

Jenifer Bartle  
NITLE Fellow, Decapod Project  
Project Leader  
IS/Library/Access & Digital Media  
Wellesley College

James Gehrt  
NITLE Fellow, Decapod Project  
Digitization Center Coordinator  
LITS  
Mount Holyoke College



## What will Decapod do?

- Allow the digitization of bound, printed material by using computer vision techniques (3D dewarping) to produce flat, clean page images equivalent to those produced by a flat bed scanner.
- Remove the need for extensive operator intervention in the capture process by detecting scan problems and allowing the operator to rescan if needed.
- Reduce user intervention in the conversion process to achieve a simple "1-click" operation.
- Create PDF/A files that will be faithful to the original, searchable, and flexible.
- Allow the output to be viewable on mobile devices and adaptive readers.
- Lower cost barriers by using consumer-grade cameras, open-source software, and an easy-to-learn user interface

The Decapod Project is focused on designing an open-source, low-cost, portable hardware and software digitization solution that will enable the digitization of "long tail" materials in a high-quality PDF/A format.

The Decapod Project is an international, open-source, collaborative effort between varied stakeholders.

## What digitization issues will Decapod address?

- **Cost:** Decapod will lower cost barriers in areas of hardware, software, and staff training and expertise.
- **OCR Errors:** Building on the OCRopus OCR engine, Decapod will improve errors in capture and character recognition, as well as expand language capabilities.
- **Access:** Because it is portable, Decapod will improve access to fragile or difficult to access source materials.
- **Open-source solution:** Decapod is openly available, modular, and flexible, with a large, open community of potential users and contributors.

### Who will use Decapod?

- Librarians and library staff
- Administrators with sensitive materials
- Archivists
- Scholarly content providers
- Independent scholars and researchers

## Goals of Our Collaboration

- Represent the interests of libraries, archives, and humanities research throughout the development process
- Provide expertise on current digitization standards and uses of digital objects
- Perform usability testing at various stages in the development of the user interface
- Evaluate the working prototype when Decapod is released
- Provide training to interested parties once Decapod is widely available

