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## Utilizing comparative advantages of new platforms in digital collection *Edicija*: “dual approach” in presenting the old prints

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“(…) a text exists only because there is a reader to give it meaning.” (Chartier 1994: 2)

elaboration stems from experiences gained during development of *Edicija* – *digital library of Croatian printed heritage* aimed at the highly demanding users – the scientific community

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## AIMS

- to identify experiences and restraints of diverse old prints digitization projects
- to utilize comparative advantages of new platforms by identifying and applying more effective and inventive ways in presenting the old prints in digital environment
- to outline consequences of media convergence on modern scientific research
- to identify crucial points in developing the models of digital presentation of old prints
- to outline basic steps in content and platform development

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## RESTRAINTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>electronic documents as facsimiles of paper originals</b></li> <li>• neglects common advantages of digital platforms</li> <li>• reduces digitization process to photocopying</li> <li>• shows up the format problem (vertical – horizontal)</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>electronic documents as text files</b></li> <li>• deprives users of original context: print page layout, typography, margin size, position of page numbering, use of white space, foliation...</li> <li>• narrows research to inner aesthetics of the book</li> <li>• separates content from the platform</li> <li>• hinders some aspects of modern book history research</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
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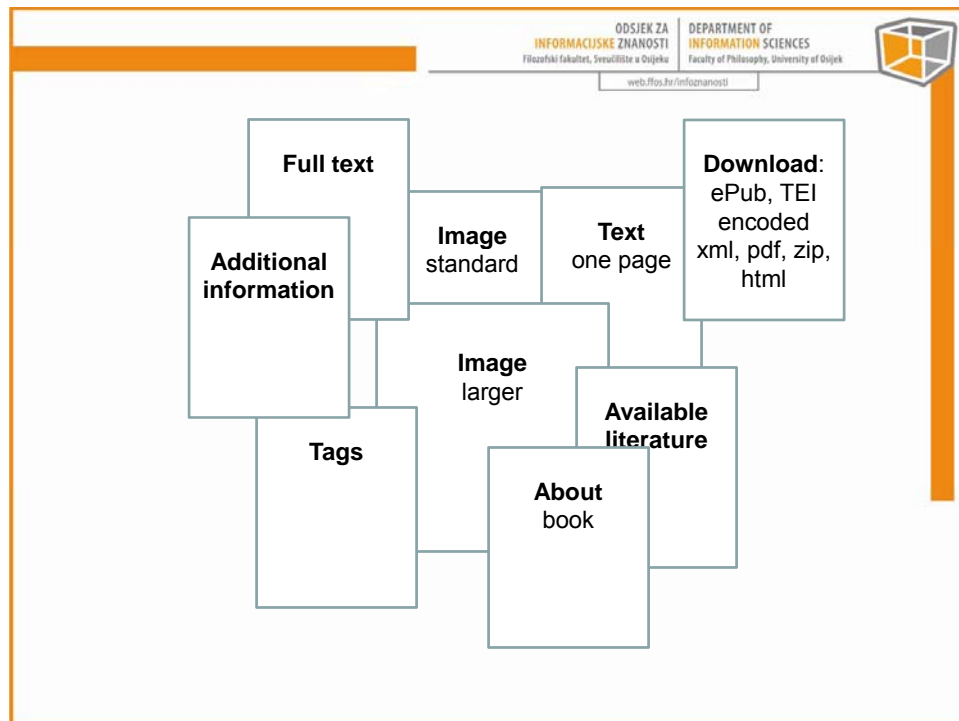
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## DIGITAL PLATFORMS' ADVANTAGES


- **how value may be added to print originals?**
- such as fostering research in the history of design and typesetting
- **how value can be added to digitized contents in more innovative ways?**
- such as fostering reader ↔ text ↔ book interaction

by “dual” or “binary” approach in content presenting  
by dividing information into multiple layers



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## UTILIZING ADVANTAGES

- “dual” or “binary” approach in content presenting = simultaneous view to both the image (printed page) and edited, searchable text
- increasing the search capabilities by tagging the key terms in each text (regularly written in different ways as an outcome of the early modern non-standardized orthography)
- providing the search results at the level of collection (OCR text), with simultaneous view to the context of original presentation (the print page)
- keeping standards of digital collection development (bibliographic records, standard browsing capabilities...)
- providing additional materials and research tools

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## Developed on open source technologies

 Linux	 Apache
 MySQL	 PHP

## Implementing Web 2.0 via AJAX

Independent: device, platform & browser

