How do you lift an elephant with one hand?

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ABSTRACT

There were tremendous challenges in creating HathiTrust. The resulting organization, digital preservation infrastructure, and collection contributes significant value to the library ecosystem. This shift to a complement of shared and local services argues for libraries to create more at-scale, shared initiatives to ensure a vital future for research libraries. We need to confront questions about why at-scale efforts are so uncommon.

KEYWORDS
Digital library; preservation infrastructure

BIO

John Wilkin assumed the position of Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2013. In addition, he served as Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Designate at Illinois from February 2017 through January 2018. Previously, Wilkin served as Executive Director, HathiTrust and in a variety of administrative roles (including interim library director) at the University of Michigan. Under Wilkin’s leadership, Michigan’s Digital Library Production Service pioneered a number of large-scale digital library efforts, including Making of America, the Humanities Text Initiative, PEAK (a system delivering Elsevier’s journals), and putting the Middle English Dictionary online.