Summary of the 2006 Northeast Regional Digitization Seminar – Andrew Toulas

The seminar focused on academic scanning and workflow software/hardware.

The specific items discussed that would apply to Stony Brook University include:
1) The Bookeye 2(A2 size) & 3(A1 size) color scanners - $15,000 and $21,000
2) The KIC walk up scanning kiosk – Lease starts at around $800/month .
3) The Opus digital workflow management system.

1) Both scanners take advantage the Scan2net system which uses a 1 gig network connection which allows true 24 bit scanning at 1200DPI interpolated. These scanners operate on the open Linux operating system and communicate with the operating computer through a web interface over an IP address. The advantage of using an open operating system allows DLSG the ability to customize scanning software directly creating a very stable product. This also allows the user to custom tailor many of the operations, such as cropping, compression and flattening out curvatures directly from the scanner.

2) The KIC walkup system is a scanner that works in combination with a computer to allow patrons the ability to walk up, scan items, and save them to either e-mail or a flash drive. The KIC system can be used with any of the DLSG scanners and your choice of computer to process the input data. A standout feature off this system is the touch screen control panel which makes the digital capture extremely simple. My only concern is the ability to save multiple scans as 1 PDF file, but I was informed that will be coming soon.

3) OPUS – which consists of various modules which emulates a “conveyer belt” work flow system. The modules, Template, Manager, Scan, Archive, Crop, Data entry, and Export can be installed on separate computers and connected to a single server. As one stage is accomplished OPUS automatically moves the project to the next module on the queue. In this way a group such as the Digital Team would be able to work on a project at various times and locations throughout the campus. It would also allow for interdepartmental projects such as making the art slides available to the Art Department. With the work spread out over campus, Art Faculty could scan and create the perfect image while Librarians catalogued the work and uploaded it to a server without leaving their office.

OPUS would add great flexibility to an archival management system like D-Space. Using OPUS as a front end program would allow a manager of a project the ability to assign specific modules to members of a department or team, and then batch load finished work. This is an option not available through D-Space, or any other content managing software currently available. This software is currently being used by RIPM to design a system so that music journals from 1800-1950 can be available with full-text. A release date for RIPM full text will be announced in the upcoming months.