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LIBERTÉ ET PATRIE

canton de **vaud**

THE ARCHIVES CANTONALES VAUDOISES

ARE MAKING THEIR DOCUMENTS SECURE AND FACILITATING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THEM

BACKGROUND ⌄

As part of a project to preserve cultural heritage, the Archives Cantonales Vaudoises have set up a digitisation workshop to:

- Protect the originals in the archives, which are regularly consulted and therefore damaged
- Facilitate access to the archives for the general public and professionals
- Preserve cultural heritage for the long-term

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When you commit to a project where the challenge is to preserve cultural heritage, you are looking for an effective solution as well as a quality partner"

Gilbert Coutaz,
Director of the Archives Cantonales Vaudoises

IMPLEMENTATION ⌄

Establishment of a digitisation workshop made up of:

- An i2s SupraScan Quartz A1 scanner
- An i2s SupraScan Quartz A0 scanner
- i2S Limb Processing and Limb Maestro software for the automatic processing of images and the metadata management process, integrated into the existing cantonal archive database

BENEFITS ⌄

The project has been operational since April 2015 and has made it possible to:

- Standardise the entire digitisation process
- Save a significant amount of time in managing metadata
- Make original documents secure
- Facilitate access to the archives for the general public and professionals

The Archives Cantonales Vaudoises are making their documents secure and facilitating public access to them

In order to protect precious and fragile documents, the Archives Cantonales Vaudoises asked Spigraph to set up a digitisation workshop suited to the very specific needs which the i2S scanner and software solutions meet.

The organisation in charge of the Vaud (Switzerland) canton archives is undertaking the digitisation of 2,344 land registers and nearly 4,000 maps of the region, including some which are nearly 10 metres long.

'The oldest registers date back to the 17th century,' explains Gilbert Coutaz, Director of the Archives Cantonales Vaudoises. *'It is a source of exceptional quality and it is under threat, so we need to protect it.' 'The documents are regularly consulted by surveyors, lawyers or even private individuals,'* says Jérôme Guisolan who is in charge of the cantonal digitisation project. *'Getting these documents out is not always easy because of their size and weight which makes it difficult to transport them. Furthermore, regularly consulting the originals damages them.'*

A COMPREHENSIVE AND LONG-TERM SOLUTION
The organisation therefore decided to digitise its archives to protect its originals and provide the public with digital copies.

'When you commit to a project where the challenge is to preserve cultural heritage, you are looking for an effective solution as well as a quality partner,' adds Gilbert Coutaz. *'We needed a reliable company which could support us over time and with future technical and IT developments. That's why we chose Spigraph. They met requirements and the breadth of scope covered by their experts ensured that the comprehensive solution implemented and maintained for us by one contact was a long-term one. It is more reassuring than having multiple companies who blame each other when there is the slightest problem.'*

A FULLY AUTOMATED PROCESS
The digitisation of documents which began in April 2015 should end in 2019. The Archives Cantonales Vaudoises will have digitised the equivalent of 150 metres of shelving by this date.

This achievement will have been made possible by using two i2S SupraScan Quartz scanners – A1 (841 mm x 594 mm) size and A0 (1m²) size – from the manufacturer i2S DigiBook. Each one is suited to specific documents, and in addition is fitted with a bookstand to facilitate the digitisation of registers without damaging the bindings.

The system is completed with a fully automated process of annotating metadata images using Limb Processing and Limb Maestro software. Once they are digitised, the images are saved in TIFF (400 dpi) format to be stored and in JPG (300 dpi) format embedded in a compressed PDF document to be consulted. The metadata is extracted from the existing Archives Cantonales Vaudoises database, completed during the digitisation process and matched with images. They are also put back into the database to update the cantonal archives.

PROTECTED DOCUMENTS, ACCESSIBLE COPIES AND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME SAVED
'The automation of this complex process saves us precious time,' says Jérôme Guisolan. *'It would not have been possible without the Spigraph experts' configurations and expertise.'*

The digital copies can be consulted in real time in a room set up for this purpose by the Archives Cantonales. Eventually the goal is to provide copies via self-service on the Internet, where they can be downloaded. At that point the Archives Cantonales Vaudoises will have fully achieved their objective, namely to make the precious documents secure while facilitating access to them.

ABOUT i2S DigiBook

Dedicated to image capture and processing for digitisation projects, i2S DigiBook is part of i2S company, European leader and expert in Machine Vision. Since more than ten years, i2S DigiBook designs, manufactures and markets high resolution book scanners, image processing software, digital library solution, and related services. This global offer is dedicated to all knowledge digitisation projects: cultural heritage, scientific, administrations or industries. Today, more than 3,500 book scanners are installed at more than 800 customers' sites around the world. **www.i2s-digibook.com**

ABOUT THE ARCHIVES CANTONALES VAUDOISES

The Archives Cantonales Vaudoises (ACV) is a public institution which is attached to a major civil service department, and in the service of the latter, but is also very much citizen-focused. It is a place of memories, a space where you can reflect and do research, and it offers a structure which can be used for storage and communication and ensure that the department is transparent. www.patrimoine.vd.ch

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