



# Spigraph



# LE LOIRET INDUSTRIALIZES QUALITY CONTROL OF ITS DIGITISATIONS



Spigraph quality control allows us to check all sample-scanned batches. It helps us save considerable time while smoothing relations with our scanning provider.”

**Bertrand Gautier,**  
IT project manager  
Loiret General Council

## CONTEXT



**Digitizing land registry and register of births, marriages and deaths going back to 1833 in order to:**

- Ensure excellent quality images complying with the original document
- Propose more online documents to internet users
- Ease communication and access to these documents in-house

## FULFILMENT



**Outsourcing of digitisation with the setting up of in-house scanner quality control based on Spi.Factory QA «quality control».**

## BENEFITS



**In its scanning workshop set up in July 2007, the ONP ensures:**

- Time saved in scanning quality control
- More in-depth control than in manual mode
- Structuring of the quality control process
- Simplification of exchanges with the scanning service provider



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Like many civil service departments, the Loiret General Council has launched a vast archive digitisation project. With more than two million images to be checked, the Council opted to set up a quality control solution to industrialize the process.

In October 2008, under the LME (French Modernization of the Economy Act), the government launched the «France Numérique 2012» plan aimed at developing the digital economy. The archive sector did not escape this movement, especially in terms of the conservation and preservation of antique documents. Within this context, and in order to deal with a larger number of people interested in their past, in 2009, the Loiret General Council launched a programme to digitize its archives, register of births, marriages and deaths and land registry. The project was broken up into two major phases: scanning of the register of births, marriages and deaths archives between 1833 and 1992, the period most frequently consulted by users, and the digitization of documents issued before 1833 for the register of births, marriages and deaths and the land registry. To deal with the vast volumes to be processed, the General Council preferred to delegate scanning to an outside service provider. These archives are a national treasure. It was therefore important to check each scan to guarantee an excellent image quality complying with the original document. The scale of the task was quite simply colossal: The first phase of the project consisted of 1,100,000 images to be checked and as many for the second phase to which were added

4,500 land registry scans. Required to balance the obligation to check each image with the need to shorten time dedicated to that task, the General Council opted for industrialization of quality control based on the Spigraph solution: Spi.Factory QA.

## SAMPLE-BASED CONTROL THAT OFFERS SEVERAL BENEFITS

The process is simple: the service provider scans the documents in batches of 400,000 files, then transmits them to the General Council which checks the batch using Spi.Factory QA. Installed on a standard desktop, this software solution is based on the principles and rules of production batch acceptance sampling as per statistical methods set out by NF ISO 2859. In concrete terms, the control manager configures the application with quality criteria (exposure, framing, etc.) for a batch of images. Spi.Factory QA checks a sample and gives a score to each image according to pre-established criteria. Once this operation has been completed, the software is capable of issuing a report on the whole batch. «Without Spi.Factory QA, we would not have been able to apply such generalized control,» explains Bertrand Gautier, IT project manager at the Loiret General Council. «We would not have had enough time to check some of the scans. All the image batches were processed using Spigraph's method, based on the principle of sampling and statistical rules.»

Started in February 2012, the first part of the project ended in September of the same year. For this initial phase, the General Council did not want to link any

metadata to the images. «But we intend to do so for the second phase and, here again, Spi.Factory QA will be extremely useful as it will also help us check the quality of metadata\*.»

## FACTUAL REPORTS BASED ON A RIGOROUS PROCESS

The second phase of the project should begin in September with the same quality control solution, which fully satisfied the General Council.

«Time saved through Spi.Factory QA is obviously significant but it is only one of the many advantages of this solution. Unlike manual checking, Spi.Factory QA gives a structure to the image verification process. The analysis therefore has a stricter framework. On that basis, automatically issued reports are factual and no longer based on impressions, which enormously eases relations with the service provider: it is impossible to dispute the facts! It is a real decision-making tool which is also easy to deploy and use.»

\* Text information extracted from documents

## ABOUT THE LOIRET GENERAL COUNCIL

The «département's» (or county's) elected body, the Loiret General Council consists of 41 general councillors (one for each canton) elected for six years by universal suffrage with a three-year renewal for half of their number. Its missions and actions cover the fields of economics, education, research, solidarity, territorial development and mobility, the environment, culture,

youth and sport. It currently employs 2,700 staff and its budget in 2012 reached €644,529,110.

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