

Europeana Cloud High Level Principles

Introduction

A set of high level requirements is required to shape the development of all areas of Europeana Cloud project. Following an initial workshop that was held on March 5th in the Hague, and subsequent Skype meetings, a basic brief for high level principles is presented:

“Europeana Cloud serves Europe’s Cultural Heritage Institutions by delivering a more efficient solution to the current methods of storing, sharing and providing access to CH objects. It does so by providing an open source system that stores and enables services for accessing structured metadata and content with the intention of sharing and re-using this material to its users and participants. EuropeanaCloud will be available under a sustainable business model and governed by its users.”

The elements of this are explained in more detail below. This document will be revised in the light of what is technically feasible and other requirements that come out of a series of workshops that obtains input from other Europeana Network members and large scale networks such as Clarin and Dariah, that are deploying Cloud strategies. These initial outcome will be continually matched against technical progress of WP2.

Principles

Europeana Cloud primarily serves Europe’s Cultural Heritage Institutions, enabling them to provide access to their digital objects to their audience

Driven by the needs of the cultural heritage industry, Europeana Cloud provides the services to enable the sharing of metadata and content for the purposes of providing access to digital objects. This delivers improved services to providers with low barriers to entry and exit.

Europeana Cloud promotes openness

Openness supports reuse and sharing of cultural heritage objects as well as providing an infrastructure with low barriers for expansion and further development. Europeana Cloud produces open source software, has a preference for open standards, open file formats and promotes open content. Closed standards and closed formats can only be viewed as long as there is software available that can read proprietary file formats proof difficult to access on future operating systems/devices.

Europeana Cloud delivers a more efficient solution to the current methods of storing, sharing and providing access to digital cultural heritage objects

Europeana Cloud delivers efficiencies to cultural heritage providers along the lines of: a reduction of IT costs as compared to classic hosting technologies, avoiding IT infrastructure costs, enabling more time to focus on strategy and innovation, and the pooling of resources. Efficiencies are also expected in terms of saving time, speed of delivery, better integration across the network to offer services with high availability, reliability, and security and better interoperability, easier management, and greater automation.

Europeana Cloud operates under a sustainable business model

To ensure the long term sustainability of the services provided by Europeana Cloud, Europeana Cloud will operate under a sustainable business model. A variety of options will be discussed in light of EU funding availability and the need to become self sustaining. This may allow for a reduction on the reliance of competitive funding rounds, and will encourage long term investment.

Europeana Cloud provides the infrastructure to access to metadata and content

Europeana Cloud delivers storage and services to provide secure, robust, technology neutral and sustainable access to metadata and content. These services include but are not limited to programmatic read/write access to Europeana Cloud, controlling the access to Europeana Cloud, connecting to other data services and systems and version control of data in Europeana Cloud.

Europeana Cloud is accessible through standardized Data Models

Europeana Cloud believes interoperability is crucial for cooperation and for the use of materials in its service. Europeana Cloud makes all metadata accessible using internationally recognised standard data models. Although standards are important for reuse and interoperability Europeana Cloud understands that source formatting is important. Europeana Cloud does not remove contributed source documents in favor of standardized models.

Europeana Cloud supports a legal framework to govern access and reuse

Europeana Cloud is linked to the Europeana Licensing Framework that enables the access to - and reuse of - metadata and content according to differing provider and user profiles. Each user and providers provides, makes available and reuses metadata and content in different ways with, and for, different purposes. The legal framework ensures that these requirements are met.

Europeana Cloud is a governed and led by the community

Europeana Cloud serves the needs of its community: the providers, members and users of the services provided, making use of and building on the Cultural Commons [principals](#). The community is self-regulating and has responsibility for establishing the boundaries of the community as well as the services provided. These services includes raising awareness, offering and enabling access to resources and tools as well as ensuring Europeana Cloud is a trusted and secure resource and service for the community.