



## **DELIVERABLE**

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# Report on Europeana Newspapers Information Day at the Teßmann Library of Bolzano, Italy

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1.0	26/11/2014	Sandra Kobel & Clemens Neudecker	SBB	Internal review and final version

#### Statement of originality:

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## 1. Executive Summary

Information Days are an important part of the dissemination and exploitation activities in the project and highlight the project's objectives and outcomes at the respective national levels. Information Days are a chance for partners to highlight the work they have been doing in the project at a national level.

Generally speaking, Information Days increase the overall awareness of the project and its various aspects and center around any of the following key messages:

- 1. The value of collaborating at a national and European level to make newspaper content available online (social, economic, cultural, research, technical etc.);
- 2. How to address the technical issues associated with making digitised newspaper content available;
- 3. The value of online digitised newspaper collections (i.e. highlight available content)
- 4. How to reach and increase the number of end users

Teßmann Library decided to structure the Information Day into two separate but contiguous events with different goals and targets.

The first event was held within the context of the South Tyrolean Day of Libraries scheduled on Saturday 25th of October. Main goal of the event was to highlight the interest of online digitised newspaper collections and to offer low-threshold information about interesting historic content on local and European level and how to search for it, structured in 5 activity stations. The event was open to everybody.

The second event was a specialists' Meeting Day on Monday, 27th of October, aiming to bring together German, Austrian and Italian experts to outline the current state of the art of digitisation and illustrate different approaches in the European countries. The targeted audience of the specialists' Meeting Day was personnel in charge of digitisation within Libraries and Archives as well as any operator dealing with digitisation projects.





#### 2. Context and Event Overview

Within the Italian Library System, the Teßmann Library in Bolzano (LFT), Italy, represents an exception, being the general scientific library for two linguistic minorities, the German and the Ladin speaking population in the border region of South Tyrol. Among the core tasks of LFT are the collection of literature in German and Ladin language concerning all domains and the exhaustive collection of literature written by South Tyrolean authors and/or about South Tyrolean topics and/or published in South Tyrol. As a consequence, within the national context LFT is finding itself in a sort of isolated position. As a border region with a common history, cooperation has always been more intense to the German speaking neighbour countries, rather than towards Italian memory institutions.

On the other hand, due to the special position in between two cultures, this region often figures as a bridge at the intersection between Northern and Southern Europe. Since 2003 for example, a series of international library conferences had taken place in Bolzano, like the Learning Library, a common initiative between the Austrian, German and Italian Library Associations. In this context the idea of an interregional meeting day was born. The aim was to bring together German, Austrian and Italian experts to discuss their different approaches and to outline the current state of the art of digitisation. The Agenda should investigate various aspects of newspaper digitisation and meet the interest of both Italian and German speaking attendees.

At the same time, LFT wanted to find a way to address also the end user of online digital newspaper collections, being the re- use of content one of the main reasons why digitisation efforts are made. A good platform to reach the end user was the Day of Libraries, an official event launched by the regional government with the aim to promote the more than 120 public libraries disseminated in the province of Bolzano, and to highlight their work as meeting and learning places. Including the Europeana Newspapers project Information Day in that larger frame brought a series of benefits: the multiplier effect of this setting is evident, being all registered Day of Libraries events published on a central web site, program flyers distributed in the entire region and the whole action promoted in regional print, radio and TV media.

## 2.1 "Hot from the press - breakfast with historical newspapers"

Within the Day of Libraries, LFT organized an event under the motto "Hot from the press – breakfast with historical newspapers", aimed at attracting an audience beyond the regular library users, such as historians, genealogists, journalists and general public. It was thought as a low-threshold information event, structured in 5 activity stations following the key principles of participation, action and entertainment. All stations were attended by a library staff member and could be visited in random order.

Each station aimed to point out one of the following aspects:

- the general interest of historic newspapers for different kinds of users, such as historians, teachers, students, researchers, chroniclers etc.
- the purpose of digitisation (conservation, accessibility, reuse of content)
- presentation of the Europeana Newspaper Project
- introduction to the TEL browser, where local newspapers can be found next to historic newspapers from 22 other European countries, and a demonstration of the full text search possibilities.







#### Station 1: Europeana Information Stand

On a newly installed big screen, different Europeana information material has been shown in a loop: Europeana Newspaper promotional movie, Europeana Newspapers presentation slides and a slide set about the different activities on Library Day. On a table printed information material was displayed. Every hour a project collaborator gave a short introduction to the main objectives and results of the project.

#### Station 2: Historic Newspapers to touch

Some examples of original historic newspapers, usually not accessible to the public, were displayed in the Library's reading room. White gloves were provided to point out the fragility of the material. A library staff member explained the rules for handling the originals and basic information about the exposed issues. Users were given little search tasks within the papers, to find some interesting information about local events. To underline the achievements of today's technology, on a tablet it was possible to browse the same newspaper issues by using the TEL browser. On two boards,



selected interesting newspaper items were exposed on posters, i.e. an article about pigeon photography, a selection of advertisements and a collection of early infographics (see also picture gallery attached).



# Station 3: The European Library Work Station – not only local newspapers

For the occasion, the default setting on the library computers, which usually is the library's catalogue, was the European Library newspaper browser. One extra display was positioned to allow more people to follow the presentation. Visitors were invited to browse the newspapers from different countries and different periods in time and were helped by the library staff to check out the different search options or to try the full text search by keywords.





#### Station 4 - Hot from the press I

Being a Saturday morning, the visitors were offered a small breakfast: a cup of coffee, a freshly pressed orange juice, croissants or a slice of "newspaper cake". On the top of the cake, there was a print of the historic newspaper titles available at LFT.





#### Station 5 Hot from the press II

Visitors were given the opportunity to have their own picture printed on a historic newspaper front page, choosing from different samples. An instant picture taken of the visitor, completed by some "historical" props and costumes as hats, furs or feather boa, was placed on the chosen newspaper page, printed and handed out. The hand out was placed in a paper bag made of old European newspapers, together with Europeana information material and a note pad with newspaper print as gadget.

The event was promoted using the usual information channels such as the library newsletter, LFT mailing list, the LFT homepage and print material exposed directly in the library during the weeks preceding the event. In addition, the event has been announced by means of the material and activities provided by the local government to promote the Libraries Day, for instance on the official Libraries Day website, advertisements in the local press, bills and program folders distributed in more than 120 public libraries and other public spaces. The event was also posted on the local cultural event platform and there was an official press release from the local government.

At the end of the Information Day, about 200 visitors were counted. Most of them were regular library users, but also a great number of "new" public attended the library and the response was more than positive. People seemed to be quite fascinated to skim through original historic newspapers and feel their age and fragility; they loved to dress up for a picture in the "Bozner Nachrichten" from 1910 and were surprised how quickly they could find information about a subject using the full-text search of the TEL Browser. People appreciated the given hand outs, particularly the personalized newspaper pages printed on a special antic looking paper, but also the paper bags from recycled German, French, English or Italian newspapers, handmade by a local sheltered workshop.





# 2.2 Historical Newspapers in the Digital Age from the image file to Fulltext – A Specialists' Meeting

At the specialists' Meeting day held on the 27th of October 2014, 9 experts from 4 countries

(Germany, Austria, Italy, England) spoke about the complex topics related to the enhancement of digital newspaper collections, such as refinement techniques, semantic enrichment and research, visualisation of information and digital long-term preservation. The Meeting day was held in German, Italian and English. For German and Italian translation service has been provided.

The day started with general information about the Europeana Newspapers project, provided by LFT director Johannes Andresen, who gave an overview of the project's partners, aims and objectives. Next on the agenda was key note speaker Dave Thompson from Wellcome Library, London, with a generic view about things to do (and to avoid) when starting a digitisation project<sup>1</sup>. He talked about the importance of creating sustainable processes and the need to ensure that digitisation is considered as a fully inclusive end-to-end process, seen not as a technical



problem but as social activity between creator and user, that engages with all part of the organisation.

He was followed by Günter Mühlberger from the University of Innsbruck, entering in the complex topic of Optical Character Recognition, which is a must for digital collections if we want to access, link or work with the content of historical newspapers<sup>2</sup>. Mühlberger gave an overview on today's available software solutions and pointed out the need for post-processing of the OCR results. He underlined the importance of structural recognition of newspapers, where new approaches beyond article separation are needed, i.e. the recognition of different content units, as obituaries, continued novels or advertising, as a source of unique content that cannot be found elsewhere.

This led to the next speaker, Michel Genereux form EURAC<sup>3</sup>, Bolzano, who is actually working on the attempt to automate the procedures for correcting faulty OCRed text by using computational linguistic methods. He gave the prospective that very noisy OCRed texts (i.e. 48% error with distance of at least three to target) can be corrected with accuracies up to 20%, while OCRed texts with less challenging error patterns can be corrected with accuracies up to 61% (distance two) and 86% (distance one).

After a well deserved coffee break it was the turn of Clemens Neudecker from Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library)<sup>4</sup>. As we know from exploring usage from digital newspaper archives

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana Newspapers/europeana-newspapers-lft-infodaythompson

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana\_Newspapers/europeana-newspapers-friederich-tessmann-library-information-day-presentation-by-messinaenp-lft-infodaymhlberger">http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana\_Newspapers/europeana-newspapers-friederich-tessmann-library-information-day-presentation-by-messinaenp-lft-infodaymhlberger</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana\_Newspapers/enp-lft-infodaygenereux-41949806

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana Newspapers/europeana-newpapers-lft-infoday-neudecker





through web log analyis, 6 to 9 out of 10 search quiries are related to personal names and place names. That's why in Europeana Newspapers great efforts are made to enhance the software for Named Entity Recognition, developed by the University of Stanford, to make it suitable for a multilingual context. The enhanced NER software can be freely downoloaded<sup>5</sup> on Github.

The focus of the following speakers was all on Italy, especially on the Region of Piedmont. Patrizia Rossi introduced the audience to the efforts made by CSI-Piemonte, the Information System Consortium to which Piedmont's Public Administration entrusts the management and implementation of its ICT services, in building a Digital archive of journalistic information<sup>6</sup>. Heart piece of the Digital Archive is the Historic Archive of "La Stampa", a daily newspaper published without interruptions since 1867. Andrea Bolioli from CELI, Torino, gave more tecnical insights about search functionalities, facets and visualisation of content, i.e. the creation of time graphs to visualize the frequency of a search term in a certain time periode<sup>7</sup>.

At the end of the rather intense morning session there was given to the audience the opportunity to ask questions. How to measure success of a digital collection, the correction of OCR results by users or the right to be forgotten concerning names and facts reported in newspapers where just some of the interesting topics brought up during asking time, that of course could not be all discussed into detail. At one of the last questions about how people are going to use the amount of data material available through digital collections, we reassume some of the most interesting statements:

- prediction of future events applying pattern recognition tecniques on historical newspapers
- article collections and ready made work packages for school teachers
- newspapers as an important source for everyday life vs. "Big History"; treasure chest for things we can't find in a history book;
- it is difficult to know how the content of digital newspaper collections will be used. Maybe in 10 years someone will use the content in a way today we can't immagine. But not knowing is no reason for not doing something.

In the afternoon session, Maurizio Messina, director of Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice, gave an introduction to long term conservation of digital objects. He emphasized how preservation is an expensive and tricky thing to accomplish individually, that needs a centralized organisation with the help of e-Infrastructures including cloud and grid systems. Messina presented"Magazzini Digitali<sup>8</sup>", the italian legal deposit service for digital resources promoted by the Italian Ministery of Culture (MIBACT) and based on OAI technology, actually experimenting the storage of PhD thesis, open access periodicals, e-books and digital objects coming from digitisation projects and adopting the National Bibliography Number as a standard to identify and certificate digital objects.

Messina was followed by Andrea Marchetti, researcher at the Italian National Research Council (CNR)<sup>9</sup>. His lecture was focused on visualisation methods and the way big data material can

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://github.com/KBNLresearch/europeananp-ner

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana Newspapers/enp-lft-infodayrossi-41950002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana\_Newspapers/enp-lft-infodaybolioli-41949745

<sup>8</sup> http://www.depositolegale.it/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> http://www.slideshare.net/Europeana\_Newspapers/europeana-newspapers-infoday-marchetti





become more understandable using visual encoding as maps, graphs, timelines, wordclouds, charts or infographics. Finally he illustrated the application of story telling methods to a collection of medieval manuscripts.

The Meeting Day ended with an outlook on the changing meaning of the idea of "collection" in the digital age and the future "hybrid library" given by Klaus Kempf from Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. The most outstanding changes are the transition from the concept of ownership to the one of access, the growing importance of open access and a much more wider understanding of what collection means, including all sort of media, from print to electronic to online resources.





#### 3. Conclusions

The idea to split the dissemination activity into two different events for different target groups was successfull. During the Information Day held in the Library, potential new end users of digital newspaper collections could be involved. The general interest in "old newspapers" as a source for international as well as for local history has been increased, the awareness of the importance of their conservation has been incremented and the value of online digitised newspaper collection has been illustrated very clearly. Many visitors tried a full text search in a digitised newspaper for the very first time, living a sort of aha-experience and great astonishment about the huge possibilities given by this instrument.

The 110 participants from every sort of memory institution (with a small part of presence of digitisation service providers) registered to the experts' Meeting Day, taking a chance to learn more about the digitisation work flow that follows the scanning process. The greater part came from the province of Bolzano and other italian regions, but also from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Participants feed back was more then positive about the interest of the programm and the organisation of the event. The Meeting Day achieved its goal to raise awareness of the project and give precious inputs to memoriy institutions that may want to start a digitisation project in the future. The goal to bring together experts from Italy and the german speaking neighbor countries has been fully successful. LFT organized a dinner for the envited speakers on Sunday evening, a good opportunity to connect and talk about everybody's activities and institutions.

The whole event has been registered on video because LFT is planning to release an e-book <sup>10</sup> containing all the documentation related to the event to be freely available as a download. The e-book will not only include information about the Meeting Day (agenda, participants mailing list) and the expert's contributions (videos, abstracts and presentations), but it will be enriched by interesting material as a descriptive link collection of selected digitised online newspaper collections, a selection of open source refinement tools, interesting technical literature and articles and available standards and policies for digitisation, that hopefully will be a support for further digitisation projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Planned release is December 22, 2014.





## 4. Media Coverage

Day of Libraries: "Hot from the press – breakfast with historic newspapers"

- Announcement appeared on The Teßmann Library website: <a href="http://www.tessmann.it/script/pages/site.asp?m1=4122&modID=974&linkid=0&L=de">http://www.tessmann.it/script/pages/site.asp?m1=4122&modID=974&linkid=0&L=de</a>
- and on the local website for cultural events kultur.bz: http://www.kultur.bz.it/index.php?mode=event&evtID=52023&root=cal& IC=evt list
- and on the dedicated website Day of Libraries 2014: <a href="http://2014.tagderbibliotheken.bz.it/veranstaltung/frisch-gepresst-historische-zeitungen-zum-fruehstueck">http://2014.tagderbibliotheken.bz.it/veranstaltung/frisch-gepresst-historische-zeitungen-zum-fruehstueck</a>
- event report in the local evening news (Tagesschau), broadcasted on local public TV station RAI Sender Bozen on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2014

#### Historic newspaper in the digital age. An experts' meeting

- Announcement appeared on The Teßmann Library website
   http://www.tessmann.it/script/pages/site.asp?ID=56979&modid=974&m1=4122&m2=0&m3
   =0&L=de
- Press release published on the local government homepage: http://www.provinz.bz.it/news/de/news.asp?news action=4&news article id=473815
- Radio feature focused on EUROPEANA NEWSPAPERS broadcasted on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of November during the Programm "Thema Europa. Das Europa-Magazin" on the regional public radio station "Hörfunk RAI Südtirol" <a href="https://soundcloud.com/matthiasjud/europeana-newspapers">https://soundcloud.com/matthiasjud/europeana-newspapers</a>





#### ANNEX 1: Agenda

Programm

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Programma

08:45 — 09:30 Ankunft und Registrierung / Arrivo e Registrazione

09:30 — 09:50 Begrüßung / Saluti

Volker Klotz, Amt für Bibliotheken und Lesen der Autonomen Provinz Bozen / Ufficio Biblioteche e lettura della Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano

Einleitung / Introduzione Europeana Newspapers

Johannes Andresen, Landesbibliothek F. Teßmann / Biblioteca provinciale F. Teßmann

09:50 — 10:10

Digitisation at the Wellcome Library: Lessons learned and shared

Dave Thompson, Wellcome Library, London

10:10 — 10:40

Text- und Strukturerkennung für historische Zeitungen / Riconoscimento automatico testuale e strutturale nei giornali storici

Günter Mühlberger, Universität Innsbruck / Università di Innsbruck

Correcting OCR results with computational linguistic methods

Michel Généreux, EURAC Bozen / Bolzano

Coffee Break

11:10 — 11:30

Bessere Suchergebnisse durch Named Entity Recognition / Risultati di ricerca migliori con Named Entity Recognition Clemens Neudecker, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

11:30 - 12:00

Semantische Suche im Digitalen Zeitungsarchiv Piemont / Ricerca semantica nella Biblioteca dell'Informazione giornalistica piemontese Patrizia Rossi, CSI Piemonte

Semantische Suche: manuelle und automatische Annotationen für das Archivio Storico de "La Stampa"

Ricerca semantica: annotazioni manuali e automatiche per l'Archivio storico de La Stampa Andrea Bolioli, CELI Torino

12:00 — 12:30 ca.
Diskussion / Discussione

**Lunch Time** 

14:30 — 14:50 Langzeitarchivierung von digitalen Objekten – aktuelle Lösungsansätze / Recenti tendenze per la conservazione digitale

Maurizio Messina, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venezia 14:50 — 15:10 Visualisierung von Informationen / Visualizzazione delle

Andrea Marchetti, WAFI Lab. / IIT – Area della Ricerca CNR di Pisa

15:10 - 15:30

informazioni

Digitaler Bestandsaufbau. Rahmenbedingungen und Besonderheiten / Sviluppo di collezioni digitali. Condizioni e specificità Klaus Kempf, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

15:30 — 16:00 Diskussion und Abschluss / Discussione e fine lavori

Simultanübersetzung deutsch/ italienisch ist vorgesehen / È prevista la traduzione simultanea tedesco/italiano





## **ANNEX 2: List of Participants**

Fachtagung "Historische Zeitungen im digitalen Zeitalter. Von der Bilddatei zum Volltext. Ein Expertenaustausch" - 27.10.2014 Bozen

	Nachname /	Vorname /		
ΨĪ		Nome	Einrichtung / Istituzione	E-Mail
1	Abel	Andrea	EURAC research, Institute for Specialised Communication and Multilingualism, Bozen-Bolzano	andrea.abel@eurac.edu
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17	Cappelli	Lucia	Istituto Britannico di Firenze	lucia.cappelli@unifi.it
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22	De Gennaro	Antonio	Emeroteca Queriniana, Brescia	ADegennaro@comune.brescia.it
23	De Simone	Giuliana	Biblioteca Statale Isontina di Gorizia	giuliana.desimone@beniculturali.it
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			·	·
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38	Généreux	Michel	EURAC research, Institute for Specialised Communication and Multilingualism, Bozen-Bolzano	Michel.Genereux@eurac.edu
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41	Haller	Franz J.	Visuelle Anthropologie, Archiv Arbeitskreis visuelle Dokumentation Südtiroler Volkskultur, Meran	franzhaller@msn.com
42	Hametner	Christina	Landesbibliothek Dr. F. Teßmann, Bozen / Biblioteca Provinciale Dr. F. Teßmann, Bolzano	Christina.Hametner@tessmann.it
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86	Schnetzer	Norbert	Vorarlberger Landesbibliothek, Bregenz	norbert.schnetzer@vorarlberg.at
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96 97	Tomasi	Caterina	Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino, Trento	ctomasi@museostorico.it
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## **ANNEX 3: Photo Gallery**

### **Hot off the Press – Historical Newspapers for Breakfast**









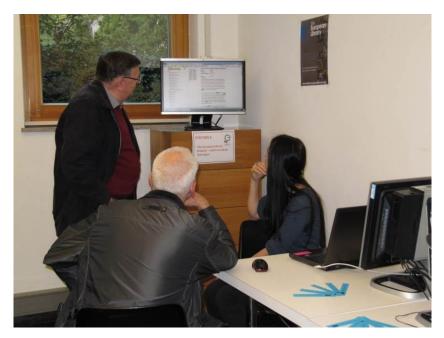


Historic Newspapers to touch









Demonstrating the European Library Newspaper Browser









Photo shooting at the Teßmann Library







Breakfast with historic newspapers















Portrat vom Tage.

BoznerZeitung

(Südtiroler Tagblatt)

Donnerstag ben 8. Janner 1914.

Customized historical newspapers





# Historical Newspapers in the Digital Age. From the immage file to Fulltext – A Specialists' Meeting





Keynote Speaker Dave Thompson, Wellcome Library, London



Günther Mühlberger, University of Innsbruck, talking about OCR and OLR



Michel Genereux, EURAC, about OCR correction







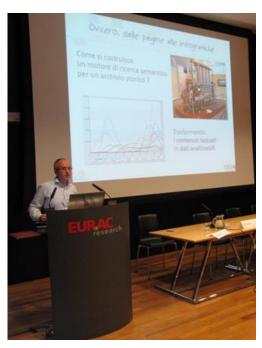
Socializing during the coffee break



Clemens Neudecker talking about how to achieve better search results with Named Entity Recognition



Patrizia Rossi, CSI Piemonte



Andrea Bolioli, CELI, Torino







Visualiation of search results, introduced by Andrea Marchetti, CNR



Maurizio Messina, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venezia, talking about digital preservation



Panel discussion with Andrea Marchetti, Klaus Kempf and Maurizio Messina