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Annual Public Report

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<http://www.europeanatravel.eu/>



This project is funded under the eContentplus programme,
a multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable



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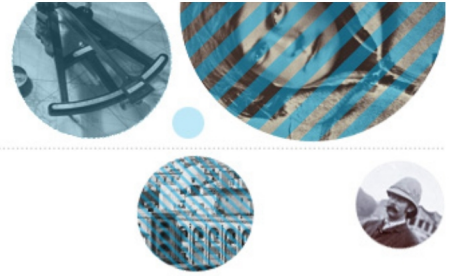


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Project Objectives

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This report marks the half-way stage of the EuropeanaTravel project which is one of a series of projects funded by the European Commission's eContentplus Programme, that are digitising material from cultural heritage institutions to feed into Europeana, the portal providing access to Europe's digital cultural heritage. The project started on 1 May 2009 and will run for two years.

The project will digitise over a million resources, including maps, manuscripts, photos, films, books and postcards on the themes of travel, tourism, trade routes and exploration.

The selected materials will come from many well known national and research libraries in Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK.

The project will also deliver an 'aggregation service', a tool which will enable LIBER (The Association of European Research Libraries) member institutions to aggregate their materials in order to be included in Europeana.eu. The service will be developed in a way to enable any research library to use it. Europeana plans to take content from a number of aggregators and hopes not to deal with individual institutions. Whilst CENL members (national libraries) have The European Library as an aggregator, LIBER needs to find a solution to this issue for some of its members. The service created will be available to any LIBER member, not only partners in this project.





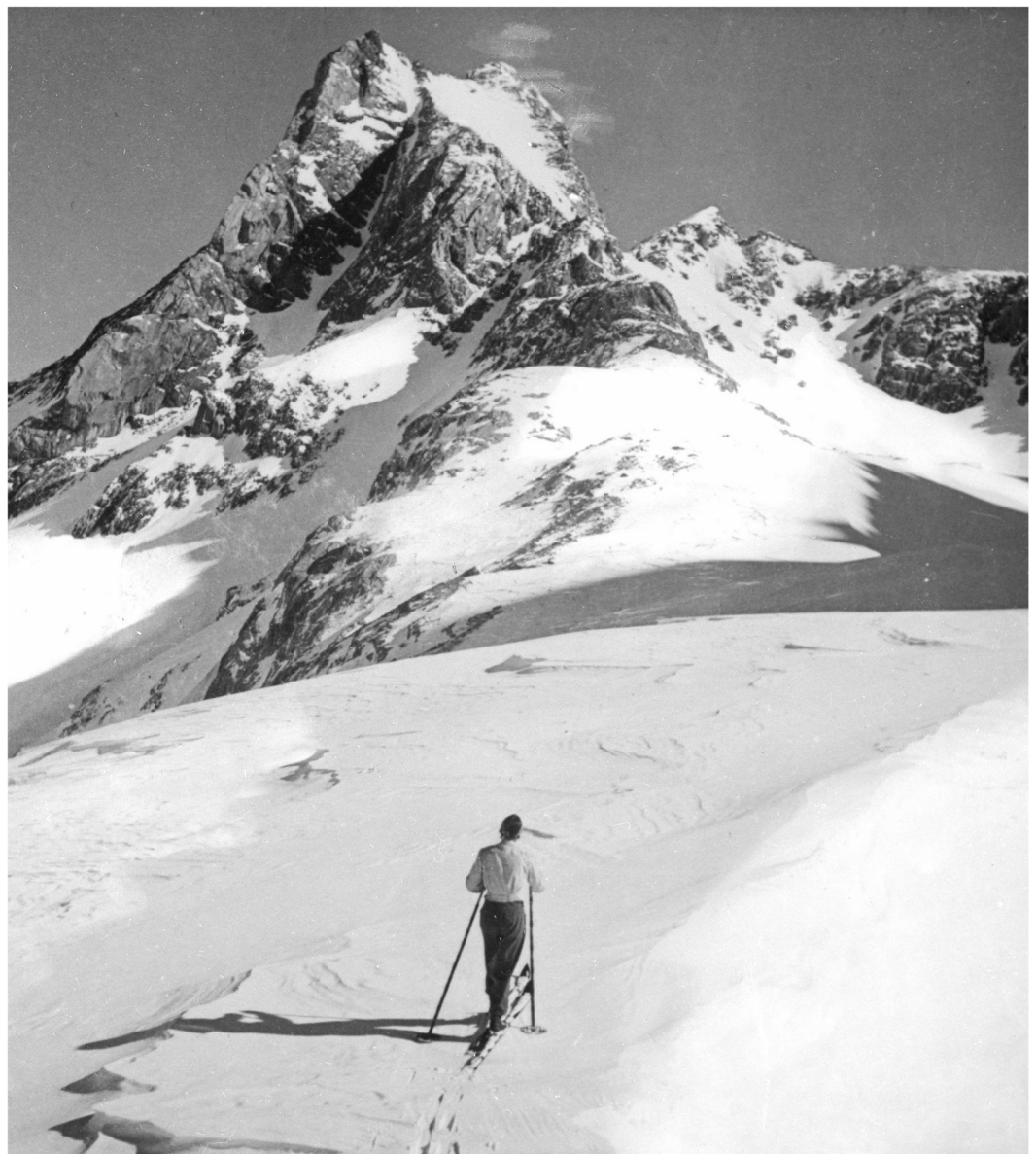
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A secondary objective of the project is to strengthen collaboration between CENL and LIBER by extending their experience of joint working, thus increasing human interoperability in support of Europeana. The Conference of European National Libraries CENL www.cenl.org and LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries) www.libereurope.eu support this project. CENL includes 48 national libraries from 46 European countries. LIBER includes almost 400 research libraries in more than 40 countries.





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Consortium

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Of EuropeanaTravel's 19 partners, 16 are libraries contributing content. Of these, 8 are national libraries, members of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) and contributing their content to Europeana through The European Library (TEL). The other 8 are research libraries and members of LIBER.

The National Library of Estonia coordinates the work and contributes content. The library of University College London leads the work on planning digitisation and aggregating content of the LIBER libraries, as well as contributing content itself. The Europeana Foundation will provide access to all the metadata through its portal. Eremo s.r.l. takes care of communications and assists with management. The State and University Library of Lower Saxony (Goettingen) is working on a survey of digital preservation practice.





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The remaining partners listed are digitising and contributing materials:

- National Library of Finland
- National Library of Latvia
- National Library of Poland
- Austrian National Library
- Slovak National Library
- National and University Library (Slovenia)
- National Library of Wales
- Lund University Library
- National Library of The Netherlands
- University Library of Regensburg
- Moravian Library in Brno
- University of Innsbruck
- University and National Library of Debrecen
- Trinity College Library (Dublin)





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The Project's Work and Results so far

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Europeana Travel aims for the following results:

- Over a million resources from European national and university libraries made available via Europeana.eu.
- Added value to users in bringing together material on travel and tourism from different countries, enabling comparison of different national perspectives.
- Researchers, students, teachers, families, etc. are offered a new dimension for education, business, social networking or holidays.
- An ad-hoc scalable aggregation service will enable any research library willing to contribute to Europeana, to easily aggregate their resources and make them available.





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At the halfway stage:

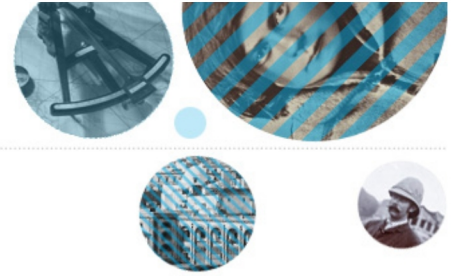
- Digitisation is well underway. More than 30% of the planned material has been digitised.
- Aggregation into The European Library and onwards into Europeana has begun.
- Digitised material is already available in some partners' digital libraries and as a collection in The European Library.
- A virtual exhibition showcasing Europeana Travel's material of The European Library website in 2010 is being planned.
- An important Survey of research libraries on aggregation of digital content (January 2010) has been undertaken to help inform the development of aggregation services.





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During the first year, planning for the digitisation took place.

Partners agreed that two standards were essential for successful collaboration in the project. These were conformity to the recently approved Europeana Semantic Elements (ESE) as a metadata standard; and OAI-PMH compliance for participating repositories, to allow harvesting of all content by the relevant aggregators for delivery to Europeana. This approach is fully compatible with the Europeana Outline Functional Specification, produced in March 2009 by the Europeana

Thematic Network, which specifies the technical architecture for the development of Europeana.

Having agreed the framework of standards, partners went on to share their plans and methods for digitisation and these were extensively documented by the project in an internal planning document. A standardised methodology for monitoring progress was also devised and implemented.

Planning for aggregation was also carried out in year one and by the end of the year, actual aggregation by The European Library was beginning. Work on developing the LIBER aggregator also went ahead and was documented in internal reports and in the Survey reported above.

Work on the project's website, press releases in a number of languages, a fact sheet and other activities made sure that a professional audience and the general public could easily follow the project's progress. Close collaboration with Europeana and The European Library helps ensure that the project's results are widely known.





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Content that Europeana Travel will provide 5

In basic statistical terms Europeana Travel will digitise and provide access to the following content:

Type of material	Number of items
Images	16,800
Graphic sheets	900
Pages	107,400
Maps	4,260
Books	5,120
Documents	6,080
Glass plates	1,130
Film negatives	30,000
Photographic objects	9,200
Journal pages	217,250
Shellacs	100
Postcards	25,000
Manuscripts	9



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It is hard to do justice to the quantity, quality and variety of the material, but here are a few examples.

From University College London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), the content to be digitised comprises approximately 160,000 pages from nearly 300 printed books, dating from 1557 to 1860, and providing comprehensive coverage of travel writing relating to Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and Russia throughout that period.

The earliest volume, Herberstein's *Rerum Moscoviticarum commentarii*, was published in 1557, but the majority of the material comprises books published between 1700 and 1860. The geographical regions covered are Albania, Austria, the Balkans (also separately Croatia, Bosnia, Dalmatia, Istria and Montenegro), the Baltic countries, Finland, Germany and Bohemia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania (Wallachia and Moldavia), Russia (including Siberia), Central Asia and the Caucasus, Turkey and Ukraine. Two-thirds of the collection is written in English, but there are highly significant works in French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Polish, and Russian. Many volumes have outstanding plates of drawings and folded maps, some even in colour.





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Some of the most attractive volumes date from the 17th century. They include works by Edward Brown, such as his *A brief account of some travels in Hungaria, Servia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Thessaly, Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Friuli* and *An account of several travels through a great part of Germany*. Both have attractive engravings. Other highlights are *Vermehrte neue Beschreibung der muscowitischen und persischen Reyse* by Adam Olearius (1656), and Alberto Fortis's *Viaggio in Dalmazia*, published in 1774. Other important authors featured in the collection include William Coxe, the Marquis de Custine, August Haxthausen, Alexander von Humboldt, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Peter Simon Pallas, Sergei Pleshcheev, Edmund Spencer and Ferdinand Wrangel.





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The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) in the Netherlands is contributing 30,000 pages of texts and drawings from manuscripts in French, Dutch and Latin. These comprise the *Alba Amicorum* (Books of Friendship) featuring the travel diaries of scholars, lavishly illustrated with pencil drawings and gouaches. They cover the time span from the late 16th to the early 19th centuries.

The Austrian National Library in Vienna is making available 600 photographic objects on the theme of expeditions in the 19th century; 1,000 glass plates and film negatives on ethnography and travel from the years 1900–1960; 30,000 film negatives from Austrian photographers and on world travel covering the work of Harry Weber and Joe Heydecker and the continents and

countries of Europe, Palestine, India, and South America; 500 photographic objects on the Austrian monarchy, ethnography, as well as topographic views from the years 1860–1918; 5,000 photographic objects covering Austria 1918–1960, the Lothar Rübelt archives and the *Bilarchivaustria*, covering travel, views, people, rural Austria, and Alpine scenes; 155,000 pages from journals in German comprising more than 30 titles on travel, hunting and sports with a focus on Austria and the Alps; and recorded sound, comprising 200 titles on 100 shellacs with folk songs related to travelling.

The University Library of Regensburg is making available materials, mainly in German, on botanical excursions and expeditions in the 19th century comprising travel guides and diaries from the Middle Ages until the 20th century.

Every partner is contributing rare and fascinating material which will be showcased graphically in the virtual exhibition in 2010.



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Impact & Sustainability

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Two aspects of the work of this project need to be sustained over time:

- The digitised content needs to continue to be made available to users and
- More LIBER content whose digitisation is not funded by this project needs to continue to be delivered to Europeana via the LIBER closed access aggregator or by other means.

The libraries in this proposal are all publicly funded and there is good reason to accept that they will be able to continue to make the digitised content available. They are all committed to this.

Finding a sustainable solution to funding the LIBER aggregator is work in progress within the project. Two main options seem feasible:

- A portal funded by subscription of LIBER members
- A joint solution with other stakeholders such as The European Library.

LIBER will make its decision in the coming year.

CENL members already have a sustainable solution to the question of delivering content to Europeana. They do so through The European Library which is continuing to develop strongly and is sustained by the subscriptions of its members.

There is also the issue of the sustainable long term usability of the newly digitised material. By using the most accepted current standards and through its quality plans, the project will ensure as far as possible that the material is usable long term or can keep up with technological developments.