

Creating a digital collection of Belgian literary journals: Providing new opportunities to Researchers

Literary journals of the early 20th century used to providing a testing ground to authors before being published in books. They contain early versions of poems or prose - including some becoming famous later - and are of great interest to the researcher in literature.

PROBLEM

The material is ancient, rare, fragile and/or scattered in many institutions – sometimes hardly open to public/researchers – and available in the paper format only



STARTED IN 2008

FUNDING

- ULB research program (ARC) 'Press and literature in French-speaking Belgium (1920-1960)' directed by Pr. Paul Aron
- Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles's digitization program (PEP's)

AIMS

- preservation of documents thanks to a high-standard digitization process
- ease the scientific exploitation via a centralised digital access and keywords searches
- offer a 24h/24h access to anyone to rare material that may (also) interest a large public

PARTNERS

- university libraries
- museums or archives
- loan is governed by a signed agreement and each lender eventually receives a copy of the e-files and may diffuse them

PREPARATION, DIGITIZATION & OCERISATION

- identifying collections (conservation status, volume, completeness of available collections, absence of e-version online...)
- definition of the digitization specifications: balance between available budget and desired quality
- call for tender and supplier selection
- e-files quality checking before final acceptance of the deliverables



CONTENT

- digitized collections of some Belgian complete literary journals published interwar (*La Bataille littéraire*, *Le Disque vert*, *Avatars*, *L'Avant-Poste*, *Les Cahiers du Nord*...)
- periodicals published between 1870 and 1914, journals of prime importance for Belgian literature (*La Jeune Belgique*, *Durendal*...)
- SOON: periodicals that complement the digitization program of the ULB's Archives and Libraries (*La Basoche*, *La Wallonie*, *Le Réveil*...)



USERS & AUTHORIZED USES

USERS : researchers in Belgian literature from different universities

AUTHORIZED USES :

- open access: reproduction and communication for research and teaching purposes
- restricted ULB intranet access: journals can only be consulted

On each first page of a file, status is explained



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES & ACCESS

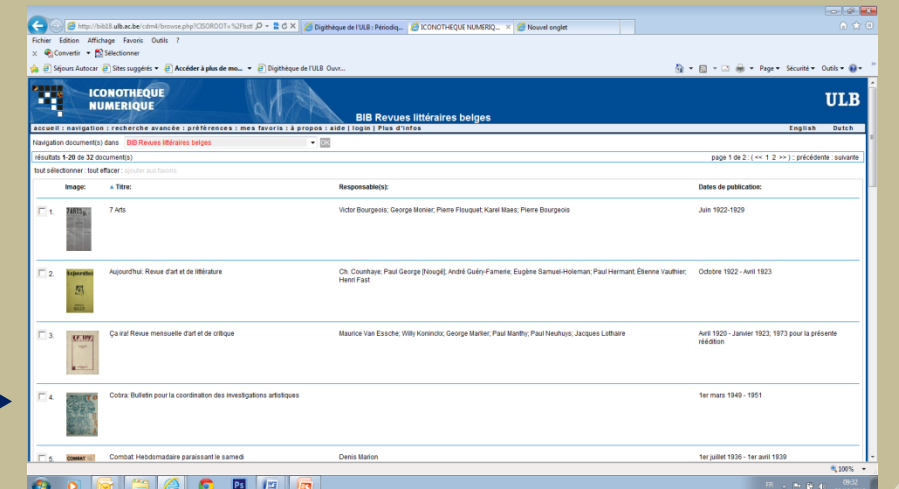
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY :

- identifying the rights owner is extremely difficult (anonymity, pseudonyms, number of collaborators in a single review...)
→ If the copyright owner can't be found, precautions are taken regarding rightful owners

ACCESS :

depends on copyright status:

- public domain works: file available in **open access**
- still covered by intellectual property right: **university intranet** (legal exception in Belgian law)



44 TITRES (45.304 PAGES)

ONLINE PRESENTATION OF THE DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

- all full texts available in Open or Intranet access (for certain, presented with a short text)
- details about aims, type, partners...
- link to a PDF file in which the user can search by keyword
- FUTURE: image viewer, improve research functionalities...

<http://digitheque.ulb.ac.be/fr/digitheque-revues-litteraires-belges/index.html>

