such functions, according to our needs“, so Salm says. Document processing started in August. After having scanned the first document batch, the project team was extraordinarily impressed by the functionality, the high throughput rate, and the easy handling. It became obvious already at the project start that the system is very versatile and can be used also for further digitizing demands. „The software will require only little modification“, Salm stresses, as project consultant „This is an important factor for cost reduction.“

Thanks to its high throughput rate, the Premium-Color-Scanner of type S 655 is suited for processing major paper archives. Here, the belt-free transport system of the Microform units serves for secure paper transport – with most different formats and even with delicate material. The camera design and the imaging

technology grant economic conversion of mixed originals to images in color, grayscale, or black&white. Furthermore, the scanners offer manifold imaging functions. Intelligent tools like automated color recognition take over important functions in control and post-processing of the scan process. Certainly, functions like deskew, cropping, digital color filtering, and gamma correction belong to the base functions of all scanners from Microform.

Short Profile Microform:

The Microform GmbH was founded in 1994, to keep and to evolve the know-how of Agfa in the ranges microfilm and scanner technology. Since then, Microform produces and sells Microform high-volume document scanners and archiving components. With their Best-Image-Quality concept, the company took the task to offer complete capture solutions that are adapted to the individual user needs. At the same time, Microform is an experienced specialist who can cope still today with the microfilm topic, and serves the market with state-of-the-art units. (www.microform.de)