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TEL-ME-MOR

The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources

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 Thematic Priority: Information Society Technologies

D4.4 Report on 3 regional concertation events

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CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

REPORT ON THE THREE TEL-ME-MOR REGIONAL CONCERTATION EVENTS

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The three regional concertation events (or 'expert workshops') were organised in accordance with the project work plan, in order to discuss research requirements in the New Member States, to encourage a greater participation of these countries in European research projects and to widen the impact of the TEL-ME-MOR results, both at the policy and at the strategic level.

Overall, the workshops turned out to be very useful and stimulating, being welcomed by participants as good opportunities for exchanging views and concerns on digital libraries' developments, for sharing information on local and EU digital libraries initiatives and for discussing the role of national libraries and of other cultural institutions in the future development of the European Digital Library.

DATES AND VENUES

The regional workshops were organised according to the following schedule:

Warsaw, Poland, 24-25 April 2006

Target countries: Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Budapest, Hungary, 8-9 May 2006

Target countries: Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 18-19 May 2006

Target countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey

The workshops were organised by the national libraries of the host countries, partners in TEL-ME-MOR, with the support from the National Library of Estonia, Work Package 4 Co-ordinator, and of Eremo srl, Project Scientific Co-ordinator.

PROGRAMME

The three events were conceived with a similar programme structure, spread over two days and including the following sessions:

Session 1 – Activities and results of the TEL-ME-MOR project and The European Library

Session 2 – Current trends in cultural heritage and ICT research in the European national libraries

Session 3 – Opportunities for the New Member States to participate in the EU R&D activities

Session 4 – Related EU projects and networks

Session 5 – Examples of national initiatives

The programmes with links to relevant presentations are accessible from the project web site at:
<http://telmemor.net/workshops.php>

SPEAKERS

Speakers at the three workshops (see description below) made a substantial contribution to the success of the events, enabling to reach the right balance between 'local' and 'international' and providing an overview of the major digital libraries initiatives and related future trends across Europe.

- **Local speakers.** Overall, about 20 local speakers contributed to the three workshops, out of which, 7 from the organising institutions and 13 from other local institutions. In particular, the speakers came from national libraries, government agencies, FP6 and eContent*plus* National Contact Points, museums and archives. It is important to notice that in all the three events, the session devoted to local initiatives proved to be very useful and informative and raised a considerable interest amongst the participants, most of whom were not aware of the initiatives presented. A significant interest was also showed in the eContent*plus* programme, its past and future activities and in related best practice examples involving New Member States.
- **TEL-ME-MOR speakers.** Representatives from project partners delivered presentations on TEL-ME-MOR, The European Library, as well as provided an overview of the Digital Libraries Initiative of the European Commission. Project speakers were Jill Cousins and Olaf Janssen from TEL Office, Barbara Morganti and David Fuegi from Eremo srl, Adolf Knoll and Zinaida Manžuch from the Czech National Library.
- **Foreign guest speakers.** In the session devoted to 'related EU projects and networks' a number of foreign speakers (one Greek and the rest of Italian nationality) were invited to illustrate the DELOS and MICHAEL projects. At the Slovenian workshop, Sreten Ugričić Director of the National Library of Serbia, made an interesting presentation on the Serbian Digital Library.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the workshops reflected the main target audiences addressed by the TEL-ME-MOR project. In particular, directors and/or staff from national and local libraries, museums, city archives, ministries of cultural heritage, research centres and other cultural institutions from the New Member States and neighbouring countries, took part in the events.

Overall, a total of 175 participants (excluding project representatives and foreign speakers) attended the three events, distributed as follows:

Poland

78 participants: 55 from Poland (27 of which from the National Library of Poland) and 19 from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia.

Hungary

42 participants: 31 from Hungary (5 of which from the National Library of Hungary) and 8 from Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania.

Slovenia

52 participants: 43 from Slovenia (17 of which from the National and University Library of Slovenia) and 9 from Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The presentations delivered at the workshops stimulated lively discussions on major issues related to Research and Development in the cultural heritage area, with a particular focus on digital libraries. The presentations on the recent Digital Libraries' Initiative and on the eContent*plus* programme of the European Commission provoked a great interest in the audiences, contributing to a better understanding of future European opportunities for participation in European projects within the cultural and learning sectors.

Below is a summary of the main conclusions and recommendations which resulted from the discussions. Interestingly, the participants in the three events shared the same views as to main issues and priority research areas for the future development of a common European Digital Library. The following conclusions and recommendations will be taken into account and further discussed at the final Project Policy Conference in Tallinn, Estonia, on 19-20 October 2006.

- **Co-operation** emerged as one of the keywords of the three events. Co-operation is reckoned necessary and should be encouraged:
 - ❖ **between memory institutions** (libraries, museums and archives), both at a national and European level;
 - ❖ **amongst existing major digital library initiatives** in Europe, namely, The European Library, MICHAEL and DELOS. Synergy and collaboration between these projects is highly recommended to ensure mutual benefit and avoid overlapping and duplication of work;
 - ❖ **between libraries and private IT commercial companies** to support the creation of digital content;
 - ❖ **between the national libraries in The European Library and other types of libraries** (e.g. in the areas of selection of materials and collections description).
- **Co-ordination of digitisation efforts** and initiatives is required, both at a national and a European level.
- The **funding of digitisation activities** is considered as one of the most crucial issues. At all the three events it was emphasised that most New Member States encounter difficulties in encouraging the private sector to invest in mass digitisation projects, and the governments do not have adequate resources to fund large-scale digitisation initiatives. On the other hand, the need for an action in this respect is reckoned of key importance to ensure availability on the Internet of an increased number of resources in the languages of the New Member States to face the current and growing dominance of English language digital materials. In this connection, it was advocated that the EU, besides trying and influence the governments of the New Member States to take actions to improve this situation, reconsiders its current policy to provide opportunities for funding of digitisation work.
- **Libraries, museums and archives need to regularly monitor digital library initiatives and related policy developments**, both at national and European level, in order to keep up to date with current trends.
- **Memory institutions are often not recognised as research institutions** in the New Member States and they are therefore neglected, when it comes to receiving funding or being identified as partners in research partnerships; it is perhaps the responsibility of the same institutions to try and encourage a change in this respect at the national level.
- There is a need for further exploration and research in the areas of **multilingualism and copyright issues**; these are key issues which need to be constantly addressed by national and European research agendas.
- **Interoperability and commons standards** (data transfer, unified search, metadata) were recognised by most participants as research priorities in the field of digitisation and digital preservation.

- When investing in digital library initiatives, policy makers and memory institutions must first **investigate needs and requirements of users**, to make sure that their developed services reflect what users really want.
- The European Library, MICHAEL and DELOS should further discuss and investigate concrete areas of co-operation to avoid overlapping in future work and to contribute to the final goal of building a European Digital Library.

The programmes and reports of the individual workshops, compiled by each country organiser, are provided in Annexes 1-2-3 below.

ANNEX 1. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN WARSAW, POLAND, 24-25 APRIL 2006

Agenda

24 April

09.30–10.00

Registration

10.00–10.15

Welcome by Dr. Tomasz Makowski, Deputy Director for Research, National Library of Poland

10.15–13.00

Session 1 – The European Library, TEL-ME-MOR, and European Digital Library

10.15-10.45

The European Library – Jill Cousins, Head of Office, The European Library

10.45–11.15

Coffee break

11.15–11.45

TEL-ME-MOR: goals, activities, impact & results – David Fuegi, Eremo srl

11.45–12.15

European Digital Library – Daria Nałęcz, Director General of the Polish State Archives

12.15–13.00

Open discussion

13.00–14.00

Sandwich lunch

14.00–15.00

Session 2 – Shaping the future research agenda for the cultural and learning sectors in the New Member States

This session presented and discussed the findings of an analysis carried out by TEL-ME-MOR, which investigated research requirements of National Libraries in the New Member States, in areas relevant to the IST Programme.

14.00–14.30

Analysis of Research Activities and requirements of the National Libraries of the New EU Member States – Zinaida Manžuch, Vilnius University/National Library of the Czech Republic

14.30-15.00

Open discussion

The discussion formulated recommendations as to how the EU R&D (Research and Development) agenda can lead to improving access to cultural and scientific resources via participation in future IST projects.

15.00–15.30
Coffee break

15.30–17.00
Session 3 – Related EU projects & networks

This session aimed to encourage networking and collaboration between TEL-ME-MOR and the projects presented, in order to maximise its impact and reach more effectively the policy makers as well as the education sector in the NMS.

15.30–16.00
MICHAEL: Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe – Giuliana De Francesco, Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Project Technical Co-ordinator, Italy

16.00–16.30
DELOS: The Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries: DELOS Highlights – Costantino Thanos, Project Co-ordinator, ISTI-CNR – The Institute of Information Science and Technologies, Italy

16.30–17.00
eContentplus – Anna Bramska, Department of Information Society, Ministry of Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland

17.00–17.15
Conclusions

20.00
Dinner at "Café Zamek" at the Warsaw Castle in the Old City (<http://www.cafe-zamek.pl/>)

25 April

09.00–11.00
Session 4 – Examples of national initiatives

This session was devoted to research developments and initiatives at national/regional level in the New Member States, including cross-sectoral initiatives between libraries museums and archives, with a particular focus on the Learning and Culture areas.

09.00 – 09.30
IST in Poland - from the NCP's point of view – Agnieszka Ciechańska, FP6–IST National Contact Point

09.30 – 10.00
Poland in the Culture 2000 Programme – Małgorzata Czerwiec, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

10.00 – 10.20
Preservation of digital cultural heritage: national initiatives in Estonia – Janne Andresoo, Head of Research and Development Centre, National Library of Estonia

10.00 – 10.40
Cross-sectoral initiatives of archives, libraries and museums (ALM) in Latvia – Anita Goldberga, Deputy Director, National Library of Latvia

10.40 – 11.00

Participation in European R&D programs and development of national policy for digitisation of cultural heritage: Lithuanian case – Sandra Leknickienė, Scientific Secretary, National Library of Lithuania

11.00–11.30
Coffee break

11.30–12.30
Final discussion, conclusions & recommendations

Representatives from various sectors, who participated in the workshop, presented final statements with regard to the research requirements in the New Member States, in order to draw conclusions and make recommendations as to how to take them into account in the shaping of future EU Research Programmes.

12.30–13.30
Sandwich lunch

13.30–15.40
National Library tour (optional)

Participants

There were 23 participants from abroad, 28 from Poland and 27 from the National Library of Poland equalling 78 altogether.

Summary of presentations

In two days of our regional workshop we had 12 presentations by speakers from Estonia, the Netherlands, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, United Kingdom and Poland in 4 sessions, followed by the discussion.

The first session, moderated by Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, presented three European projects linked with each other: The European Library (Jill Cousins), TEL-ME-MOR (David Fuegi), and the European Digital Library (Daria Nałęcz).

Jill Cousins' presentation included TEL project's background, organisational structure, strong and weak points of the project, system architecture, statistical data, future user-focused developments and improved processes, and also the perspective to join EDL (European Digital Library).

David Fuegi provided a general overview of the TEL-ME-MOR project, including background, partners, objectives, relation with The European Library, project's audiences and timetable of activities, outcomes and deliverables dissemination plus issues for the future: technicalities, policy conference to wrap-up the TEL-ME-MOR activity and the perspective to join EDL, to be based on TEL infrastructure and outcomes.

Daria Nałęcz's presentation focused on the i2010 Digital Libraries' Initiative. While pointing out the existence of many initiatives, Daria stressed the lack of co-operation amongst them. She illustrated the initiative in general (which is based on the Lund Principles Dynamic Action Plan), referring to Viviane Reding's various statements on the matter (e.g. copyright). Being a member of the High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries, recently established by the European Commission, Daria provided an overview of the Group's activities, and informed on the outcomes of the first meeting of

the Group held in March 2006. The European Digital Library will be based on the TEL platform (decentralised platform linking all memory institutions) while observing commonly used standards. It will also be technologically interoperable (multilingual search engines and automatic indexing). Amongst the main challenges highlighted in this connection were the long-term preservation of digital content, which demands migrations to more advanced platforms, obsolete media, as well as issues related to the intellectual property rights, licensing, etc. From the financial point of view the need for additional sources of funding for the infrastructure and the scanning process was stressed, while in terms of work organisation the aspect of the format in which resources are available (printed format, many documents available in handwritten format) was emphasised. According to the European Commission's plan, the European Digital Library will provide on-line access to two million digital objects by 2008, which will reach eight million by 2010.

In the second session, chaired by Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, **Zinaida Manžuch** from the Vilnius University presented the results of an analysis carried out within the project on research activities and requirements of European national libraries in the domain of cultural heritage and ICT. The analysis, carried out via a questionnaire, examined responses from 39 European national libraries (15 old Member States, 10 New Member States and 14 non-EU states) according to five main subject areas: underlying technologies, preservation and access, digital libraries, Research and Development framework, and the analysis of findings. One of the outcomes was that there are no gaps between the EU 15 Member States, the 10 New Member States and the 14 non-European countries surveyed. However, the analysis emphasised significant gaps in several national libraries that should be considered at the international level.

It was stressed that for the future of the European Digital Library an R&D framework which includes national libraries should be established. It was also mentioned that the pace and quantity of digitised materials produced in national libraries are far from satisfactory, to build the European Digital Library and that more attention should be paid to digital preservation at the European level. For a better collaboration between national libraries, transparent quality standards and terminology should be agreed upon and observed, and a closer co-operation with end-users should be encouraged.

The third session, chaired by Andris Vilks, included three presentations devoted to EU projects and programmes, namely, MICHAEL: The multilingual catalogue of digital cultural heritage in Europe (Giuliana De Francesco), DELOS, the network of excellence on digital libraries (Costantino Thanos) and the eContent*plus* Programme (Anna Bramska).

Giuliana De Francesco presented the MICHAEL project, whose objectives are the development of a European online service providing access to the digital collections of museums, libraries and archives from different European countries. The project will allow users to search, browse and examine multiple national cultural portals from a single point of access, it will develop technical guidelines fostering the use of standards (the MICHAEL platform open source model shall be available shortly), and a "Good Practice" handbook.

Costantino Thanos' presentation offered a general overview of the DELOS project, covering issues such as system architecture, semantic interoperability in digital libraries, user interfaces, and preservation, digital repositories (set of services for the constituency), digital library evaluation infrastructures (cross-language retrieval, the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum – CLEF, XML information access). The presentation also illustrated the main achievements of the project, namely, the provision of a set of comprehensive surveys and state-of the art reports covering research areas of the network, theoretical work dealing with the development of models related to research activities of the network, the development of infrastructure to support large evaluation campaigns in the field of cross-language retrieval and XML retrieval.

Anna Bramska gave an overview of the eContent*plus* programme, a framework with an overall objective to facilitate access to and use of European digital content and to improve accessibility

and usability of digital material in areas of public interest. Target areas of the programme are geographic information, educational content, cultural and scientific/scholarly content preserved in museums, libraries, archives, educational and scientific institutions and organisations and publishers. It was announced that a new call for proposals will be published in June 2006.

The fourth session, moderated by Toomas Schvak, was devoted to examples of national initiatives in national libraries of the New Member States, including an overview of the IST programme in Poland by the National Contact Point's representative Agnieszka Ciechańska, a paper on 'Poland in the Culture 2000 Programme', by Małgorzata Czerwiec, a presentation on 'Preservation of digital cultural heritage: national initiatives in Estonia', by Janne Andresoo, 'Cross-sectoral initiatives of archives, libraries and museums (ALM)' in Latvia (Anita Goldberga), and a case study on the participation in the European R&D programmes and development of a national policy for digitisation of the cultural heritage, by Sandra Leknickiene from Lithuania.

Agnieszka Ciechańska's presentation introduced the IST programme, providing an overview of the path towards an Information Society in Poland and ePoland objectives (common access to electronic content and services; development of valuable content and services accessible via the Internet; ability to utilise available sources, requirements such as computer literacy and a new attitude), the role of the National Contact Point in R&D Programmes of the EU, its structure and services. The second part of the presentation covered the IST Priority of the FP6.

Małgorzata Czerwiec illustrated the Culture 2000 Programme: its budget, objectives (to contribute to the promotion of the cultural area common to all Europeans; to encourage cultural creativity and mobility and access to culture for all), the players, actions supported by Culture 2000, domains of cultural activity/sectors and Polish participation in the Community programs (statistical data). The author underlined main difficulties for Polish participation (financial requirements of 5 per cent own input to the budget and international dimension demanding foreign partners). The presentation concluded with the promotion of some recent and past projects: EMILE – Leaving Europe for America Early – EMigrant LEtter stories; EU-Books – History and promotion of reading among children; GAME OVER – young people writing their own stories with the help of new technologies, and the introduction of the Culture 2007 Programme (2007–2013 with the budget of 408 mln euros).

Janne Andresoo's paper focused on the preservation of digital cultural heritage by national initiatives in Estonia, focusing on national policies with the role of libraries (Principles of the Estonian Information Policy 2004–2006), the organisation (the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage Conservation Board by the Ministry of Culture, and expert centres of digitisation at the National Library of Estonia for libraries, at the Estonian History Archives for archives, and at the Preservation Centre KANUT for museums), national strategy of the digital preservation of Estonian cultural heritage 2004–2007, and national projects (The Red Book of Estonian Publications 1535–1850; DEA – Digitised Estonian Newspapers 1821–1944). She also mentioned the Strategic Action Plan of the Ministry of Culture 2007–2010 to add the Estonian network of memory institutions to the European Digital Library.

Anita Goldberga's presentation introduced cross-sectoral initiatives of archives, libraries and museums (ALM) in Latvia, with a short history of ALM co-operation, state agency Cultural Information Systems (CIS) tasks and guidelines for establishing unified information system for cultural heritage and memory institutions 2005–2012, Museum, Archive and Library Standardisation Technical Committee (MABSTK). The author spoke also about the project of co-operation model for unified search system of authority records in ALM context with suggestions for the co-operation; a very interesting project 'Online bank of terms: archives, libraries, museums' to compile information on terminological resources of archives, museums and libraries in order to develop terms and their definitions and to create, maintain and update the on-line database of terms (over 2000 records including terms, equivalent terms in English, German and Russian if existing, definitions of terms and notes); and the project 'Digital Library of Maps'.

Sandra Leknickiene's paper focused on Lithuanian participation in European R&D programs and the development of national policy for digitisation of cultural heritage. Lithuanian participation in FP6 and IST programs in particular, the cultural heritage policy and the concept of digitisation of Lithuanian cultural heritage and its goals, and digitisation initiatives were discussed. The author presented the idea of the creation of the Integrated Virtual Library Information System, a project launched on 1 September 2005 with the goal to ensure free public access to documents preserved in Lithuanian libraries, museums and archives, to create the database of electronic content of libraries, museums and archives, and to provide users with e-services on the basis of the created database.

Summary of discussions

The most important issues discussed during the first day of the workshop were related to closer co-operation amongst all players (libraries, archives, museums, private institutions) for the creation of digital content, for the solving of technical problems in order to use well-developed and tested standards (OAI compliant), as well as for the dissemination of outcomes – workshops organised for librarians in different countries to share experiences in order to avoid mistakes, to promote standards and good practices, to take into account the principles of 'what, why, to whom, how' in creating digital content, and to provide open access to cultural heritage in electronic format for all citizens. All digitised objects should be thoroughly described in a standardised way to enable broad searches with 100% hits (... "Reading is easy if you know what you are reading." ...).

Zinaida Manžuch's paper aroused great interest amongst the participants. In particular, the participants from Russia and Ukraine were interested in obtaining both questionnaires (for the 'new' and 'old' member states), in order to discuss these issues in their libraries. Other participants pointed out inconsistencies in methodology adopted in the questionnaire. The discussion covered also short presentations of individual digital library initiatives in a number of countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland).

During the second day of the workshop, the following issues were discussed: the existence of an R&D State Register in Latvia and Estonia (ETIS) (no such registers exist in Poland and Lithuania); how to deal with digital-born documents that are not commonly considered as cultural heritage documents (preservation for future, institutional repositories, legal deposit of electronic documents); archiving of electronic resources and pan-European depository integrating local repositories, selection criteria or principles to include materials in digital collections, indexing of web resources – lack of common indexes, harmonisation of copyright law (digitising old materials versus copyright problems with relatively new materials), closer co-operation with commercial companies in order to create digital content, lack of financial means for the creation of technological infrastructure for digital libraries, cooperation of national libraries with other libraries in The European Library development (e.g., selection of materials and collections description), the creation of a network of excellence (strategic alliance with other research communities on national and international level). The issue of whether the creation of a European Digital Library as a one-stop shop (with multi-search engine) would be a useful service and what the users really want, was addressed. Could a service enabling the search across distributed digital resources be preferable to end-users? The need for a common infrastructure, where local institutions can publish their materials with the support of a network of specialists, was emphasised on the examples of the MICHAEL project and the Polish *dLibra* software.

Conclusions/Recommendations

TEL-ME-MOR regional workshop was an interesting and well-received opportunity to exchange views and experiences relating to the creation of digital content, to define the role of national

libraries in R&D activities in the field of digital technology development, and an excellent platform to share views on the European Union projects, their role as supportive and integrating factors while taking significant decisions on the creation of national digital heritage content in individual European countries, and also on the path to join the European Digital Library.

ANNEX 2. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 8-9 MAY 2006

Agenda

8 May

09.00–09.30

Registration

09.30–09.45

Welcome by Mr. Ádám Horváth, Director of Informatics, National Széchényi Library of Hungary

09.45–10.30

Session 1 – The European Library and TEL-ME-MOR: goals, activities, impact and results

Jill Cousins, Head of Office, The European Library; Barbara Morganti, Eremo srl

10.30–11.00

Coffee break

11.00–12.30

Session 2 – Current trends in cultural heritage and ICT research in the European national libraries

Zinaida Manžuch, Vilnius University/National Library of the Czech Republic;

Adolf Knoll, Deputy Director, National Library of the Czech Republic

OPEN DISCUSSION

The discussion aimed to formulate recommendations as to how the EU R&D (Research and Development) agenda can lead to improving access to cultural and scientific resources via participation in future IST projects.

12.30–13.30

Sandwich lunch

13.30–15.00

Session 3 – Opportunities for New Member States to participate in the EU R&D activities

EC Digital Libraries initiatives - Barbara Morganti, Eremo srl

eContentplus – Ágnes Bereczki, MATISZ (Hungarian Association for Content Industry)

15.00–15.30

Coffee break

15.30–16.30

Session 4 – Related EU projects & networks

MICHAEL: Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe – Antonella Fresa, Project Technical Coordinator, Italy

DELOS: Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries – Vittore Casarosa, ISTI-CNR (The Institute of Information Science and Technologies), Italy

16.30–16.45
Conclusions

19.30
Conference dinner at the "Kárpátia" restaurant

9 May

09.30–10.00
Summary of conclusions of previous day's discussions

10.00–11.00
Session 5 – Examples of national initiatives

Presentations:

- Examples of Hungarian projects in FP6 – Vilmos Bognár, IST NCP
- Initiatives in the R&D area concerning libraries, archives and museums - Iván Rónai: Ministry of Cultural Heritage
- The National Library in EU projects: MINERVA+, eTEN – István Moldován, National Széchényi Library;

11.00–11.30
Coffee break

11.30–13.00
Session 5 – continued

- The Leonardo da Vinci Program - e-taster - Dániel Molnár, COEDU kft.
- The National Audiovisual Archive - Bálint András Kovács (NAVA)
- The National Digital Archive - Dávid Kitzinger (NDA)
- "Ask the Internet Librarian!": Introducing LibInfo, the online information service of Hungarian libraries – Zoltán Mező, National Széchényi Library

OPEN DISCUSSION

13.00–14.00
Final discussion, conclusions & recommendations

Representatives from various sectors, who participated in the workshop, will present final statements with regard to the research requirements in the New Member States, with particular reference to building the European Digital Library in order to draw conclusions and make recommendations as to how to take them into account in the shaping of future EU Research Programmes.

14.00
Sandwich lunch

Venue and date

National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary, 8-9 May 2006

Participants

Number of participants: 42

Participants were representatives of libraries, museums, archives and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. The national libraries of the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova took part in the workshop.

Presentations

In the first half of the first day The European Library and TEL-ME-MOR were presented by Jill Cousins and Barbara Morganti, respectively. Zinaida Manžuch, from the Vilnius University and Adolf Knoll from the National Library of the Czech Republic presented the results of their analysis on current trends in cultural heritage and ICT research in the European national libraries. In the second half of the day, EU R&D initiatives within the IST Priority of the 6th Framework Programme, the *eContentplus* Programme, and the EU projects MICHAEL and DELOS were illustrated.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to national initiatives, featuring interesting presentations, including, amongst the others, examples of Hungarian projects funded within FP6, R&D collaborative initiatives between libraries, archives and museums, the Leonardo da Vinci project - e-taster, the National Audiovisual Archive and the Hungarian National Digital Archive.

Summary of discussions

- One of the main topics which emerged from the discussions was the funding of digitisation activities. It was emphasised that the Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Moldavian and Romanian markets are not big enough to encourage the private sector to invest in mass digitisation in the hope of generating revenue and that governments, on the other hand, do not have adequate resources to fund such activities. The importance of digitising materials in the original languages of the New Member States was stressed, highlighting the current situation of the dominance of English language resources in the Internet, which is putting under risk the European multiculturalism and diversity. In this connection, it was proposed that the EU reconsider its policy on funding of digitisation, to provide opportunities for funding also in this area.
- The digitisation of old periodicals is important as the current ones are generally available in digital format.
- Aspects related to the objectives of mass digitisation – access or preservation? – were discussed: it was concluded that the aim of digitisation depends on the priorities of the institutions as well as on needs of users and that a balance between access and preservation should be reached.
- The involvement of museums and archives in the IST programmes of the European Union was acknowledged. Libraries could contribute to this by raising awareness and encouraging participation in collaborative projects.
- Copyright is amongst the main issues to be addressed, when building a digital library (what should be provided freely and how – within the library, via library networks, etc.?) The government funds are not sufficient and therefore the private sector should be involved.

Main conclusions/recommendations

- Co-operation should bring together existing initiatives and involve different institutions.
- The presentation of The European Library turned out to be of particular interest to non-EU participants, especially with regard to standards and protocols required to be implemented in order to join the service.
- There are concrete possibilities of cooperation between MICHAEL, DELOS and The European Library, which should be further investigated to avoid overlapping and contribute to the final goal of building a European Digital Library.

Other observations and lessons learnt

- National libraries are the major players in the digitisation process: they are the most important repositories of their national cultural heritage; they have the right experience and knowledge and are in a good position for raising awareness with private and public players.
- The workshop proved to be very useful, raising a number of important issues and aspects which should be further discussed and at the TEL-ME-MOR Policy Conference in October in Tallinn, Estonia, in order to come up with concrete conclusions and recommendations.

ANNEX 3. REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, 18-19 MAY 2006

Venue

EUROPE CENTRE
Dalmatinova 4
1000 Ljubljana
<http://www.center-evropa.si/>

Since the library has no suitable facility to seat 60 participants, a conference hall at the *Center Evropa* was hired. The hall, along with the use of facilities, was rent-free due to the fact that the event had a recognisable European dimension. An evening reception nevertheless took place at the library premises and on Day 2 a guided tour was carried out.

Participants

The event was attended by 59 representatives from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Malta, Cyprus and Turkey, mainly coming from national, public and university libraries, museums and archives, and scholarly environment. Representatives of the ministries, responsible for the institutions of cultural and scientific heritage, were also present at the event. Speakers and project managers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands and UK took part in the event as well.

Agenda

18 May

08.30–09.30
Registration

09.30–09.45
Welcome by Mr. Lenart Šetinc, Director of the National and University Library of Slovenia

09.45–11.00
Session 1 - The European Library and TEL-ME-MOR: goals, activities, impact and results

09.45–10.15
The European Library – Olaf Janssen, The European Library

10.15–10.45
TEL-ME-MOR: goals, activities, impacts and results – David Fuegi, Eremo srl

10.45–11.00
Open discussion

11.00–11.30
Coffee break

11.30–12.30

Session 2 - Shaping the future research agenda for the cultural and learning sectors in the New Member States

11.30–12.00

Current trends in cultural heritage and ICT research in the European national libraries – Zinaida Manžuch, Vilnius University, Adolf Knoll, Deputy Director-General, National Library of the Czech Republic

12.00-12.30

Open discussion

12.30–14.00

Lunch at Šestica, <http://www.stoletne-gostilne.si/en/gostilne/gostilna-sestica>

14.00–15.15

Session 3 - Opportunities for New Member States to participate in the EU R&D activities

14.00–14.30

EC digital libraries initiatives and developments - David Fuegi, Eremo srl

14.30–15.00

eContent*plus*: National co-ordination of the Programme – Samo Zorc, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia

15.00-15.15

Open discussion

15.15–15.45

Coffee break

15.45–16.45

Session 4 – Related EU projects and networks

15.45-16.15

MICHAEL: Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe – Piergiacomo Sola, Amitie srl, Project Partner, Italy

16.15-16.45

DELOS: the Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries – Maristella Agosti, University of Padua, Italy

16.45–17.15

Open discussion / Day 1 Conclusions

19.00

Buffet reception at the National and University Library

19 May

09.00–11.45

Session 5 – Examples of national initiatives

09.00-09.30

dLib.si: Digital Library of Slovenia – Zoran Krstulović, Deputy Director, National and University Library, Slovenia

09.30-10.00

KAMRA Regional Portal – Breda Karun, National and University Library, Slovenia

10.00–10.30

Coffee break

10.30–11.00

Collect & Share: a successful European partnership on lifelong learning in art museums and galleries – Adela Železnik, Museum of Modern Art Ljubljana, Slovenia

11.00–11.30

Deep Catalogue of the National Library of Serbia – Sreten Ugričić, Director, National Library of Serbia

11.30–11.45

Open discussion

11.45–12.15

Final discussion, conclusions & recommendations

12.15–13.00

Sandwich lunch

13.30-14.30

Guided tour of the National and University Library (optional)

DAY 1

The workshop was opened by Mr Lenart Šetinc, Managing Director of the [National and University Library of Slovenia](#). In his opening address he welcomed the participants to the workshop and stressed the challenging environment where national libraries are now working and the need for co-operation, nationally and internationally at all levels.

Session 1

Mr. **Olaf Janssen** gave a concise overview of The European Library (TEL). Historical background and developments were described, together with major achievements of the service to-date. Amongst the main issues highlighted were the lack of digital content, usability of the library portal and multilingual search and retrieval. TEL-ME-MOR had a significant impact on the development of TEL, especially in terms of the number of collections added, multilingual issues and work on the metadata registry. In the future, TEL wishes to increase the amount of digital content, improve access to the service and take steps towards enhanced multilingualism (including search and retrieval, subject headings, collection descriptions). The need to go on with periodical user surveys was also stressed. The European Digital Library initiative, aimed to involve libraries, museums and archives under the same roof, was briefly described.

A presentation of the TEL-ME-MOR project by Mr. **David Fuegi** followed. Partners in the project were mentioned and objectives and activities outlined with an emphasis on the importance of raising awareness for a greater participation of organisations from New Member States (NMS) in EU projects.

The discussion which followed the presentations opened with the consideration of copyright issues in the process of mass digitisation. An interesting question on whether institutions other than national libraries would be included in the EDL development was put forward; as yet, there are no clear answers to this question. The importance of infrastructure, multilingualism and user needs was stressed: are we doing what our users want us to do? Although all these issues are covered in several European projects, there are no ready-made solutions. Projects are working together to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. It was felt that libraries have taken on the responsibility of co-ordinating these efforts but that the need for co-operation should not be overstressed.

Session 2

Dr. **Adolf Knoll** and Ms. **Zinaida Manžuch** presented the results of the survey which, covering the NMS national libraries, was lately extended to all CENL members, and examined the state-of-the-art of R&D within these libraries. National libraries are still considered to be cultural institutions, although changes towards acknowledgement of national libraries as R&D players have occurred. The comparative analysis shows interesting results in R&D staff and funding, but there is increased interest in participating in international and European R&D projects. Obviously, strategic priorities in R&D differ greatly between some libraries. As far as underlying technologies are concerned, a variety of advanced systems can be found in a majority of the national libraries, but more attention is paid to metadata than to imaging. Preservation of library materials represents a major problem. Alarming differences were identified in the amount of digitised material as well as in the provision of quality access solutions. Again, only a small number of libraries collaborate with their users when taking decisions in the field and this should become one of the priorities.

During the discussion which followed, it was necessary to clarify the role of TEL-ME-MOR, pointing out that this does not involve supporting libraries in carrying out digitisation of their resources nor provides finances to increase the amount of digitised material. It was stressed that the funds for digitisation activities should come from national resources. In this connection, the need for raising awareness on the political level on this matter was emphasised. The preservation aspect of building a digital library which in the past used to be neglected is receiving more and more attention. As to the R&D, there is no common model in terms of what R&D library departments should do and what kind of staff they should hire, and there is no consensus on what kind of activities they should carry out (in-house/outsourcing).

Session 3

Mr. **David Fuegi** gave a presentation on the Digital Libraries' Initiative of the European Commission. After a short overview of international developments which took place in 2005 (Google initiative etc.) he moved on to the Commission's response as part of the European Information Society i2010 strategy with the goal of making European information resources easier and more interesting to use in a multinational and multilingual environment. Description of actions taken so far was provided: (1) Communication, (2) On-line consultation, (3) High Level Expert Group. In the consultation, 225 replies were received from libraries, archives, museums, publishers, universities, ICT companies, including a reply from CENL. The on-line consultation results focus on copyright issues, multilingualism, interoperability and standards, and establishment of centres of competence for digitisation. The European Commission also announced publication of recommendations on digitisation and digital preservation. Their strategy on the European Digital Library (EDL) was illustrated: EDL will be built upon the infrastructure of TEL and after achieving full collaboration among the EU national libraries it will be expanded to archives and museums. The High Level Expert Group was established to advise and discuss the issues related to the building of EDL. Further activities were shortly described (FP7 – attention to digital preservation and access to content; eContentplus – new Call in June 2006), along with some interesting financial implications.

Mr. **Samo Zorc** as the following speaker explained the eContent(*plus*) programme within the national context of the Republic of Slovenia. First he concentrated on various opportunities and threats, together with several types of partnerships and areas, covered by the programme (cultural heritage, education and learning, linguistic infrastructure). The European Commission received some 300 proposals, but only 30 (10%) succeeded in obtaining financial support. Slovenia joined in 2003 and 53 institutions submitted their proposals; 6 of them were successful. Interest of Slovenian institutions to participate in any European programme has been growing (for example, eTEN). In continuation, goals of the eContent*plus* programme were described. 40% of the budget (149 million €) will go to digital libraries with the aim to improve interoperability of digital content held by libraries and enable multilingual access to it. Finally, national initiatives were listed and illustrated: Digital Library of Slovenia (led by NUK, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology); E-Libraries (public access points in public libraries); NEM (Networked and Electronic Media).

A question about the gap between the two parts of Europe was brought up, regarding the infrastructure: NMS are invited to discuss about and join digital library initiatives while some of them do not have the adequate technical infrastructure to take part and benefit from such initiatives: how should this problem be tackled? It was concluded that the real problem is organisational and not technical sustainability.

Museums and archives are expected to join EDL. How would this be handled, taking into account that these institutions are not sufficiently automated and in some countries have no experience with digitisation whatsoever? Indeed, museums and archives are planned to join in after 2008, and in the field sometimes there is no counterpart to talk about the issue. Nevertheless, discussions with museums and archives, as EDL is concerned, are under way.

Session 4

Mr. **Pier Giacomo Sola**'s contribution focused on MICHAEL (Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe), an ongoing project under eTEN programme, with the aim of launching a European online service to enable the European cultural heritage to be promoted to a worldwide audience. MICHAEL is working with collections of digital objects, so, in a way, it is of major importance to museums and archives rather than libraries. The project involves institutions from France, Italy and UK, but wishes to be extended beyond these countries. The services provided will embrace: fully operational search and retrieval, multilingual support, national data capture and information services, interoperable information systems, promoting collections held by small, medium and large institutions, supporting cultural tourism, education, research. It is planned that the full service would be available in June 2007 in France, Italy, UK and at trans-European level.

A presentation of DELOS, the Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries, was delivered by Prof. **Maristella Agosti**. The project is funded by the European Union under the 6th Framework Programme (duration: 2004–2007) and it involves 61 members, not necessarily libraries; archives, museums, sound archives etc. are co-operating as well. The DELOS network intends to conduct a joint programme of activities aimed at integrating and coordinating the ongoing research activities of the major European teams working in digital library related areas with the goal of developing the next generation digital library technologies. The network research embraces foundational research, systems-related research, user-related research and work on horizontal issues, including digital repositories as providers of both preservation and access services. The DELOS/TEL co-operation can be seen in four different tasks and activities: interaction for the validation and refinement of the DELOS reference model, multilingual information access, personalization capabilities and services for collection navigation and results visualization.

During the discussion which followed the presentations, multilingualism was, once again, singled out as a major issue to be taken into account: subject searching in the national language should be provided, regardless of the project or service. Information on user behaviour, e.g. the way they are

looking for information, should systematically be monitored and analysed. Additionally, it was explained that the Michael project concentrates on unmovable cultural heritage as well, such as archaeological sites, buildings etc. As to the DELOS network, information on the DELOS reference model for digital library systems was elaborated.

DAY 2

Session 5

Mr. **Zoran Krstulović** provided a detailed overview of the [Digital Library of Slovenia](#), a web portal providing access to digitised Slovenian cultural resources and, so far, the only operational service of its kind in Slovenia. It offers free searches and access to digitised collections of journals, books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, music, and reference material. As a research and scholarly tool it enables cross-searching of various collections and integrated search results are presented in digital form. Starting points, objectives and features were outlined. An example of search and retrieval was showed (basic and advanced search of metadata, full text search, combined metadata search and full text search option, simultaneous search of several different databases regardless of server location), along with display of results. Finally, new contents and collections to be added by the end of 2006 were listed.

Ms. **Breda Karun**'s presentation focused on the KAMRA Regional Portal, involving libraries, archives, museums and other cultural and educational institutions at the local level. Emphasis is put on e-local studies with access to digital content. The objective of the project is to enable small content providers to make their contents freely accessible in order to assist all citizens to gain access to cultural heritage and local history material. The basic principle is »telling stories« with focus on the end user, rather than the institution/location. KAMRA is a 4-year project (2005–2008), co-ordinated by the Public Libraries Association and 10 regional libraries and National and University Library as partners. Due to lack of skills at the local level, regular training on digitisation is being carried out by NUK. KAMRA has enabled public libraries to work in the digital environment where borders between institutions and sectors are disappearing and project and team work required.

An interesting shift away from the world of libraries was Ms. **Adela Železnik**'s presentation of the Collect & Share project with an emphasis on the Museum of Modern Art Ljubljana contribution to the project. Collect & Share was a three-year (2003–2005) partnership project that explored good practice in adult lifelong learning in art museums and galleries, involving institutions from several European countries and associations. It was funded under the European Union's Socrates/Grundtvig 4 programme. Results of the project included: a searchable database of case studies (200), project web site, a publication on good practice in lifelong learning, a publication on training and professional development needs for museum and gallery educators, and a publication on project recommendations. Collect & Share 2 has already been announced (2006–2008) which will build on the results of the initial project with more partners, also from the NMS. Finally, an overview of the local activities was provided.

Mr. **Sreten Ugričić** introduced a new service for library users of the National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, called 'Deep Catalogue of the National Library of Serbia'. The service was presented by a 15-minute video, consisting of a number of search and retrieval examples. Various types of library materials (books, manuscripts, periodicals, articles, maps, sound recordings) were searched and retrieved and results were displayed in the form of bibliographic record, containing a hypertext link to the document in question. Documents were then displayed in full digital format.

Referring to the Digital Library of Slovenia and National Library of Serbia, copyright issues were again brought up. Library materials chosen for digitisation are either copyright free or rights are negotiated and regulated with the owners of the copyright. More attention needs to be given to digital preservation in terms of digital repositories. Search and retrieval options must follow user

needs, taking into account the users' way of thinking. Users not only wish to search, but to find. The so-called »catalogue« approach has to be abandoned in favour of combined and simultaneous search facilities bringing up metadata as well as digital objects.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr **Maja Žumer**, TEL Technical Working Group member and TEL-ME-MOR Work Package 3 manager, presented conclusions and recommendations of the workshop. In the course of the workshop, presentations were given on several European ongoing projects and initiatives (TEL, TEL-ME-MOR, DELOS, MICHAEL...), as well as on national developments and real-life applications in the field, coming from quite a variety of institutions (national libraries, public libraries, museums...). In spite of some alarming statistics especially in the context of European national libraries, outcomes of these projects and initiatives have been encouraging and represent a sound basis to build upon in the future. The projects share a number of common issues and problems to tackle (e.g. multilingualism, subject access, visualisation of results, lack of digital content, digital preservation, funding opportunities, etc.), but also efficient and successful approaches to identifying appropriate solutions.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- ❖ Co-operation at the national and EU level is commonly viewed as essential;
- ❖ Libraries, museums and archives (institutions of cultural heritage) need to co-operate
- ❖ Co-ordination of digitisation efforts and actions is called for;
- ❖ Monitoring the European Commission's digital library initiatives and decisions as well as those at the national level;
- ❖ More investment is needed to become more competitive (some statistics show that Europe is behind);
- ❖ Multilingualism issues have to be explored further;
- ❖ When it comes to mass digitisation, copyright issues need to be investigated in-depth;
- ❖ Work on common standards and interoperability is one of the priorities;
- ❖ We have to ensure that we are doing what our users really want us to do

The ultimate goal of the European national libraries and of similar cultural institutions is to provide better access to an increased digital content, overcoming the barriers of language, culture or domain.

The workshop was closed by Mr Zoran Krstulović, Deputy Director of the National and University Library, who extended his thanks to the audience, speakers, moderators and organisers.