## what we see on the screen

mats dahlström platform{DH} antwerp fool's day 2019



#### motives

- Preservation
- Make the material available
- Make the material usable
- Make the material reusable
- Develop and share technology and competence
- Enable new research
- Present the material in new ways and in new contexts
- Administrative, economical or political reasons
- Prestige and propaganda

#### strategy examples

- long term / short term
- proactive / reactive
  - just-in-case / just-in-time
- conservation / restoration
  - non-tampering / tampering
- text mode / image mode

## text vs image digitization

Linguistic text	Graphical and material artefacts (document)
Machine readable transcriptions	Digital facsimiles
Text capture (OCR)	Scanning, photography
Text encoding	Image editing
Text files	Image files
Might have a small "facsimile" dimension	Often concentrated to the document parts carrying text

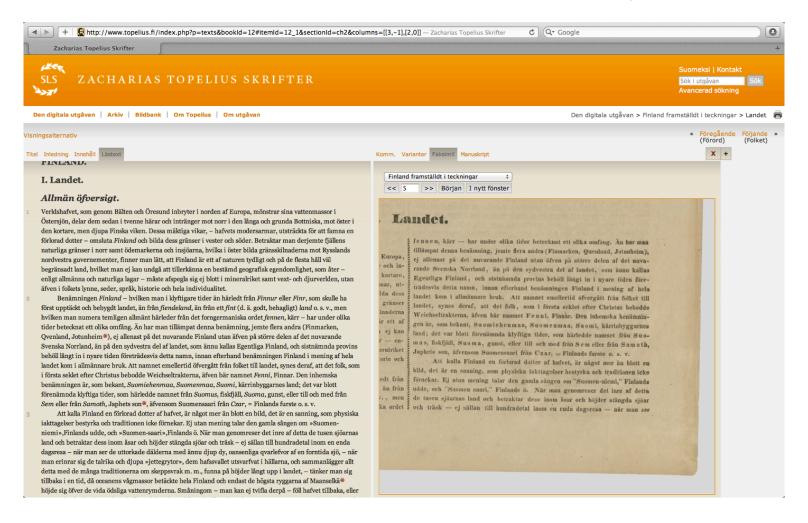
# different faces of William Blake:

Project Gutenberg (<u>PG</u>)
vs
The William Blake Archive (<u>WBA</u>).

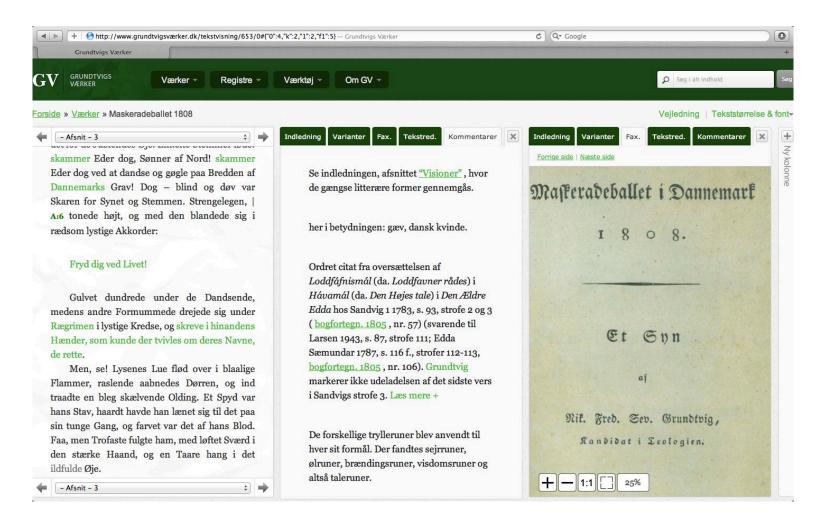
#### The Literary Bank, Strindberg section

#### **Deutsches Textarchiv**

## parallell transcription and facsimile (Collected Works of Zacharias Topelius)



## parallell transcription, comments and facsimile (Collected works of Grundtvig)



## mass digitization

Primarily automated
Breadth
Minimized editing and metadata
Clone
Random and totality
Text
Quantitative

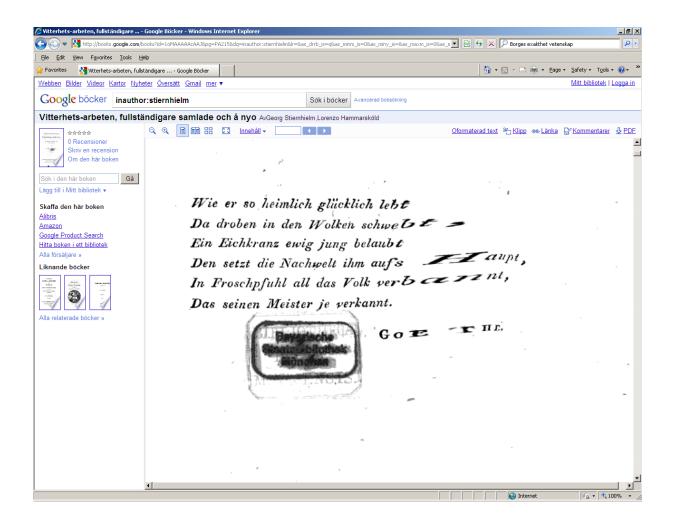
# Google Books, Open Content Alliance (via Internet Archive), HATHI Trust, Europeana, Gallica

Mass (or at least large-scale) digitisation projects

#### mass digitization: criticism

- Lo-fi, sometimes even poor, scanning quality
- Transcription poor or even useless
- Few and often erroneous metadata
- Often only simple, raw free text search
- Bibliographical information and competence non-existing
- Non-transparent contracts and terms conc.
   Copyright, re-use, future, preservation

#### Stiernhielm in GBS



## <u>a scanned book on perception,</u> <u>images and form</u>

what we sometimes see on the screen

### critical vs mass digitization

Primarily manual	Primarily automated
Depth	Breadth
Maximized editing and metadata	Minimized editing and metadata
Interpretation	Clone
Critical selection	Random and totality
Document	Text
Qualitative	Quantitative

#### Critical digitization: criticism

- Costly
- Slow
- Small audiences?
- Necessitates skills in e.g. textual or image scholarship
- Often neglects to produce machine readable transcriptions
- Sometimes lacks in documentation and "repeatability"
- The material has been explicitly interpreted and narrowly formed for a particular purpose

#### **Codex Sinaiticus**

### **Archimedes Palimpsest**

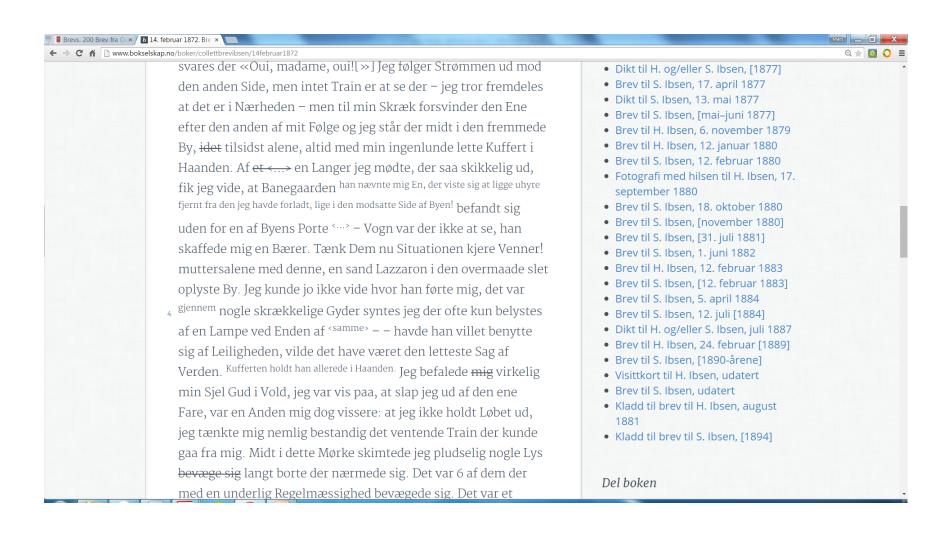


### **Codex Gigas**

#### Collett - facsimile



#### Collett – critically edited transcription



### Mill's Marginalia

### from the **Shelley-Godwin archive**

#### affinities

- comparing and critically selecting source documents
- interpretation
- text/image editing/emendation
- exhaustiveness, faithfulness
- metadata, descriptive encoding, bibliographical data
- scholarly work are embedded in the objects
- canonizing function, a "quality seal"

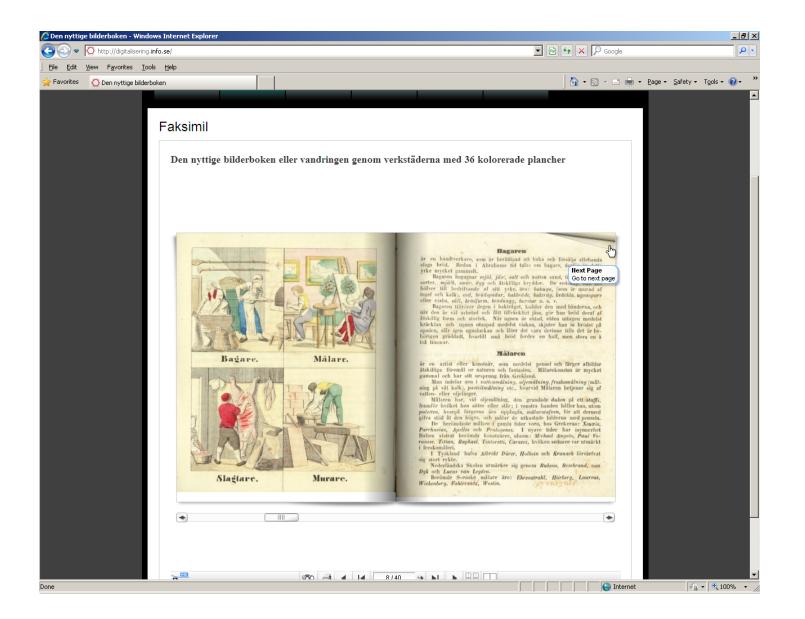
## FAC SIMILE

## SIMULACRUM SIMULATOR SIMULAMEN

#### 13th ct madonna with child

## **SIMULATORS**

#### Love in Sweden



## scrolling the scroll

#### examples of editing

- cropping
- colour adjustment
- scale or warp distortion
- erasure of bleed-through
- flattening

# what is it we see on the screen? is it "authentic"? where does it come from?

#### errors and trust

## archaeology

"being on location and studying the digitization process, it swiftly became apparent to us that sticking to any idea of a provenance chain is impossible, since so many steps have been outsourced to unknown factors affecting the source document. On the one hand, the (...) software conditions output in concealed ways and on the other hand institutional factors do the same: the library hiring MKC, MKC hiring Zissor, and Zissor hiring ABBYY. They all affect the digitization process – in different and increasingly vague ways. In short, the further up these actors are in the digitization chain, the less they seem to know of the processes that turn papers into digital data." (Jarlbrink & Snickars 2017; my italics)

#### provenance

#### keys

- Documentation (reports, wikis)
- Paratexts (about-pages etc)
- File-embedded documentation, metadata and paradata
- Information-rich files, uncompressed files etc
- History and versionality
- From a facsimile to an archive of a facsimile

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