Image Services for Digital Archives
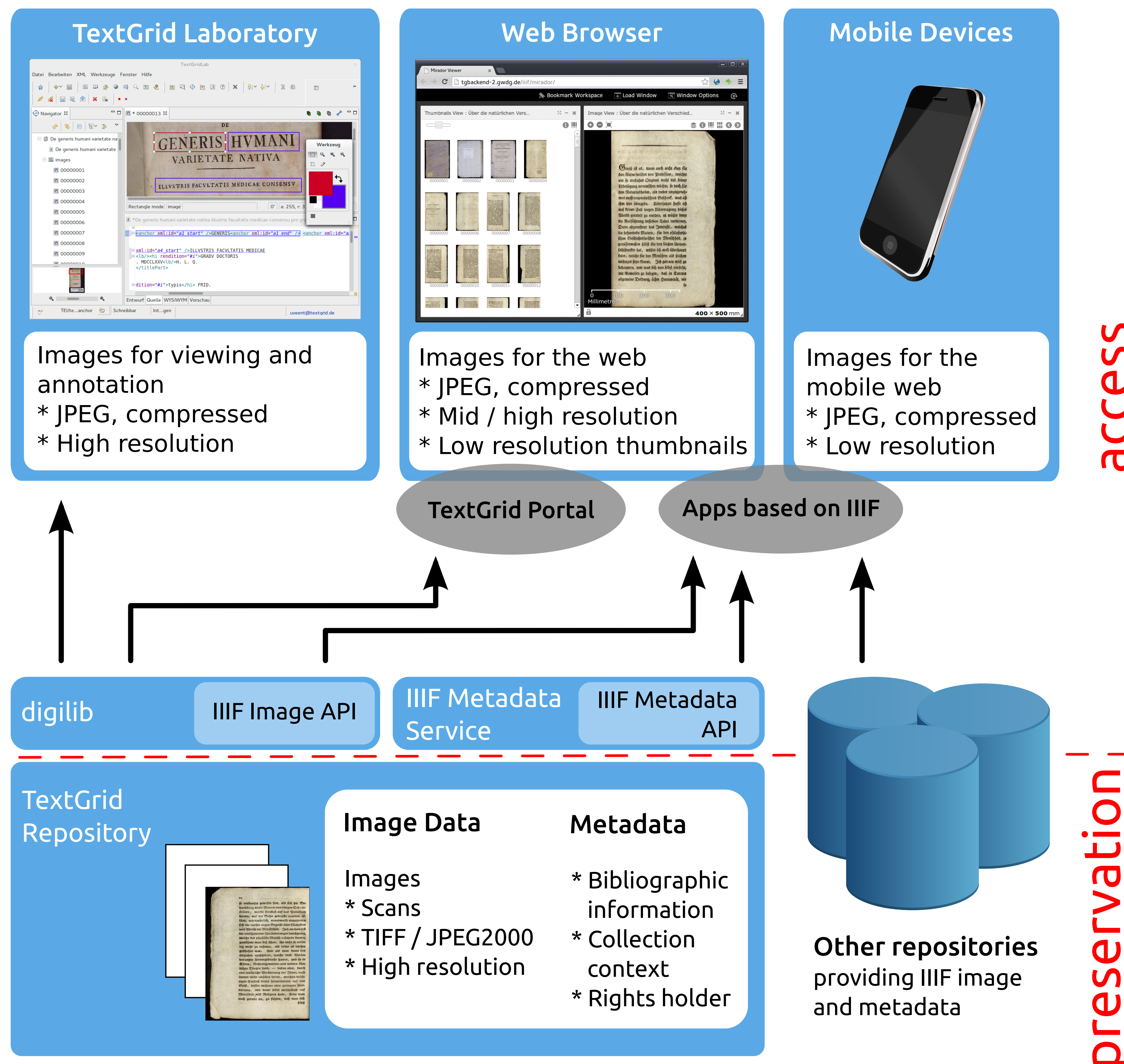
TextGrid — Virtual Research Environment for the Humanities

Image Files: Access vs. Preservation

Digital archives have two main duties:
* Providing **long-term storage** and **sustainability**
* Maintaining **immediate access**

When preserving images, the largest possible versions are stored, such as TIFF or JPEG2000 files. However, these are not the best formats for access. Since web browsers cannot view or work with them easily, there is a gap between **sustainability** and **accessibility**.

Viewing large archived image files requires an image service. Low-resolution versions--which can be used with browsers and mobile devices but not for archival purposes--are therefore necessary. The solution to this challenge of providing both preservation and access to digital images is an **image server** that takes the original image files and generates images in different resolutions and formats, like JPEG or PNG, spontaneously and on demand.

TextGrid Laboratory

Images for viewing and annotation
* JPEG, compressed
* High resolution

Web Browser

Images for the web
* JPEG, compressed
* Mid / high resolution
* Low resolution thumbnails

Mobile Devices

Images for the mobile web
* JPEG, compressed
* Low resolution

TextGrid Portal

Apps based on IIIF

access

digilib — **IIIF Image API**

IIIF Metadata Service — **IIIF Metadata API**

TextGrid Repository

Image Data

Images
* Scans
* TIFF / JPEG2000
* High resolution

Metadata

* Bibliographic information
* Collection context
* Rights holder

Other repositories providing IIIF image and metadata

preservation

TextGrid & IIIF

TextGrid offers a Virtual Research Environment (Laboratory) and a Repository for humanities research data.

To both work with and preserve image files, it offers the **digilib** image service.

For interoperability between different repositories the **IIIF image** and **metadata API** was implemented on top of the repository. This allows users to work with distributed images and metadata in a combined working environment.

One example of this type of interoperable software is the web based **Mirador** viewer.

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http://textgrid.de/en
http://digilib.berlios.de
http://iiif.io/mirador
http://iiif.io