

Europeana Libraries Annual Report 2011

www.europeana-libraries.eu



Europeana Libraries is a 2 year project which is working to make **5 million** digital objects from **19 leading European research libraries** freely accessible on [The European Library](#) and [Europeana](#) websites. The main goals of the project are to achieve the following:

- **5 Million Objects:** digitised books, films and images from national and research library collections will be made freely available online. Items range from Oriental manuscripts to Spanish civil war photographs and include historic medical films and thousands of theses, journals and academic articles.
- **Full-text Indexing:** The project will make it possible for users to search within digitised text, thus creating the potential for in-depth academic study of all texts brought together by Europeana Libraries.
- **Representation:** The project will provide research libraries with a platform to promote their collections to the widest possible audience.
- **Aggregation:** The project will create a single channel for contributing library content to Europeana and The European Library. The model will be efficient, cost effective and capable of being extended to research libraries across Europe.
- **High Quality Metadata:** The quality and structure of library metadata will be improved and new features added. This will make online searching more accurate and user friendly.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Building the network

The project started with a kick-off meeting in The Hague on 26/27 January 2011, attended by all the partners and captured in this [video](#). Since then there have been two workshops for partners and meetings alongside the LIBER conference in June and in Belgrade in November. There has been a regular stream of communication through the project communications system (basecamp) and news items and updates via the blog, newsletter and project website <http://www.europeana-libraries.eu/>.

Content and infrastructure

One part of the project focuses on aggregating data and another on developing the infrastructure required to support this. Already the first sets of data from the *Europeana Libraries* project are live in both The European Library and Europeana services. The work commenced with a survey of data contributors and based on the results from this a content ingestion schedule was created.

At the end of the first year of the project 542,994 objects have been aggregated to Europeana, thus exceeding the target set for Year 1 of the project. Of these: some 86,000 are from the Bavarian State Library's collection of Google digitized material; 36,000 are from the Luna Collections of Oxford University's *Bodleian Library*, 17,000 from the University of Tartu; 120,000 from the Wellcome Library's historical film and image collections; 144,000 (journals, books and theses) are from the Universidad Computense in Madrid 121,000 from the University of Uppsala and 19,000 from Universitat Bern. An



explanatory “Handbook for Aggregators” has also been produced to support new content providers from the target community wishing to have their data included.

The aggregation infrastructure has been extended and enhanced. The technical requirements were defined and set out in the “*Requirements infrastructure and harvester*” document. The new infrastructure is designed to allow the *Europeana Libraries* project to build a system capable of supporting the harvesting of digital content from individual libraries, and flexible enough to be transformed according to the needs of each library. The existing business processes of The European Library were realigned to bring the aggregation processes into line with those of Europeana and a new version of REPOX, the data aggregation and interoperability manager, was developed and released. In addition the capabilities of the Unified Ingestion Manager (UIM) were extended to allow it to act as the central system for aggregation and process moderation and the existing Content Relationship Management System (SugarCRM) was enhanced and customised so as to better control customer processes and oversee aggregation activities.

Aggregation and business modeling

The project is working to develop a sustainable framework for aggregating national and research libraries’ content into Europeana and a sustainable business model. As a first step partners investigated the existing pattern of aggregators of library metadata in Europe and identified an astonishing 140 aggregators operating in 28 countries. Detailed information was collected about each aggregator. The second stage of the research was to interview stakeholders to ascertain their views on: current library domain aggregation, the added value aggregators can provide and possible methods of financing the expanded aggregator. Their views formed the basis of a scenario report which will support the development of the new business plan, due at the end of the project.

During the second half of the year the Europeana Libraries business model was completed. It was developed in close collaboration with the Boards and member libraries of *CENL*, *CERL* and *LIBER* and a number of workshops were held to identify the services of most value to libraries and researchers. The model will be used as a foundation for the new business plan. It outlines the two main elements necessary to sustain a portal for researchers, namely that it should be:

- built around aggregated metadata and full text from national and research libraries; and
- Funded mainly by partnership fees for a basic service, which may be supplemented by chargeable services.

Examples are included of how value can be created for researchers, partner libraries, policymakers and sponsors. A vision statement also explains what the new *European Library* service will offer to researchers and partner libraries:

“The new European Library’s website gives access to integrated cultural heritage and research resources from all over Europe and offers services for researchers in the humanities, social sciences and cultural heritage by which they will be able to discover new resources and links between their research and others’, and make new research relationships. Semantic web and multi-lingual facilities will enable new discoveries and insights. The European Library offers national and research libraries a platform to showcase their resources to a wide audience, draw new customers to their repositories, cost-effective aggregation, and collaborative participation in new development and funding opportunities”

Enhancing searchability

Another part of the project is exploring how to enhance the searchability of the content by adopting the new Europeana Data Model. This was one of the main topics of discussion



during the joint project meeting between members of *The European Library* and the *Europeana Libraries* project held in May at the *Koninklijke Bibliotheek*. A metadata working group, comprising representatives from the research library partners in Europeana Libraries and the former members of The European Library Metadata Working Group for the National Libraries, was formed to carry out the work. This group brings together experts from the library domain with extensive experience of dealing with metadata formats and issues raised by the aggregation of data and the results of their work to date can be seen in the “Report on the alignment of library metadata with the Europeana Data Model “(EDM).

This report begins by positioning this work within the current library metadata context, in particular in relation to the recent developments related to Resource Description and Access (RDA), The Library of Congress’s Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative and the work of the W3C Library Linked Data Incubator Group on the global interoperability of library data on the Web. Originally focusing on mapping from the key metadata formats to EDM, it was decided to change approach and instead to define a model showing how library *materials* could be represented in EDM.

The report covers monographs, multi-volume works and serials and also distinguishes between born digital and digitised objects. The need to address other library materials such as still images, video, manuscripts/incunabula, theses, maps, scores, and plates is noted. The report describes the EDM classes and the related properties for each class for each of the key library materials selected. Optimal properties, for the ideal implementation solution, as well as those available for Europeana’s first implementation of EDM are described. In addition, specific case studies for rare books, event-based description of textual resources and the clustering of similar textual resources are also considered. The report represents an important milestone in an ongoing process to define how EDM can be used with library resources.

Dissemination, communication and promotion

During the year members of the communications group have laid out a brand strategy for the new service, as well as communications plans that target stakeholders and end users. It’s also been a busy year for all members of *Europeana Libraries*, who have been spreading the word about the project to libraries and researchers across Europe. At the latest count the project was presented or mentioned in over 100 places during 2011. This broad publicity has helped the project to establish a strong presence among stakeholders and end users, as we head into 2012.

One of the biggest events was at *LIBER*’s annual conference in June, when the project was presented to over 50 members of the library community and mentioned by Neelie Kroes, European Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda, in her speech to all attendees. Kroes also had a chance to see the work of the project in person in March when she stopped to see the *Library of the Hungarian Parliament*, a *Europeana Libraries*’ partner, as part of a wider visit to the building.

During the first six months the project has established an attractive and informative public website and associated blog for the project as well as a private communication and file sharing platform for partners. The website also provides access to a PowerPoint presentation about the project as well as a project factsheet. The presentation was used at the London Book Fair seminar ‘Big-Picture Digitisation Initiatives in Libraries’, at which the project was represented alongside Google.

A video and a press release have been created and issued and are available for further re-use from the website. The video is also available on [YouTube](#).

In the second-half of the year, factsheets were distributed and posters were on display at numerous conferences; notably at the *Dublin Core* metadata conference in The Hague (September), at *Supporting Digital Humanities* in Copenhagen (November) and at *CERL's* Annual General Meeting at the Vatican in Rome (November). Project partners in Serbia were particularly active. They ensured that the project was featured in the magazine of national airline JAT, presented at a number of conferences and also published articles about the project in open-access journals.



1. *Europeana Libraries* featured in the magazine of the Serbian national airline JAT.
2. Louise Edwards, Julia Brungs (from *The European Library*) and Thomas Baldwin (from CERL) at the CERL meeting in Rome, where the *Europeana Libraries* project was presented to attendees.
3. Susan Reilly (LIBER), presenting at the DISH 2011 conference in the Netherlands.

Impact and sustainability

When the project finishes at the end of 2012, it will have created:

- A valuable resource for scholars, with full-text search capabilities for written works
- A robust network of national, university and research libraries
- An efficient aggregation model that can be used by research libraries across Europe

Future work

During the second year of the project partners will focus on:

- Continuing to aggregate new content as set out in the Content Ingestion Plan
- Further validation of the business model, in particular refining the list of value-added services that libraries want from *The European Library* and discussion with partners to define a suitable governance structure
- Validating the mappings from library metadata to the European Metadata Model and further work to model additional library materials, with the top priorities being theses, manuscripts and maps.
- *The European Library* will continue testing and then release the latest version of its portal in early 2012. In addition to a completely fresh look for *The European Library*, the new portal will offer academics several new tools and functions. These have been designed with scholarly research in mind.



Contact

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25 organisations are collaborating on the Europeana Libraries project, including major library networks and 19 research libraries. Participants come from 14 European countries.

See <http://www.europeana-libraries.eu/web/guest/project-partners> for details.