Hathi Trust

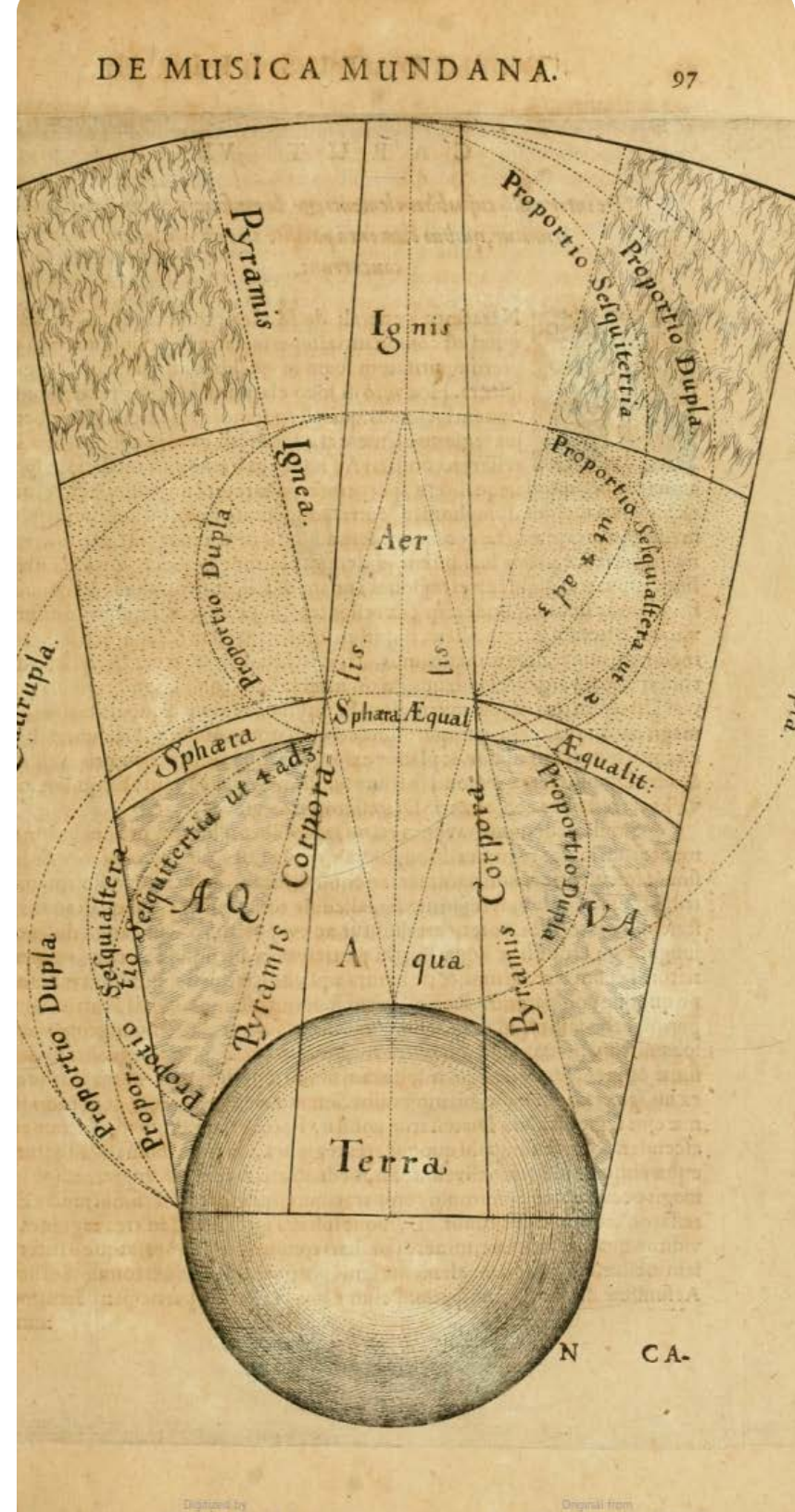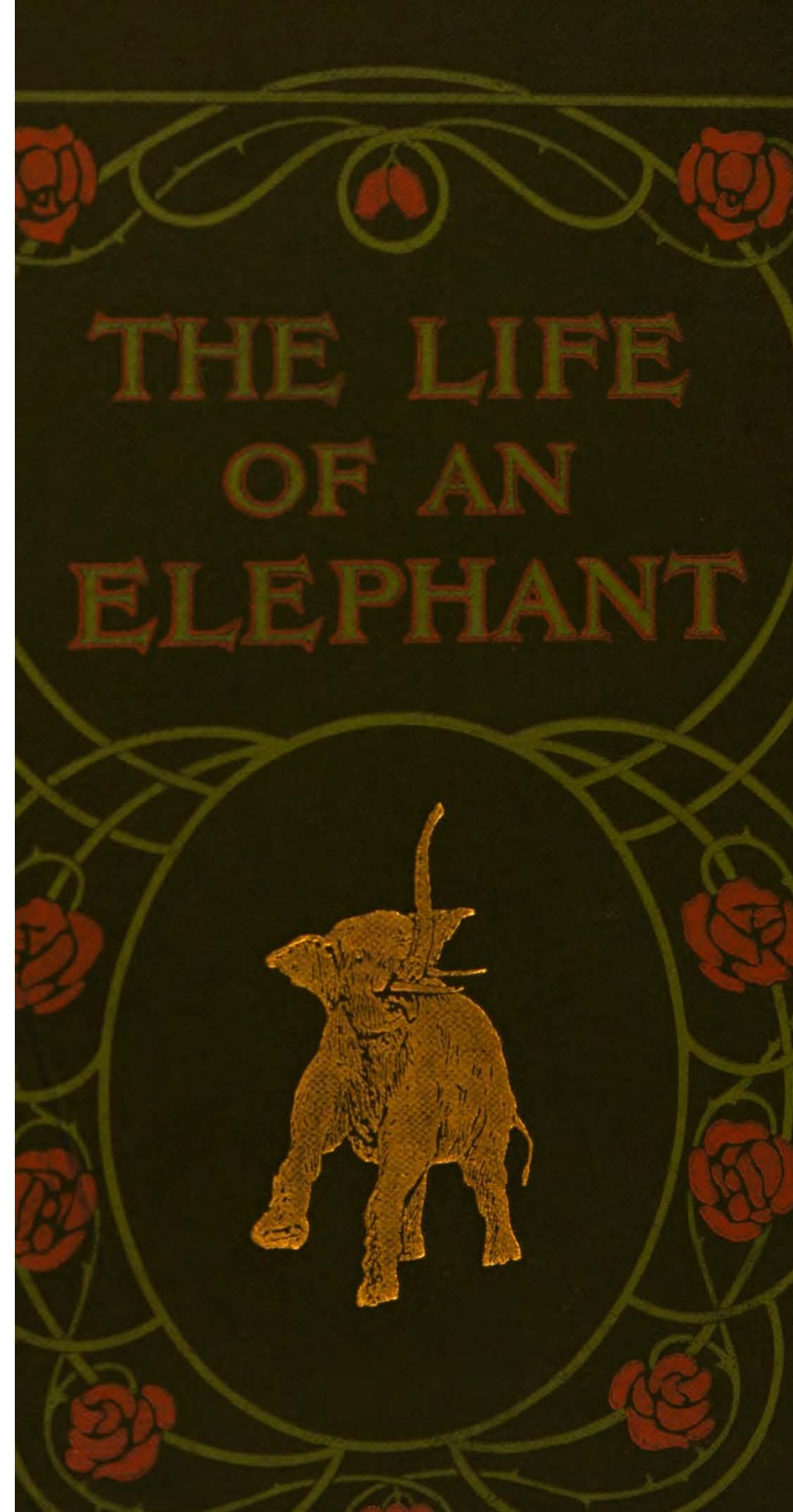# Our Strategic Vision

Committed to the Core

We renew our commitment to the stewardship and preservation of our collection, the foundation of all HathiTrust's work. Explore our strategic vision and learn how it brings our mission, vision, and values forward into our next decade.

Image: Fludd, Robert and Galler, Hieronymus. *Utriusque cosmi maioris scilicet et minoris metaphysica, physica atque technica historia.* Oppenheim, 1617. Contributed by Getty Research Institute.

Meet
HathiTrust

HathiTrust was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries, now preserving 18+ million digitized items in the HathiTrust Digital Library. We offer reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. and international copyright law, support diverse uses of the collection, and provide other emerging services based on the collection.

Image: Lançon, Auguste André. *The life of an elephant.* London : Seeley and Co. Limited, 1909. Contributed by The Ohio State University.

Mission

The mission of HathiTrust is to contribute to research, scholarship, and the common good by collaboratively collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge.

Vision

HathiTrust will be a vital catalyst for emerging forms of research, teaching, and learning that engage the scholarly and cultural record.

Image: Eddy, Arthur Jerome. *Cubists and Post-impressionism*. Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Co., 1914. Contributed by Getty Research Institute.

Values

We continue to look to our values as we promote and maintain access to the portion of the human record that we steward.

Trust is paramount, the basis of the preservation and stewardship mission we undertake on behalf of our community.

Access to knowledge and open inquiry are necessary for just societies and for the creation of new scholarship and research.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion promote justice, create communities that thrive, and advance collective knowledge and understanding.

Resilience, created through interdependent work, provides HathiTrust and the library community as a whole with flexibility and strength to address challenging opportunities in a changing system.
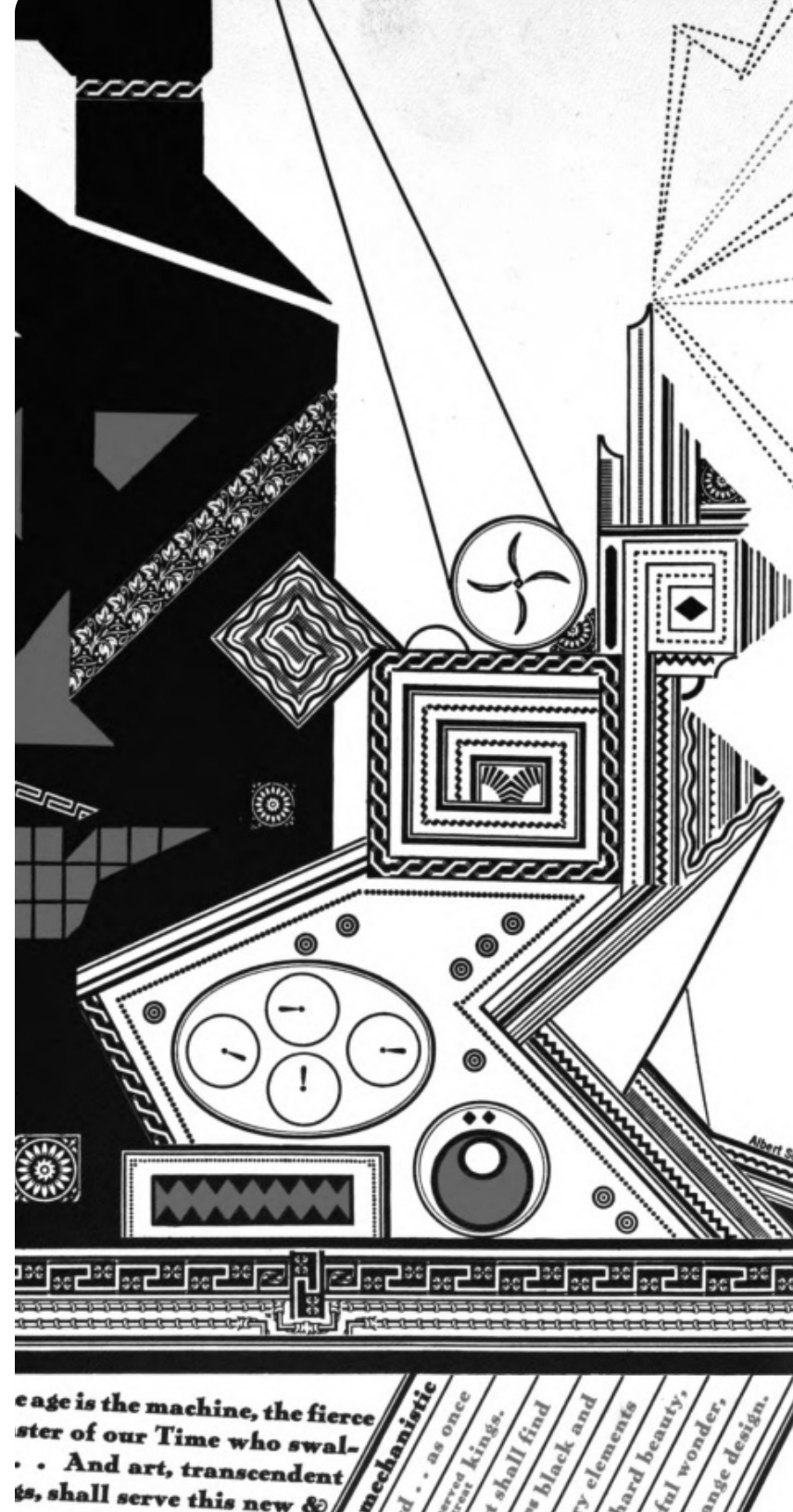
Constructive, meaningful engagement allows HathiTrust to benefit from the collective expertise of our colleagues, member staff, and users of HathiTrust.

Leadership that embodies both conviction and humility allows us to learn from the communities that constitute HathiTrust.

Creating Our Future

HathiTrust spent 2023 examining accomplishments and lessons from our first 15 years of growth, expansion, and experimentation. We reviewed our place in the current research, educational, socio-political, technological, and environmental landscapes to consider how we can respond to the challenges facing us.

As a single organization in a wider community, we know the only way to meet those challenges is by working collaboratively with our members and allied organizations to promote justice, create communities that thrive, and advance collective knowledge and understanding.

Image: *American printer and lithographer,* v.85 1927 Jul–Dec. Bristol, Connecticut. Contributed by the University of Michigan.

Strategic Vision

With this new Strategic Vision, the lens through which HathiTrust will plan and execute its work will be re-focused on the collection. We want to ensure that it is rich, broad, discoverable, and useful. To fulfill our values, ambitions, and ideals most effectively, we must prioritize and focus our efforts and play to our strengths.

Our Strategic Vision looks far ahead, while focusing and organizing work for a 3–5-year horizon. Our Strategic Directions and Objectives will focus HathiTrust's time and its members' resources to fulfill our established Mission, Vision, Goals, and Values, and to support conscious growth and innovation in 2024 and beyond. While described separately, these Directions and Objectives are not listed in priority order, nor are they separable or sequential. They are connected and part of a symbiotic whole.

Our Directions & Objectives

Increase Access and Use

We will expand access to and increase the use of copyrighted, open, and public domain works in the HathiTrust collection.

- Investigate, analyze, and respond to the diversity of our users' needs and practices.
- Expand the modes of lawful access to in-copyright works, in partnership with the wider community.
- Identify more public domain works by further automating and scaling copyright review processes to identify eligible works.
- Integrate lawful and ethical computational methods and tools into service offerings, access, workflows, and system improvements.
- Engage other organizations involved in print preservation so that we contribute to the larger ecosystem based on our greatest, unique strengths.

Expand and Diversify the Collection

We will expand the volume and diversity of book and serial content in the HathiTrust collection.

- Enable members to identify, digitize, preserve, and contribute their unique content to the collection — especially that of underrepresented and historically marginalized perspectives.
- Invite organizations engaged in mass digitization of book and serial content, that are not currently members, to contribute and preserve their collections with HathiTrust.
- Build collaborations that will enable us to develop a collection that works towards a more just society, and towards resilience in response to changing economic, social, and environmental conditions in support of scholarship and our libraries.
- Develop mutually beneficial relationships with scholarly publishers to enable increased discovery, access, and use of their open and in-copyright content.

Our Directions & Objectives

HathiTrust

Enrich Texts and Metadata

We will enable new forms of discovery, access, and use of the HathiTrust collection through large-scale enhancement of texts and metadata.

- Actively manage and share bibliographic metadata entrusted to our care.
- Prioritize investments in enriching text and metadata to make the collection more discoverable, findable, and usable.
- Apply existing and emerging computational tools and methods in service of text and metadata improvement.

Invest In Core, Enabling Infrastructure

We will reinforce our technological and operational foundations to preserve and steward the HathiTrust collection responsibly, sustainably, and effectively.

- Ensure resilience and sustainability of our preservation infrastructure by addressing technical debt in legacy systems.
- Improve the search and discovery of all collections, in multiple languages.
- Streamline the collections' ingest deposit process.
- Develop robust collection analysis tools and usage statistics for both operational uses and for members' uses.
- Increase capacity to assess and integrate computational methods into our work and offerings.

What is your vision for the future?

We would love to hear your perspective.

Connect with our team →

Start exploring the HathiTrust Collection →

HathiTrust Strategic Vision →