



Press Release

The Hague, 03.02.2011

For Immediate Release

5 Million Manuscripts, Films and Texts for Europeana

Work begins this week to add over 5 million digital objects, ranging from Spanish civil war photographs and handwritten letters from philosopher Immanuel Kant, to [Europeana](#) from 19 of Europe's leading research and university libraries.

The project is called Europeana Libraries and it will put many of these treasures online for the first time. It will also add extensive collections from Google Books, theses, dissertations and open-access journal articles to the 15 million items amassed in Europeana to date. Providers include some of Europe's most prestigious universities and research institutes, including the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library, Trinity College Dublin and Lund University.

The assembled objects span centuries of European history. Manuscripts from Serbia date back as far as 1206 and relate to the Ottoman Empire's European territories. Written in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish and Persian, they are being digitised by the University Library of Belgrade. There will also be significant film additions. Footage of talks from 10 Nobel prize winners will be contributed by the University of Vienna and the Wellcome Trust Library in London will add 900 clips from medical science films produced over the past 100 years.

Europeana Libraries is notable not only for the content it will make available online but also because this project brings together national, research and university libraries under one umbrella, to make their materials available via Europeana.

The Europeana Libraries initiative is supported by key international library associations: the [Conference of European National Librarians](#) (CENL), the [Consortium of European Research Libraries](#) (CERL) and the [Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche](#) (LIBER).

Louise Edwards, General Manager of [The European Library](#) and project coordinator said: "This project will offer wonderful new resources for Europe's humanities and social science researchers. Unique source materials that were known only to small numbers of scholars will now become widely accessible, promoting new understanding and cross-border study."

Paul Ayris, President of LIBER, said: “Europeana Libraries will create a service that aggregates the digitised content from research and university libraries. By the end of the project, in two years time, we will have created a robust, automated delivery system which any library can use to deliver its digitised content to Europeana, The European Library, and other services for researchers.”

Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager of CERL, welcomed the start of Europeana Libraries, saying: “It signals a commitment by the different parts of the library sector to work together to deliver the greatest possible benefit to users. We will be able to extend our reach to international research audiences with new content and innovative services, and in doing so, help to develop the European knowledge base.”

Notes For Editors

Libraries involved in the Europeana Libraries project are:

[Bavarian State Library](#)
[Hungarian Parliament Library](#)
[National Library of Wales](#)
[Romanian Academy Library](#)
[Trinity College Dublin](#)
[Universidad Complutense de Madrid](#)
[UCL \(University College London\)](#)
[University of Belgrade](#)
[University of Berne](#)

[University of Ghent](#)
[University of Leuven](#)
[University of Lund](#)
[University of Oxford](#)
[University of Sibiu](#)
[University of Tartu](#)
[University of Uppsala](#)
[University of Vienna](#)
[Wellcome Trust Library](#)
[Zentralbibliothek Zürich](#)

About Europeana Libraries

Europeana Libraries is a 2-year project that will bring the digital collections of some of Europe’s leading research libraries to Europeana. Funded by the European Commission’s IST-PSP programme, Europeana Libraries will be the first cultural digitisation project to investigate full-text searching of the 5 million objects it adds to Europeana.

About The European Library

The European Library offers the ability to freely search the digital resources and catalogues of 48 national libraries in Europe. From 2011, The European Library is developing a new portal with services targeted at academics and researchers in the social sciences and humanities spheres. For more information, contact Aubéry Escande on 00 31 [0] 70314 0824
Aubery.Escande@kb.nl

About Europeana

Europeana.eu is Europe's digital library, museum and archive. Launched as a prototype in November 2008, it offers access to some 15 million digitised items from Europe's cultural and scientific heritage organisations, including resources from 48 national libraries of Europe. For more information about Europeana, contact Jon Purday on 00 44 [0] 1937 546614 or email Marcomms@europeana.eu