

Success Story | Regional Archive | Silent Bricks

Collectie Overijssel

At the heart of Overijssel, Collectie Overijssel plays an important role in documenting the region's history. The organisation is central to preserving and digitising Overijssel's heritage. As an archival institution, it manages both public and private archives from the province and its municipalities. It focuses on making these collections accessible, with authenticity, reliability, integrity and accessibility as its core values.

In the digital age, Collectie Overijssel uses innovative methods to bring the rich history of Overijssel to life and make it accessible to a broad audience. Its new name and identity reflect the organisation's commitment to innovation and its ambition to create a heritage collection that remains sustainably accessible and usable. In this way, Collectie Overijssel connects the past, present and future, strengthening cultural and historical knowledge both within and beyond the region.



All Photo's:
Collectie Overijssel
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SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL AND DIGITISED HERITAGE

The Challenge

In an era of digital transformation, Collectie Overijssel faced a major challenge. How can an extensive and growing archive, containing both physical and digital materials, be preserved safely and sustainably?

The organisation had to address two key issues. First, the physical archive had to be digitised with care. This would preserve these unique sources for future generations while also making them more accessible to a wider audience.

The second issue concerned the storage of both newly digitised files and original digital files. These files needed to be stored in a way that safeguarded their integrity and authenticity while remaining future-proof.

With these challenges in mind, Collectie Overijssel sought a sustainable storage solution that was reliable, secure and able to grow alongside technological developments.

Essential Requirements

When looking for a suitable solution to its data storage challenge, Collectie Overijssel defined several essential criteria.

First, digital files had to be immutable in order to safeguard the authenticity and integrity of historical records.

There also had to be a period during which files intended for permanent preservation could still be modified. This was especially important during the digitisation process. Files were transferred to permanent storage immediately after creation but still needed to be checked and corrected if necessary.

Another essential requirement was the ability to mirror the data environment to a second location. This was crucial for protecting against data loss and ensuring data availability, even in the event of an outage or disaster.

A Decisive Choice

After carefully evaluating several storage solutions, Collectie Overijssel chose FAST LTA products. The decision was based on several factors.

FAST LTA's storage architecture provided the flexibility the organisation needed. Storage capacity could be expanded easily as its data volumes grew.

“A system that enables files to be preserved sustainably and energy-efficiently while providing fast retrieval.,,

Bert Nielsen (Data Manager and Digital Preservation Officer)

Another decisive factor was the system's retrieval speed. Despite its sustainable design, the Silent Brick system provides fast access to stored files. This is essential for an archive that is consulted regularly.

The physical air gap also protects the data in the semi-static archive, which can still be edited and modified, against hackers.

Finally, the Silent Brick system is so easy to maintain and operate that, once the systems have been configured, Collectie Overijssel does not need to access the management interface unless changes are made to the storage infrastructure. This significantly simplifies day-to-day archive management.

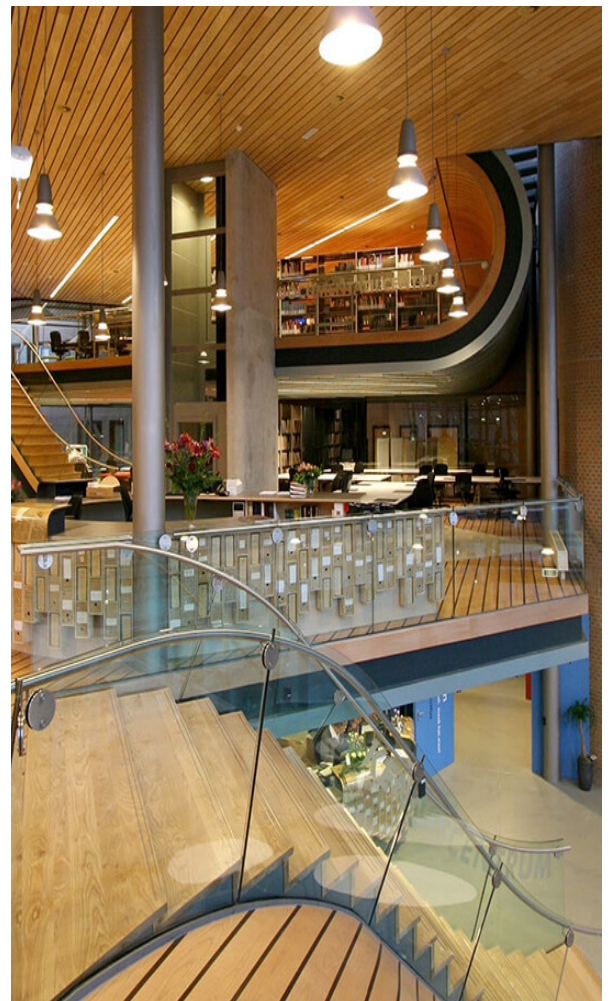
Implementation

On 18 April 2023, Collectie Overijssel took an important step towards advanced digital archive management with the installation of two Silent Brick storage systems.

In the final configuration, each system is located at a different site. This implementation was a crucial part of the organisation's strategy to provide a robust, flexible and future-proof storage solution for its growing archive.

With a focus on security, reliability and accessibility, the systems were placed strategically at two locations. This provides data protection and ensures continuous access to the archives in the event of a local outage or disaster.

Before the two systems were moved to their separate locations, the initial data transfer to both systems took place at the same site. This avoided transferring a huge volume of data over a slower remote connection and allowed both systems to be prepared for use quickly and efficiently.



After the initial transfer, the two systems were connected so that the stored data is replicated across both systems. The systems are almost identical, but the second location does not have an air-gapped replica of the semi-static archive.

The first location serves as the primary system for storing both the static and semi-static archives. Its extensive configuration and air-gapped storage options provide maximum security and flexibility in managing the archive data.

The second location acts as a replication and backup site. This ensures data protection and continuity in the event of a disaster or outage at the primary location.

Both locations have a net 2 TB SSD stage. This is essential for flexibly managing how long files remain in the staging area before being moved to WORM storage. It allows Collectie Overijssel to adapt file storage to the needs of its digitisation processes.

Solution

Location 1 – primary storage system:

- 1x SB controller G5000
- 1x SB 2/3 TB SSD
- 3x SB 16/24 TB
- 1x SB 128/192 TB DS WORM
- 1x SB 32/64 TB DS WORM

Location 2 – replication and backup site:

- 1x SB controller G5000
- 1x SB 2/3 TB SSD
- 1x SB 16/24 TB
- 1x SB 128/192 TB DS WORM
- 1x SB 32/64 TB DS WORM

Advantages

- Simple configuration and a user-friendly interface.
- Easy setup of an air-gap backup for semi-static data within the system.
- A quarantine period for files before they are moved to permanent storage within the system.
- Storage capacity can be expanded easily.
- Disk failure does not result in data loss.

Sector

Provincial Archive

Application

MAIS-Flexis



Hello.

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