

ECP-2006-DILI-510003

TELplus

Publishable Annual Progress Report

Deliverable number	<i>D7.3</i>
Dissemination level	<i>Public</i>
Delivery date	<i>15 October 2008</i>
Status	<i>Final</i>
Author(s)	<i>Barbara Morganti and David Fuegi</i>



eContentplus

This project is funded under the *eContentplus* programme¹,
a multiannual Community programme to make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.

¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

Abstract

TELplus is a targeted project for digital libraries funded by the European Commission under the [eContentplus Programme](#) supported by [The Conference of European National Librarians](#) [CENL]. TELplus aims to strengthen [The European Library](#), a service managed by National Library of the Netherlands on behalf of CENL which has received support at various stages from the European Commission. The project is another building block in the creation of [Europeana](#), the *European digital library, museum and archive*

TELplus is coordinated by the [National Library of Estonia](#). The project started in September 2007 and will end in December 2009. It has a total budget of € 6.5 million EUR, of which € 3.25 million is contributed by the eContentplus programme..

TELplus addresses a number of issues of importance to The European Library including improving access through OAI compliancy, making more than 20 million pages from the European National Libraries' digital content available with OCR, improving multilingual search and retrieval and adding services for the manipulation and use of content.

Europe's national libraries are a critical resource for EU research; they underpin business and enterprise through their contribution to knowledge transfer, creativity and innovation; and they are world-class cultural institutions with a vital role as holders of the national memory of the Member States. TELplus has had a successful first year. The European Library has developed significantly in terms of both content and functionality and in its relations with key stakeholders in the period under review.

The TELplus contribution to the [eContentplus Programme](#)

TELplus helps achieve the vision articulated in the following quotation from [The Communication from the Commission on the Digitisation and Online Accessibility of Cultural Material and Digital Preservation](#) by contributing to Europeana's development: "A common multilingual access point would make it possible to search Europe's distributed - that is to say, held in different places by different organisations - digital cultural heritage online. Such an access point would increase its visibility and underline common features. **The access point should build on existing initiatives such as The European Library (TEL), in which Europe's libraries already collaborate.**"

The project's contributions to Europeana consist in increased content and technical developments primarily for the European Library but also in some cases applicable to Europeana.

The European Library

The European Library is an on-line portal providing access to the electronic resources of the National Libraries of Europe. During the past years, The European Library has gradually expanded to include National Libraries from more and more EU, EFTA and Council of Europe countries. EU-funded projects such as [TEL-ME-MOR](#) and [EDLproject](#) speeded up the development process. The national libraries of Bulgaria and Romania will join The European Library through TELplus. A number of other national libraries will join The European Library through the [FUMAGABA](#) project, funded by the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#)

The European Library was officially acknowledged by the European Commission as the foundation for the organisational structure for the creation of [Europeana](#), the *European digital library, museum and archive*. Funded under the [eContentplus Programme](#) and under the direction of the [EDL Foundation](#), Europeana is developing a prototype website providing access to some 2 million digital

objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers.

Within this context, the results of **TELplus** will make a valuable contribution to the further development of Europeana which, according to the targets set by the European Commission, by 2010 will offer access to 6 millions European cultural resources.

In July 2008 a new version of The European Library was made public. Most of the changes took place in the back-end but some improvements are easy to spot. The speed of the search process is now very rapid. Also the growing emphasis on visual images and multimedia content has become clearly visible with the launch of version 2.0. Many of the enhancements resulted from feedback from users.

Objectives

The main objectives of TELplus are:

a) To enhance the service offered by The European Library by improving and facilitating access and use of the materials in national libraries in all Member States in a multilingual context and improving standard-based interoperability.

b) To strengthen, extend and improve The European Library service by adding digital cultural and scientific/scholarly content and improving access to it in the following ways:

Adding and improving content of [The European Library](#) by:

- OCRing more than 20 million pages of important multi-lingual content now available only as images according to current best practice;
- Making the data that national libraries currently hold in proprietary databases (only searchable via the z39:50 protocol) OAI compliant and therefore harvestable for far greater usability;
- Adding the [National Libraries of Bulgaria](#) and [Romania](#) as full members of [The European Library](#).

Improving access and usability by:

- Improving full text indexing and investigating automatic vocabulary mappings;
- Learning from users through [The European Library](#) user group;
- Creating a modular service infrastructure that enables users to integrate services with the European Library portal and adding a number of new services;
- Work on user personalization to provide directions towards new services for users;
- Providing translations of collection descriptions in 26 languages.

Expected Outcomes of TELplus

The project extends the content available through The European Library. Studies into usage will help inform the marketing and communication campaigns and hence increase the amount of traffic to the site. The interface will be in all full partner languages. Further progress will occur on the

interoperability issues across cultural sectors and the additional work to be done on multilingual search will yield some good results for users.

The project's work is divided into 8 work packages (WPs).

As a result of **WP1** the national libraries of Austria, Czech Rep., Estonia, Spain, France, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia will OCR more than 20 million pages and make the material searchable through TEL.

In year one effort went into selection of material, setting up of production, planning and letting of subcontracts. By the end of the first year more than 6 million pages had been ocred. A full description of the state of the art of ocring and the issues encountered can be found in deliverable D1.2. A survey of existing OCR practices and recommendations for a more efficient work.

The result of **WP2** is that OAI-PMH access will be implemented for the following national libraries: Estonia, Slovenia, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal, France, Poland, Slovakia and Iceland.

In year one development of the REPOX harvester tool was started and the first version was released. Tests were done with data provided by the partners. Work also began on a proper installation tool, documentation, and a related web site. Additional versions of the software were released in September 2008. This tool is available at <http://rebox.ist.utl.pt> . Some libraries started their OAI-PMH implementation, while others are still evaluating different options at their disposal. By the end of year one the French and Estonian national libraries had their OAI-PMH implementation ready for harvesting.

The results of **WP3** will be:

- A prototype search engine able to deal with full text search
- A better understanding of automatic subject alignment documented in a report which explains the strategies feasibility and costs, the practical usefulness [based on users' views] as well as the extendibility of the chosen methodological and technical approaches.
- User research.

Work is underway on all aspects of the issues.

WP4 will provide access to 3 to 5 new services through The European Library.

The services being worked on so far in year one are:

1. Image annotation service (ARC). This service will mark an area in an image. The image is either part of the TEL objects but can also be an external image linked to a TEL object. When a TEL object description is displayed the portal will check for the presence of annotations in the annotation database.
2. Video annotation service (SNK, ARC). Similar to 1. except that a time frame will be marked.
3. Text annotation service (ONB). This service will mark positions in web pages that are linked to a TEL object.
4. Backend storage for annotations (UNIPD). This is the database to store annotations. The annotations do not have to be limited to TEL to increase the impact.
5. Showing old maps on Google maps with timeline (ARC). When searching old maps these maps are shown on the right position in Google maps. This functionality will be extended to other images then only maps.
6. Thesaurus/Name authority services (OSNK, KB, SNK). These services provide access to the local thesauri and name authorities. The intention is that this will be the start of a pan-European thesaurus. Thesauri are either stored in the central database or provide via a local SRU service.

7. Image zoom service (KB). This service will be used to zoom in on images of different types (jpeg, j2000, png etc.)
8. Asynchronous proxy service (KB). Service to get rid of some browser restrictions (cross domain security and number of connections) and will allow time consuming services to respond without the user having to wait.
9. Text analyser (KB). This service gets a piece of text and extracts named entities.
10. Translation gateway. This service relieves the TEL portal from having different interfaces for different online translation services.

WP4 will also provide translations of collection descriptions in The European Library into all member languages.

WP5 provides a number of valuable reports on user personalisation and annotations to inform development and improve value for users. In year one work began on all tasks.

The result of WP6 is that the Romanian and Bulgarian national libraries make their content available through The European Library and become full members. In year one cordial relations were established between the libraries and the other project partners and preparatory work began.

WP7 co-ordinates dissemination and maintains the project's website and creates other dissemination materials.

Finally WP8 deals with project management, co-ordination, finance, reporting and reviews.

Publically available “deliverables”

TELplus is a somewhat technical project. Its main aim and outcome is an improved service to users of The European Library and eventual users of Europeana. In the first year of TELplus, The European Library has developed significantly in terms of both content and functionality and in its relations with key stakeholders. TELplus has also produced formal “deliverables” which are made available on the project's [website](#) as they are completed.

Some of the public deliverables produced in the first year of TELplus were as follows:

- D1.1. Survey of availability of digitised images for OC
- D2.1. OAI-PMH implementation and tools guidelines
- D3.6 Report on FRBR experiments
- D1.2. A survey of existing OCR practices and recommendations for a more efficient work. This is a readable review of the state of the art in ocring and deserves to be widely read. Publication is planned.
- D2.2. OAI-PMH development and implementation plan

The following public deliverables are expected in the final 15 months of the project:

- D4.1. XML schema for service descriptions
- D4.2. Registry of existing services with recommendations for potential services
- D5.1. Report on user requirements of the target library services
- D5.2. Report on search engines and HTTP log analysis
- D2.3. Guidelines for preparing a SRU target to enable metadata harvesting
- D3.3. Feasibility assessment report [feasibility of a full text and multilingual indexing engine]
- D3.7. A central TEL Authority Metadata Repository

- D5.3. Report on an experimental profile building service
- D5.4. Report on personalised search and personalised alerting/notification services
- D3.5. Report on automatic subject alignment which explains the strategies feasibility and costs, the practical usefulness as well as the extendibility of the chosen methodological and technical approaches
- D4.3. New portal implementation, browser plug-in for creating service descriptions
- D4.4. Approximately 2-5 new services [in TEL]
- D5.5 Report on the interface and of the service on annotations.

Participants in TELplus

Co-ordinator and work package leaders in bold.

Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu	Co-ordinator	Estonia
Oesterreichische Nationalbibliothek		Austria
Austrian Research Centers GmbH		Austria
Narodna biblioteka Ss. Cyril & Methodius		Bulgaria
Narodni knihovna Ceske republiky		Czech Republic
Bibliothèque nationale de France		France
Deutsche Nationalbibliothek		Germany
National And Kapodistrian University Of Athens		Greece
Orszagos Szechenyi Konyvtar		Hungary
Landsbokasafns Islands - Haskolabokasafns		Iceland
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze		Italy
Eremo srl		Italy
Universita degli Studi di Padova		Italy
Latvijas nacionala biblioteka		Latvia
Lietuvos nacionaline Martyno Mazvydo biblioteka		Lithuania
Koninklijke Bibliotheek		Netherlands
Nasjonaltiblioteket		Norway
Biblioteka Narodowa		Poland
Instituto Superior Tecnico		Portugal
Biblioteca Nacional		Portugal
Biblioteca Nationala A Romaniei		Romania
Slovenska narodna kniznica		Slovakia
Narodna in univerzitetna knjiznica		Slovenia
Biblioteca Nacional de Espana		Spain
Kungliga Biblioteket		Sweden