



## One more step towards the European Digital Library

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## WP3 – “Developing the European digital library“

### EDL Report on Digitisation in European National Libraries 2006-2012

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## Digitisation Survey: Executive Summary

This report gives an overview on how much digitised content there is now and will be in 2012 in European national libraries including the metadata position and solutions for converting image-mode collections [e.g. newspapers] into searchable collections.



## Digitisation Survey: Impact

This important snapshot will be of interest to all European national libraries and to many other stakeholders in the development of the European Digital Library.



## Content of Report on Digitisation



## Digitisation Report: Headline Figures

Some headline figures on materials already digitised and existing plans for respondent national libraries are as follows:



## National Libraries: Digital Holdings

Total Physical Holdings 2006: 401.058.284

Digital	2006	2012
Digital Objects	4.874.163	17.103.051
Digital Pages	125.340.850	738.404.404
Books	279.190	1.537.913
Newspapers	1.468.000	6.293.000
Photographs	1.005.000	1.616.000
Maps	217.000	329.000
Engravings	157.000	269.000
Posters	65.000	300.000
Manuscripts	9.000	16.000
Other Archives	1.520.000	3.640.000



## Report: Overall Conclusion

Although content digitisation in European national libraries will reach the estimates made for the future European Digital Library, the situation remains critical for books and printed research material, especially for 20th century material. This underlines the importance and the urgency of the work on orphan works and out of print works being undertaken by the High Level Expert Group and also its work on public private partnership for cultural institutions.



## Report: Results 1

- European National Libraries have been digitising parts of their collections for the last ten years.
- many libraries have created National memory collections and have built up a digital library infrastructure.
- the results of the last ten years of digitisation at the European national libraries have created a valuable and enduring resource for scholars and the public alike.



## Conclusions

however



## Report: Conclulsion

If we look at the general outcomes from the survey on digitisation it becomes clear, that although National Libraries are well prepared to meet the challenges of digitisation on a strategic level, the production of digital content is still on a very low level. Only 1-2 % of national libraries' collections will be digitally available in the near future. In terms of material types digital collections reflect the structure of analogue collections, with one basic and most critical exception: book digitisation and digitisation of printed research collections is far below user expectations and needs for the future European Digital Library. This will not change unless all stakeholders at EU, - national and institutional level change their policies. It is however exactly access to content and – due to successful private projects and initiatives, – access to digital books and printed collections are what users regard as the essential have in mind as a basics understanding of a digital library.



## Report conclusions 2

Currently a large part of digitised printed heritage is accessible in image mode only. Although the issue of full-text conversion (OCR) of digitised historical printed material is now being tackled by the European projects TELplus (*econtentplus*) and IMPACT (FP7) much more needs to be done to create a critical mass of full text for the European Digital Library.

- Due to this situation there is a high risk that users will not understand the concept of the European Digital Library based on a digital library infrastructure which guarantees sustainability, long term preservation, interoperability and access to multilingual collections, but without reaching a critical mass of digital content.



## Report Conclusions 3

- Given the fact that mass digitisation of printed materials (with 100.000 volumes per year) (case studies of France and Norway) is not only still very cost- intensive but also time-consuming and takes at least a preparation period of half a year it becomes clear that for the time being only very few libraries (Norway, France, UK, Netherlands) will be capable of doing large scale digitisation.
- On the other hand the example of Norway indicates that for the first time complete digitisation plans for national libraries can be based on a realistic background and that cost reduction in storage technologies and mass digitisation make it for the first time imaginable to “duplicate” the total collections of libraries in electronic format, to preserve them and to give virtual access to the complete content.

## Recommendation 1

### *Large scale digitisation of books and printed material*

- Recommendation: Given the massive size of the digitisation challenge which they face and the resource issues alluded to by many of them, national libraries should consider carefully whether and how public private sector partnerships might contribute to solving the problem.
- all efforts have to be undertaken to change the actual situation
- all stakeholders should be involved, including appropriate public-private partnerships
- special attention should be paid to the work on orphan works and out of print works being undertaken by the High Level Expert Group



## Recommendation 2

- *Understanding of user needs*
- The best way to meet user needs is to give direct access to digital content. CENL should support The European Library in developing a technological platform with central harvesting of searchable and interoperable data



## Recommendation 3

### *Innovation and technological change*

- Considerable attention should be paid to the OCRing of historical material, metadata extraction, content analysis tools and navigation applications



## Recommendation 4

### *Co-ordinated digitisation of content*

- National libraries that have not yet done so should build up at institutional level a digital library infrastructure based on approved strategies and development plans
- National digitisation strategies should be based on a territorial approach and should focus on building large digital collections
- Partnerships with other organisations should be formed to create larger virtual collections..



## Recommendation 5

### *Report on digitisation on a regular basis (including statistical data)*

- CENL should continue to maintain close links with the Numeric study team and the CENL Working Group should continue to support the Commission's efforts to develop standardised reporting in the field of digitisation and raise the profile of the related issues with governments and other stakeholders.
- National Libraries should report on an annual basis their progress in digitisation in a way compatible with emerging European standards for such reports. (Numeric)



## Recommendation 6 ?

### *Smarter marketing of the European Digital Library*

There is not enough public awareness and no public understanding of the concept and the basic principles of the European Digital Library.

- more attention should be paid on communicating the EDL-Initiative to the general public
- CENL members should support the European Commission and EDL-projects in press activities and Public Relation activities on national level

# Survey First results | 1

- Material types

