Turning over a new leaf: Access and interpretation through technology interpretation

Clive Izard*†1

¹British Library (BL) – Royaume-Uni

Résumé

Over the past 10 years since computer technology has allowed us to manipulate images of books in an affordable way, the exhibition team at the British Library has worked to deliver compelling interpretive multimedia experiences in the exhibition galleries and more recently over the web. Designed to add value to the visitor experience and to deliver additional content and explanation to a range of audiences, these projects have taught us a great deal, not only about what works for our visitors but about the opportunity and limitations of technology, working with technical partners, attracting sponsorship, and about the ongoing commitment to keeping systems current and accessible. Turning the Pages will feature large in this talk as its development journey has evolved alongside technology and alongside an ever more demanding audience now equipped with sophisticated devices of their own. We will touch on the research audience and how their needs differ from 'Knowledge Seekers' who visit exhibitions, and look to the relevance of our work in a future where access to book material can be delivered any place anytime.

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^{*}Intervenant

[†]Auteur correspondant: Clive.Izard@bl.uk