ISRAEL AND EUROPEANA
An overview
20 January 2020
Table of contents

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Intro 3
Presidency of the Council of the European Union 4
Funding and projects 5
Professional participation - Europeana Network Association 5
Israel’s culture showcased in Europeana Collections 5
Israel in Europeana Collections 6
End notes 7
The Europeana Initiative drives digital transformation and is responsible for Europeana Collections - Europe’s platform for digital cultural heritage. It is financed by the European Union’s Connecting Europe Facility and European Union Member States.

Israel and its cultural heritage institutions are indispensable partners, supporting the Europeana Initiative and Europeana Foundation financially, and contributing to the diversity of content available through Europeana Collections. With content from every EU country (and beyond), an interface available in every EU language, and an award-winning series of APIs that give access to its content, Europeana Collections is the only place that offers up Europe’s treasure trove of cultural heritage to the world. By encouraging open licensing, the Europeana Initiative makes more culture available to more people, so it can be used in education, research and the creative industries.

Europeana Collections, Europeana, 2018, Public Domain
Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Benefits, challenges and solutions for multilingual digital cultural heritage: a report from the Finnish Presidency Europeana meeting October 2019

During the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Europeana and the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture jointly held a meeting - on 24-25 October 2019 in Espoo, Finland - with high-level policymakers and experts in multilingualism to discuss the challenges and opportunities of multilingualism in digital cultural heritage.

At the meeting, delegates from the DCHE Expert Group, Ministries of Culture across Europe, and multilingualism experts were invited to share their perspectives and experiences with each other through a series of speeches, presentations, case studies, panel discussions and workshops. The aim was to:

• stimulate reflection on multilingualism in digital cultural heritage at large using Europeana as a case study;
• develop a deeper understanding of the multilingualism problem/opportunity space for digital cultural heritage;
• consider what options can be pursued to provoke action at the local level, furthering the multilingual capabilities;
• provide input and feedback for the Europeana multilingual strategy.

The meeting focussed on multilingual metadata, content translation and user interactions. The principal opportunities and challenges for various players were identified. Benefits of multilingualism were discussed. And together, delegates developed a broad set of solutions and changes needed to address the identified challenges and advance multilingualism summarised in ‘next steps for multilingualism in digital cultural heritage’.

A report summarising the key outcomes of the meeting will be published in February 2020. Europeana is developing a recommended multilingual strategy and roadmap paper that builds on the output from the meeting in Finland. The Europeana multilingual strategy is scheduled for publication in spring 2020.
Funding and projects

Since 2008 when Europeana initiative started, Israel has not contributed to Europeana.

To date, €14,016 from the budget provided by the EU to fund Europeana Initiative projects has contributed to activities in Israel.

Europeana Initiative projects with partial EU funding in Israel since 2008 are listed below. 1 partner from Israel is currently contributing to ongoing projects, which directly support content, knowledge and technology sharing between libraries, museums, archives, software agencies, university research departments and the Europeana Initiative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNER</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>FUNDING (Euro)</th>
<th>ONGOING/COMPLETED PROJECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bar Ilan University</td>
<td>Time Machine</td>
<td>14,016</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional participation - Europeana Network Association

The Europeana Network Association is a strong and democratic community of experts working in the field of digital heritage, united by a shared mission to expand and improve access to Europe’s digital cultural heritage.

Currently, 13 people from Israel are a Europeana Network Association member, and as such are involved in a range of activities, sharing best practices, learning and collaborating within the cultural heritage sector.

The Europeana Network Association elects a Members Council which plays a crucial role across all the Europeana Initiative’s activities. The Members Council is made up of 35 people, including Susan Hazan from The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.
Israel’s culture showcased in Europeana Collections

Europeana Collections features over 58 million objects of which 20,818 are provided by Israeli institutions.

Aggregation

All objects aggregated by Israel can be found here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA PARTNERS</th>
<th>OBJECTS ON EUROPEANA COLLECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Israel</td>
<td>11,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Israel Museum, Jerusalem</td>
<td>8,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultural heritage institutions

3 cultural heritage institutions in Israel contribute collections to Europeana. The largest partners are listed in the following table.

Openly licensed data

Openly licensed material can be promoted widely, reaching millions more people, and can be used in innovative products, apps and services that bring culture to the classroom, the newsroom, the science lab and the kickstarters.

7.6% of the 20,818 objects in Europeana provided by Israel are openly licensed. All of these objects are shown with the internationally accredited Public Domain mark.

Israel in Europeana Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to Europeana Collections from Israel</td>
<td>9,119</td>
<td>6,676</td>
<td>8,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total views of objects from Israel worldwide</td>
<td>8,162</td>
<td>7,151</td>
<td>8,429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
43% of visits from Israel browsed Europeana Collections in Hebrew, 45% in English and 12% used other languages.

Objects on thematic Collections:
Migration: 1,118
Art: 2,916
Natural History: 63

Organic search provides an important traffic source for Europeana Collections, particularly to item pages. The amount of organic search traffic we receive depends largely on the amount of pages indexed by Google. Through 2018, we experienced a drop in the number of indexed pages which contributed to a decrease in overall traffic.

Specific countries may also have been affected by the depublication of datasets that don't meet the minimum requirements.

We made efforts to mitigate the issue by working on the sitemap, introducing more context to the data and making improvements in the curated content. We'll continue this work in 2019 and implement a new editorial strategy which will bring more traffic and visibility to high-quality content.

The engagement and impressions on social media, and the downloads and impressions on third-party platforms perform beyond expectations which proves the power of curation and the potential of high-quality material.

End notes

1 https://pro.europeana.eu/post/next-steps-for-multilingualism-in-digital-cultural-heritage

2 http://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/search?q=%3A*&f[COUNTRY][]=israel

3 Open data and content can be freely used, modified, and shared by anyone for any purpose - http://opendefinition.org/

4 This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. - https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/

5 Due to a technical error in our systems we are unfortunately unable to provide data for the period of October 2018 to December 2018. The issue has been resolved, and we will report accurate data from January 2019 onwards