i2010 – Digital Libraries: Building Europe's Digital Library

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Outline of presentation

- The Digital libraries initiative and our strategy
- Actions since last September
- Next steps

The Digital libraries initiative and our strategy

- Digital Libraries is **a flagship initiative within the i2010 policy** and strategy for the Information Society and the Lisbon agenda.

- **The Communication** published last September is aimed at **structuring** this initiative with respect to issues affecting cultural content - specifically digitisation, accessibility and digital preservation.

- **further action on access to scientific information** which will be the subject of a Communication early next year.

- Commission identified issues that were **legal, organisational and technical.**

- Aims at a **more coordinated approach** in the Member States. Secondly it will help to create the **multilingual common access point** to Europe's distributed digital cultural heritage.

The Digital libraries initiative and our strategy

- The Communication:
    - Endorsement by Culture Ministers – 14 November 2005
    - Develop a single point of access to distributed digital/digitised resources of cultural organisations
    - Multilingual
    - Embrace all types of content
    - Build on existing initiatives
- Commission follow-up – based on 225 replies from the Consultation exercise – on 3 levels: political, strategic and operational
- Political follow-up – via the Recommendation to the MS, adopted 24 August and published 31 August 2006

The Recommendation

Digitisation and online accessibility

- Create overviews of what has been digitised and **what will be** digitized and develop quantitative targets for digitization – stimulate private sector investment
- Encourage **public/private partnerships to fund digitization** and look at mechanisms to support these – eg tax incentives.
- Set up **large scale digitisation** facilities as part of or in close collaboration with **competence centers**
- **Promote a European digital library** in the form of a **multilingual common access point** by:
  - Encouraging cultural institutions to make their material available, and extending also to private partners
  - Ensuring take up of interoperability standards for digitization and to support cross-language searching
- **Improve framework conditions** for digitisation and online accessibility:
  - Mechanisms for the use of orphan works
  - Mechanisms (on a voluntary basis) for the use of out of print works
  - Overviews of known orphan works and of public domain works
  - Identify and remove barriers to accessibility and use of public domain works

The Recommendation

- Establish national strategies for digital preservation
    - organisational approach
    - specific action plans
- Exchange information on strategies and action plans
- Allow multiple copying for preservation purposes
- In developing policies and procedures for legal deposit take account of developments in other MS
- Make provisions for web-harvesting and preservation of web content – in fully respect of legislation and IPRs

Council under Finnish Presidency has taken this up on their agenda

Strategic Level

- High Level Group
  - Sub-groups on orphan works and on scientific information
- NRG – coordination of digitisation activities between MS
- Coordinating group between archives, libraries and museums

Operational level – making EDL a reality

- Targets – February press releases of Commission & CENL
    - collections expanded to include those from archives, 2006: full EU-wide collaboration all national libraries
    - 2008: multi-lingual access to these collections; at least 2 million digital objects (books, films, photographs, manuscripts) searchable and usable (100% increase on currently estimated volumes)
    - 2010 museums and also private initiatives. At least 6 million objects accessible

Commission actions

- Build on existing initiatives, starting with TEL as organisational nucleus – with clear targets
- Provide framework in support – joining up the pieces of the jigsaw and catalysing initiatives
- Strategy group for coordinating cooperation between libraries, archives and museums – bringing together stakeholders
- Support projects through research and eContent programmes
- progress at EU level – report with MS to Council

Funding opportunities – 7th Framework Programme

- 210 MEUR (2007-2008) for "digital libraries and content"
- particular emphasis on:
  - "the creation of a network of **Centres of Competence** for **digitisation** and **preservation**, building upon, pooling and upgrading existing resources at national level"
- Continuing (and reinforcing) research on digital preservation
- Digital libraries research – multilinguality, integrating heterogeneous resources, semantic tools, innovative use and experiences, promoting creativity
- Instruments – collaborative projects, co-funded.

Network of Centres of Competence

- **Brings together at EU level** organisations with relevant **expertise** and **capacity**
- Their complementary services provide for a **European network** of digitisation and preservation competences
    - **Centres for digitisation**: research helps to **create mass and specialised digitisation**
    - **Centre for preservation**: research helps to **create innovative, systematic and cost-effective approaches** and applications to digital preservation
- Should demonstrate potential to **undertake actual digitisation or preservation** tasks
- Should demonstrate the potential to provide others with **know-how, training** and **infrastructure**
- Should attract further public and private funding to create more **sustainable services**

Next actions

- **Stakeholder workshop + public report**

The short term timetable

- Background analysis to support discussions on interoperability (Oct 2005 – March 2006)
- Finnish Presidency conference + NRG meeting (12-13 October)
- Meeting of High Level group (17 October)
- eContentplus programme (call closure 19 October 2006)
- Calls for FP7 – anticipated Call 1 January 2007; Call 3 – late 2007/early 2008
- Communication on digital libraries of scientific and scholarly information – 2007

Further information from

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/...

- "i2010 - Digital Libraries":
  ...**activities/digital_libraries/**

- Research Programmes:
  ...**research/eu_research**

- eContentPlus:
  ...**activities/econtentplus/**