M6.5.3 – Workshop – Preservation vs. Dissemination

This Milestone addresses the various and sometimes incompatible intentions behind the preservation strategies of various institutions and other content holders, and attempts to find a common position in support of continued digitisation, aggregation and dissemination.

Distribution

Version	Date of sending	Name	Role in project
0.1	07.12.2010	VPZ	PM
1.0	07.12.2010	Liferay	

Approval

Version	Date of approval	Name	Role in project
		No approval necessary	

Revisions

Version	Status	Author	Date	Changes
0.1	Draft	Ewa Dahlig-Turek/Martin Gordon	06.12.2010	Initial version
1.0	Final	VPZ	07.12.2010	Some layout changes

Table of Contents

1 Overview

This workshop took place in Warsaw at ISPAN (Instytut Sztuki Polskiej Akademii Nauk, ul. Długa 28, 00-950 Warszawa) on November 26th 2010. The workshop was formulated as a panel discussion on the topic of 'Preservation vs. Dissemination', in order to compare and discuss policies defined by the various missions, function and goal of participating and interested institutions.

The intentions behind the ongoing digitisation activities among the institutions represented at the workshop (including scientific archives, broadcasters, libraries, museums) are noticeably different. According to statutory documents of these institutions, some have been established to serve the broad public (in other words, to disseminate), while others' function is to save precious collections (to preserve). Depending on the nature of the institution, one or the other aim prevails.

Since online dissemination is a relatively new phenomenon, it was not included in the statutory activities of most institutions, and therefore it brings a new set of problems. At the same time, European integration and globalisation rely very much on common initiatives in building information societies with free access to cultural contents. Today's meeting see representatives of various content-owing institutions discussing the issue from their various perspectives.

The workshop was preceded by a WP6 partners meeting, and was followed by the official inauguration of CADIS (Centre for Archivisation and Digitisation of Image and Sound) in ISPAN, including a presentation of the EuropeanaConnect Audio Aggregation Platform.

The venue for all events was ISPAN.

2 Workshop – Preservation vs. Dissemination

- **10.00 Workshop "Preservation vs. Dissemination"**

Attendees:

- Participants:
- Martin Gordon and Johannes Theurer (RBB);
- Peter Vendramin (ZRC);
- Auste Nakiene (LLTI);
- Gitta Demeter, Pal Richter (ZTI),
- Ewa Dahlig-Turek, Jacek Jackowski, Urszula Grzesinska, Jan Przypkowski, Maria Szymanska (ISPAN);
- Gerda Lechleitner (Phonogrammarchiv Vienna);
- Agata Pietrzak, National Library, Warsaw, Dept. of Iconography
- Katarzyna Janczewska-Sołomko, National Library, Warsaw, Dept. of Sound Documents
- Wojciech Barcikowski, Archive of the Polish Radio
- Andrzej Klubiński, Archive of the Polish Academy of Sciences
- Maria Wojciechowicz, Polskie Nagrania (record company)
- Barbara Bednarska, Frederic Chopin University, Phono Archive

Agenda:

The questions to reflect upon and discuss are:

- what do we find in the statutes of our institutions as concerns preservation/dissemination? [Mission statement]

- what are our official obligations toward society? [What we **have** to do]

- how is the "mission" fulfilled? [What we **really do**: digitisation, cataloguing, rules for dissemination]

- how does our everyday practice reflect the mission? [Is the mission fully realised, or we go **beyond** it?]

- do the common European initiatives follow or contradict our missions?

- what are the main obstacles in dissemination? [IPR ? Technical problems? Authorities' attitude toward dissemination?]

- what are our ideas to solve the most problematic issues? [Official regulations and unofficial tricky ways]

Language:

The language of the discussion was English. Two Polish colleagues spoke French and German, and ED-T translated if needed.

Minutes of the Workshop

Ewa Dahlig-Turek opened the meeting with introductory remarks to give the framework for the discussion. Invited participants of the workshop represented different types of public and commercial institutions, with different goals and functions, and with different obligations toward the society (like National Library, research institutes of Academies of Sciences, broadcasters, record label, music university, documents' archive), and also of different type of collections (mostly recordings, but also photographs, iconographic sources, documents).

In these institutions, relations between preservation and dissemination differ very much, for some institutions preservation being the ultimate goal (archives), while for the others dissemination being prevalent. Since projects like Europeana are aimed at aggregating data, it seemed justified and reasonable to discuss how representatives of these various types of institutions identify difficulties in dissemination of the there stored material.

Participants were asked to introduce the preservation/dissemination policy of their institutions according to the following points:

1. Mission statement of the institution – what does it say (if anything) about preservation/dissemination?

2. What are the "internal missions" for individual departments within the institution? Are they obliged to disseminate the collected material or only to preserve it?

3. What are the official rules of access to the collection?

4. What is the unofficial practice, despite the official rules?

5. Is the institution's mission in concordance with or opposed to the EU policy (and national policies) toward building information society?

6. How does the institution fulfil its tasks mentioned under 2. and 5. in the light of the everyday routines and practices (no. 4)?

Following this introduction, Ewa Dahlig-Turek presented ISPAN's policy which officially (ISPAN statute) does not predict dissemination of collection, only of research as such. ISPAN has been facing many problems with frequent demands of access to the collection, while the staff is limited to 2 persons only. In the light of official documents, giving access to the resources is not obligatory. She then introduced in detail who are the users of the ISPAN sound archive, and how the access to the archive is given to different group of users.

Gerda Lechleitner rightly noted that access and dissemination are two different notions and institutions' policies may be different in both these perspectives. She introduced the Phonogrammarchive Vienna policy toward dissemination, which is written in the statutory documents of the archive as the obligation. Similar situation has been encountered in the case of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Pal Richter) and Lithuanian Folklore Archive (Auste Nakiene). In SAZU (Slovenian Academy of Sciences, Peter Vendramin), the main mission is to preserve collection, like in ISPAN.

In RBB (Johannes Theurer, Martin Gordon) basically no access to the collection is given, nor is dissemination is conducted. Only the metadata are available online.

In the Polish Radio (Wojciech Barcikowski), access to the collection is possible for journalists, or for educational purposes (access limited to 2-3 weeks).

At the Frederic Chopin University, the "phonotheque" is to serve students and staff with giving access to the recorded music works. This type of activity is rather typical for music schools all over Europe. Additionally, stored are internal recordings made at concerts and rehearsals of students performances. The University plans to open a possibility of broad access to the resources, maybe against payment.

The "Polskie Nagrania" (*Polish Recordings*) is a commercial publisher of music recordings, with a long and rich legacy of resources still from the old regime times. The recordings are now being digitized and short samples (30 sec) are made available for free. This opens a floor for negotiations with EuropeanaConnect to aggregate the samples for the portal.

Andrzej Klubinski (Archive of the Polish Academy of Sciences) gave a short survey of legal regulation in Poland toward citizen/archive relations as regards access to the resources. As he explained, citizens have a right to free access the information about any state collection of historical value, but not to the collection itself, therefore institutions are free to decide about accessibility of their resources.

The second part of the workshop developed into a discussion on consequences of the different dissemination policies for the possible cooperation on the European level.

Problems (i.e. potential barriers to inclusion and participation) identified:

1. How to determine 'value' of objects, in terms of criteria for inclusion in aggregation?

Proposed solution: Clear descriptions of criteria. Digitised version often has increased 'value' (i.e. photos).

2. Individual positions – certain individuals cannot be persuaded of need to participate.

Proposed solution: Wait for 'regime change' and then re-contact.

3. Technical problems

Proposed solution: Offer support, advice and documentation.

4. Financial/organisational

Proposed solution: Support and info – payment by users to organisations can be for services but not for access. Digitisation on demand service.

5. Ethical and legal issues – performer-collector-archive.

Proposed solution: Advice, guidelines, support material (Guide to IPR).