



EuropeanaConnect Fact Sheet

www.europeanaconnect.eu

EuropeanaConnect is the main technology provider of Europeana, the European digital portal providing user-friendly access to Europe's cultural heritage.

Key data

- **Co-ordination:** Austrian National Library
- **Project partners:** 30 institutions from 14 countries
- **Duration:** May 2009 – October 2011 (30 months)

EuropeanaConnect is a Best Practice Network co-funded by the European Commission within the *eContentplus* Programme. The project will deliver essential components enabling Europeana to become a truly interoperable, multilingual and user-friendly service. Users will be able to access millions of images, books, maps, video, historic writings and audio files representing Europe's cultural diversity.

Objectives and results at the project's midterm EuropeanaConnect will:

- **Provide multilingual searching and browsing**
including translation tools and other language resources to enable multilingual searching of objects and data in Europeana
→ User preferences have been surveyed and information retrieval scenarios for multilingual access in Europeana have been drafted. Specifications for the Europeana language resources repository have been elaborated. A Semantic Searching Prototype is already available in the *Thought Lab* section of Europeana.
- **Semantically enrich digital content in Europeana**
creating new connections between objects. Semantic enrichment will make Europeana content more accessible, reusable and exploitable.
→ A substantial contribution has been made to the Europeana Data Model (EDM). There was a successful migration of selected vocabularies to SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organisation System).
- **Develop a spatio-temporal interface**
allowing users to indicate time as well as geographical information to search or browse the vast Europeana database.



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→ A prototype of a spatio-temporal interface has been developed to enable users to search in Europeana by time and location.

– **Build a Europeana interface for mobile devices**

allowing browsing of Europeana on mobile devices independent of location.

→ A mobile interface for smart phones has been implemented: users can now access Europeana via mobile phones.

– **Study the behaviour of users of digital libraries**

to understand what users really want from Europeana. Logging tools and methodologies developed by the project will identify additional services required by users.

→ Work has begun to provide a methodology to help understand what users do when they visit Europeana in order to improve their experience

– **Integrate multimedia annotation, eBooks-on-demand and GIS information**

allowing tagging of digital books, images and other content. To further enhance Europeana, EuropeanaConnect will integrate geographical information services and will enable the ordering of eBooks-on-demand.

→ Prototypes of a Geoparser, a Gazetteer and a multimedia annotation service have been developed and are available in the *Thought lab* section on the Europeana portal.

– **Build and validate a set of Europeana rights licenses**

assisting in the selection of the correct licenses for digital content provided to Europeana. EuropeanaConnect will draft an initial Europeana licensing framework.

→ Work in this key area has resulted in the publication of the **Europeana Public Domain Charter** in six languages. It highlights the value of public domain content and emphasises the fact that digitisation of public domain content does not create new rights. A **Public Domain Helper Tool** was developed which defines decision trees to clarify if a work is in the public domain.

– **Create an audio-aggregation infrastructure and add music**

harvesting audio from hundreds of audio archives and aggregating 200.000 music files for Europeana. EuropeanaConnect also provides the infrastructure for harvesting, analysis and storage of audio metadata prior to integration into Europeana.

→ Over 110,000 music audio and related items have been prepared and delivered to Europeana, drawn from 165 audio collections from 69 archives all over Europe.

– **Deploy key infrastructure components for Europeana**

including an OAI (Open Archive Initiative) Management Infrastructure to handle large-scale metadata harvesting, a Metadata Registry to ensure interoperability, a Service Registry to enable integration of external added-value services and a Resolution Discovery Service to allow unique resource identification.

→ The EuropeanaConnect Service Integration Platform which is a framework to apply external services to objects in Europeana was developed in year one. The OAI-PMH management infrastructure will be finalised by the end of 2010 as well as the Metadata Registry.



Europeana

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 Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

Project partners

- Austrian National Library, AT – CO-ORDINATOR
- AIT Applied Information Technology Ltd., AT
- Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, AT
- Amsterdam University Press, NL
- CELI S.R.L., IT
- EREMO S.R.L., IT
- Europeana Foundation, NL
- German National Library, DE
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Goettingen State and University Library, DE
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, DE
- Institute for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, HU
- Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, LT
- Instituto Superior Técnico, PT
- KB, National Library of the Netherlands, NL
- Knowledgeland, NL
- National Library of Luxembourg, LU
- National Library of Portugal, PT
- National Technical University of Athens, GR
- OFFIS Institute for Information Technology, DE
- Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, DE
- Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, SI
- The Royal Library, The National Library of Denmark and Copenhagen University Library, DK
- UCL Consultants Ltd, UK
- University of Amsterdam – Institute for Information Law, NL
- University of Innsbruck – University and Regional Library of Tyrol, AT
- University of Padua – Department of Information Engineering, IT
- University of Vienna, AT
- VU University Amsterdam, NL
- XEROX SAS, FR

Contact and further information

Max Kaiser – Project Coordinator
Austrian National Library
Josefsplatz 1, A-1015 Vienna
Tel: + 43 1 53410-370, Fax: + 43 1 53410-681
Email: EuropeanaConnect@onb.ac.at
<http://www.onb.ac.at>
<http://www.europeanaconnect.eu>



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