

DIGITISATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES: EUROPEAN ACTIONS AND THE CONTEXT OF IMPACT

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Overview of presentation

- Digitisation in the context of European policies and strategies: i2010 Digital libraries initiative – state of play to date
- The challenges and main issues
- Our strategies for dealing with them – strategically and operationally
- Research, competence centres and IMPACT

Background: i2010 a reminder

- 2006: Commission Recommendation Digital Libraries: digitisation, accessibility and preservation of cultural and scientific information + Council Conclusions
- Quality access to content for all
- Common multilingual access point
- Work needed on 3 interlinked axes:
 - Digitisation
 - Online accessibility
 - Digital preservation
- Made visible and operationalised through Europeana

Council Conclusions – more specifically

- Council invited Member States:
 - To reinforce national strategies and targets and co-ordination within and between Member States
 - To contribute to the European digital library
 - To contribute to an overview of progress at European level
 - To improve framework conditions
- Council invited the Commission:
 - To stimulate & coordinate work towards Europeana
 - To improve policy coordination
 - To address framework conditions
 - To set up and chair a Member States Experts group and steer process of implementing the actions
 - To report on implementation progress, first time in 2008
- Clear framework for actions with concrete timeframes
 - who should do what by when

the main challenges: legal - financial - technical

Copyrights

- Problem - 20th century black hole
- Addressed on strategic and operational level
- Orphan works
 - Different categories -> different problems -> different solutions
 - Scalability of search guidelines
 - Practical mechanisms for clearing rights, registries
 - Big test: legal recognition between MS of orphan work status
- Out of print works
 - Model licence
- Strategic recommendations agreed between stakeholders
- Practical operational test beds that create body of evidence as to what works, if regulatory intervention is needed

the main challenges: legal - financial - technical

Digitisation costs

- Coordinated approaches to avoid redundancy – selection, prioritisation
- Identification of what has been digitised
- Incentives for public private partnerships
 - Sponsorship, co-funding, technical support
 - Need for body of experience on benefits and risks
 - Guidelines from sub group of High Level Group

Improving technologies for digitisation

- Reduce costs for mass digitisation, for specific materials
- Competence centres – leverage, research improved solutions, export competence, skills and services to smaller organisations

measuring investments and progress

- Input and output of digitisation – quantitative measures reported back to the political process
- Member States – collect information on current and planned digitisation efforts
- Progress reported in 2008
 - Most Member States can provide overviews
 - But lack of quantitative data and its use in priority setting
 - Associated financial planning and targets also missing
 - Increase in funding in some countries
 - National centres for digitisation

measuring investments and progress

- Commission study – statistical methodologies and indicators
 - Absolute and relative digitisation costs
 - Baseline statistical overview of digitisation volumes
 - Ways to measure digitisation progress
- Trial methodology and data collection exercise implemented across all Member States over last 9 months
- May 2009 – meeting with Member States to review the methodology and validate next actions

Competence centres

The Recommendation asked Member States to:

- set-up and sustain large scale digitisation facilities, as part of, or in close collaboration with, competence centres for digitisation in Europe
- Included in the ICT research Workprogramme 2007-2008

goals of Competence Centre networks

- Create shared activities that
 - Support **equal access to excellence from anywhere** – but not duplicating excellence unnecessarily (support for 'best of breed')
 - Improve **digitisation capacity** – quality, coherence, efficiency, widespread accessibility
 - Provide **services** directly and/or brokerage access to services – of guaranteed quality
- Competence building across institutions
 - Training and spreading knowledge, competences and skills to all types of institution
- Leveraging effect
 - Linking EU added value and national initiatives
 - Critical mass
 - Structuring effect – starting from nucleus, move towards long term sustainability

Competence Centre networks

- Large Integrated Projects combining research into improving technologies for digitisation with outreach activities, training and developing models for sustainability
- 3 types of content and institutional context
 - Audiovisual archives – taking forward the work of PRESTOSPACE in the new project PRESTOPRIME
 - Museum objects and archaeological artefacts: improved and affordable technologies for 3d digitisation 3d-COFORM
 - Printed text – IMPACT (noted in the Commission Communication of 2008 reporting progress)

Total EU Funding: €37 Million

conclusions

- Digitisation research is one of an integrated set of activities for implementing the i2010 digital libraries initiative
- Impact of the strategic actions is made visible through Europeana
 - Commitment to contributing digitised content and to making it accessible
 - Digitisation today must adopt practices that will support future usability and accessibility of digitised content
 - New services and new business models

Looking forward to a very successful
and interesting conference

and

Thank you for your attention!

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IMPACT Conference 2009

