



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF FINLAND

Mass scale digitization plans in National Archives of Finland

Mikko Eräkaski 25.10.2017



Background

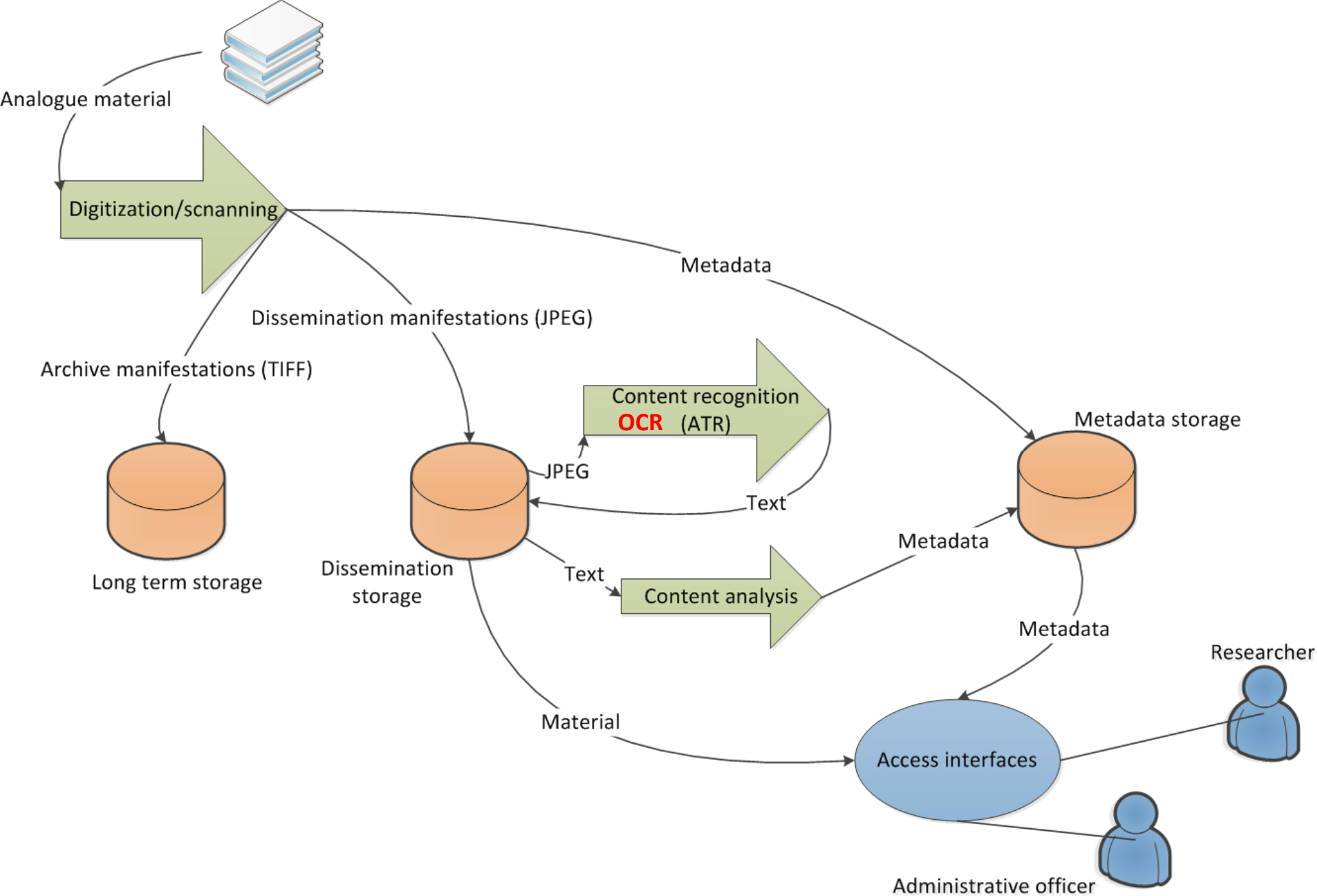
- Late 2016 came out a law which lets the National archives of Finland to dispose original manifestations of analogue records if certain conditions are fulfilled
- In the beginning of July came out governments letter of intent which stated that:
 - All the public administration material which should be archived will be archived in digital form
 - All the analogue material which administrative organizations still have will be digitized till the end of 2029

Present vs. target

- Present
 - 60 mill. pictures (~3-6 shelf kilometers)
 - Old material
 - Digitized between 1999-2017
 - This years estimate 18 million pictures
- Target
 - At least 171 linear kilometers (includes only permanently preserved records) → **Current estimate 212 linear kilometers**
 - Estimated that most of the material is printed (1970->)
 - Will be digitized during 2019-2030

Preconditions

- Digitizing must be done centrally, "mass- digitizing"
- Preparation of the material to be digitized should be automated more comprehensively than it is now (less human work)
- Metadata from records must be collected automatically during the scanning (text recognition, OCR)
- Administrative metadata (restrictions) must be gathered after text recognition in reliable way.
- A significant part of the analogue material will be disposed after digitizing.



Benefits

- Digital preservation is more cost-effective than manual archiving in the long-term.
- Digitizing improves the availability and usability of information
- Digital information is accessible and can be used online as a "self service"
 - advanced search metadata and full text search
 - reduces work in information services

Hot topics:

- Long-term preservation format?
 - Most archives and libraries use TIFF
 - JPEG or JPEG would save in preservation costs
- Quality assurance / validation after scanning:
 - How image validation has been carried out? Can it be automated?
 - Can OCR be used in quality assurance?



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF FINLAND

TACK!

Mikko.Erakaski@arkisto.fi