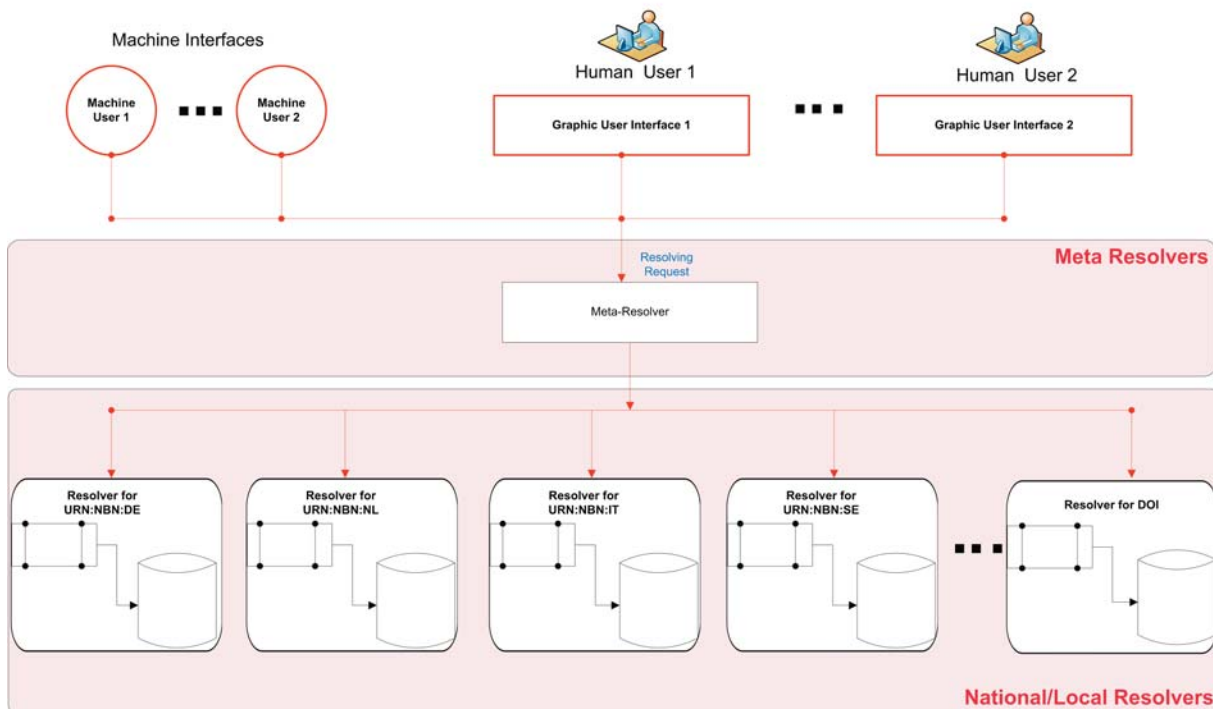


ERDS

Europeana Resolution Discovery Service for Persistent Identifiers

Persistent access to digital publications and other electronic resources over time is an increasingly important aspect of the scientific and cultural heritage communities. "Persistent access" to scholarly and cultural information requires an unambiguous identification of information objects through a persistent identifier.

Basic functionality principle of the ERDS



Currently, URLs are used both as an address and as an identifier for referencing the digital objects. If the URL is changed, however, it will no longer be possible to locate the referenced digital object. Hence, the tasks of identifying and accessing the digital objects must be distinguished from each other. In order to achieve this, an identifier is required that is not permanently bound to a particular address, but which can be resolved at any time to the valid address of the digital object. This problem is solved by using Persistent Identifiers.

The metaresolver serves a two-fold purpose. The primary purpose is to serve as a single-point-of-entry for the resolution of persistent identifiers, regardless of which institution is responsible for the local service. Further, we plan to use the service as a showcase for content providers, showing them that there is a clear benefit for them to provide PIs in the metadata they add to Europeana, particularly since PIs are of great value for removing duplicates when the same resource is added to the portal through several aggregators: If the PI is the same, it's the same resource.