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## **News**

A new version of the site (version 1.2) was released on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. This version tries to address how to get users beyond the shop window. You can now select themes or subjects to give a set of collections for your search query. These themes are generated from the Collection Descriptions. It is therefore important that Collection Descriptions are reviewed with this in mind and any subjects they cover described, but more on this later.

September will be the start date for our next EU project under eContentPlus - European Digital Library (EDL) whose aim is similar to [TEL-ME-MOR](#) and will bring into The European Library the digitised content of the rest of the EU member state libraries, plus the two EFTA libraries. We will therefore add two more staff to cope with additional workload of this project and the maintenance requirements the site and partners now have.

Our second user survey will be available to partners shortly and will be published on the partners' area of The European Library website by the end of June. This survey was undertaken in February/March of 2006 and therefore some of the issues it raises have already been addressed in the latest release of the site. In the final count, the survey attracted 796 respondents from 17+ countries. 77 of these were librarians, the majority of the rest researchers.

Overall the satisfaction with the site was high and of those who had answered the first survey in 2005 a larger percentage now find the search process easier to use but (there is always a but!) many of the users are not using the site to its full potential. Almost half of those questioned had no idea that under simple search they were searching in a subset of the total collections available via the site and very few tried to select collections prior to launching a query, even under advanced search. We will work to find further solutions here, but the way you need to search in The European Library is largely a result of being a portal and accessing material held in the partner libraries at the point of search. Our longer term solution is to harvest much more of the library metadata into a central index. This removes the need for users to choose the collections before executing their search, but requires the libraries making their data available in such a way it can be harvested or crawled and will take time. Subject to approval by the Management Board this survey will be made publicly available after the summer.

## **The European Library Portal**

### ***New countries***

At the beginning of July, the National Libraries of the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic will join The European Library as full members and will make their digitised collections available. By the end of this year 22 of the 45 national libraries within [CENL](#) (Conference of European National Librarians) will have made their collections available via The European Library.

### **New Collections**

Several collections have been added to The European Library in recent months. The searchable ones include:

Royal Library of Denmark	The Danish National Collections
National Library of Estonia	Online catalogue of the National Library of Estonia (ESTER) Digital archive DIGAR
National Library of Latvia	Database of National Bibliography Monographies and Serials Database of National Bibliography Analytics Database of Rare books, Manuscripts Catalogue of National Library of Latvia.
National Library of the Netherlands	Seven centuries of Zuiderzee history Liber Amicorum ALG Bosboom-Toussaint, 1882 The Political Cartoons of Peter van Straaten Surinam mapped out It's show time! Puppetry in pictures 16 <sup>th</sup> Century Graphic work from north & south Netherlands The Delta Works as seen through Aart Klein's camera The Art of Knowledge: educational botanical wall charts 1870-1960 Colour Separation Images by Bernard Eilers
Serbian National Library	Svetogorska Grafika
Swiss National Library	Friedrich Dürrenmatt: Inventory of drawings and paintings

Go and look for yourself by clicking on **COLLECTIONS** in: [www.TheEuropeanLibrary.org](http://www.TheEuropeanLibrary.org)

### **New version**

Version 1.2 of the site has been available for over a month. The major changes are:

1. In general: a new layout
2. a. In SEARCH> Simple:  
a virtual keyboard for characters with diacritics  
some pre-selected sets of collections by theme
- b. In SEARCH>Results:  
Full record display: cleaner presentation of the services in particular for the OpenURL compliant services now listed as country-associated services like the KB's resolver for the Netherlands, the BL's document delivery service for the UK and the The European Library's resolver for use by all countries. We hope to see more services added by the partner libraries to make the site more useful to the user.

Full record display: option to send an e-mail with the link to the record + option to print the record.

3.
  - a. In COLLECTIONS>Browse all the collections:  
The sub-collections are indented below their super-collection (use of the isPartOf element!) for a better understanding of the relations within the collections.
  - b. 3 new partners: Denmark, Estonia and Latvia
  - c. In COLLECTIONS>Search collections by description:  
This is an extension of the search form to use the collection descriptions better: search by language, type, etc.
  - d. In COLLECTIONS>Browse collections by subject:  
Beside each subject the number of collections containing the subject in their description is now displayed
  
4. Four new sections:
  - a. SEARCH>History for you to see what queries and collections you used this session
  - b. SEARCH>Favourites for you to save your favourite records during a session
  - c. ABOUT US>Cooperation dedicated to the collaboration currently undertaken with TEL-ME-MOR, DELOS, etc.
  - d. ABOUT US>Links to other useful resources in cultural heritage

The next release, version 1.3, is due at the end of July and will contain a clean up of some backend processes and the addition of a registered users database so users may sign up to receive email alerts on new content and their saved searches.

## Working Groups

The **Technical Working Group** met in The Hague followed by an exploratory meeting with [BRICKS](#) (Building Resources for Integrated Cultural Knowledge Services). They worked on creating some work packages in the areas of:

- making more content accessible through the optical character recognition of previously digitised material.
- developing OAI compliance of more library material.
- using clustering to give more structured results, whereby the power of the web and the big search engines is combined with the data organisational capabilities of libraries to give the user higher quality results.
- the application of a new automatic technique for mapping subject headings, developed by the [STITCH](#) (Semantic Interoperability To access Cultural Heritage) project, where they have mapped [Iconclass](#) with the Rijksmuseum subject headings and derived meaningful results. We would like to do this with Rameau (the French subject heading system), LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) and GOO (the Dutch subject heading system).

The **Editorial Working Group** met in May in Croatia to develop ways of creating more content for The European Library and to look at marketing the site to all the countries within [CENL](#). Part of the meeting was held in seminar-style. Zinaida Manzuch (*Institute of Library and Information Science, Vilnius University*) and Emily Gillingham (*Library Marketing and Communications Manager, Blackwell Publishing*) gave fascinating keynote speeches about The European digital library and The Impact of Effective Marketing. Brainstorming sessions were then conducted to come up with new content and

marketing ideas. One idea for content presentation caused lively debate: the development of thematic dossiers related to (foreseen) newsworthy events. In discussing how to market the portal a lot of attention was given to shared approaches, such as greater similarity in PR efforts and national business to business (B2B) marketing (contacting other libraries, institutions, etc.). Digitisation concepts and the value of log file analysis were also hot topics. As a result of the meeting, marketing plans have been adjusted and concrete actions planned. For more information: <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/croatia2006/>

## **TEL-ME-MOR**

The [TEL-ME-MOR](#) (The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources) project held Regional Expert Workshops in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia in April and May. The workshops were to discuss the research requirements in the New Member States and to formulate recommendations as to how the EU Research and Development agenda can be used to help improve access to cultural and scientific resources. The European Library attended as an example of the benefits participation in EU research projects can bring and obviously we hope everyone was convinced!

## **European Union**

The EU would like us to bring to your notice the current Call for Proposals under the eContentPlus programme.

An Information Day is being held in Luxembourg on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

The Work Programme includes: calls for targeted projects for digital libraries and a thematic network on cultural content under the "digital libraries (cultural and scientific/scholarly content)" action.

Details of the Information Day together with the draft Work Programme 2006 and Call for Proposals can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/econtentplus>.

## **Jobs**

We are still looking for a third developer in the Office. If you know anyone who has Java or Java scripting skills, likes working in a very varied environment and is able to communicate well in English, please get them to contact me. The position on offer is a 3 year contract, but if anyone would like to do a year or two on loan from another library or institution in Europe we would be very happy to hear about it. The job advertisement is still on the site <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/jobs/> and we are more interested in the right attitude than experience.

*Warm Regards,  
jill*

## **Contact Details**

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