

The European Digital Library initiative

Joining up the pieces, strategies and actions at European level

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European Commission
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i2010 and Digital Libraries

- i2010: Commission strategy for the Information Society
- Pillars on common information space; investment in research and technological change; inclusion
- Flagship initiative on Digital Libraries: digitisation, accessibility and preservation of cultural and scientific information



Why a flagship initiative for Digital Libraries?

- Stimulate wider access and use
- Need for sustainable methods, systems, infrastructures
- New users and demands — creative and economic potential: new audiences, new services, new business opportunities



Outline of presentation

- i2010 digital libraries
 - Context
 - Challenges and actions – state of play
 - European Digital Library
- Commission actions:
 - Coordination and dialogue
 - Co-funding programmes and projects



Context

- Increased interest: political, media, general public
- Letter of 6 Heads of State and Government of April 2005
- Commission Communication of September 2005
- Three levels of action: political, strategic and operational — applied to digitisation, access and preservation



State of play (1)

- Challenges of legal, financial, technical nature
- Political level actions:
 - Commission Recommendation to Member States – to tackle challenges
 - Council Conclusions
 - Together they make a clear framework for actions, coordinating roles and responsibilities, and timing



State of play (2)

- Council invites Member States:
 - To reinforce national strategies and targets for digitisation and digital preservation
 - To reinforce co-ordination within and between Member States
 - To contribute to the European digital library
 - To contribute to an effective overview of progress at European level
 - To improve framework conditions for digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation
- Council invites Commission to coordinate and support on various fronts



State of play (3)

- Commission to:
 - Coordinate and bring together stakeholders
 - To support technical and coordination work through funding programmes
 - Prepare grounds for solutions to IPR related problems
 - Set up a Member States group for implementation of Recommendation



NUMERIC study will measure:

- digitisation costs and investments (including funding source);
- volume and growth of digitised resources (also to be benchmarked against the volume of the original analogue collections);
- relevant digitisation output characteristics (e.g. image or text, level and means of access).



NUMERIC will enable us to

- determine absolute and relative digitisation costs and investments at Member States and at the EU level;
 - present a baseline statistical overview of digitisation volumes and characteristics in individual countries and at the EU level;
 - determine the way to measure digitisation progress in Member States and at the EU level;
 - analyse all findings in order to understand national differences and to enable positive benchmarking in European and international context.
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- **See for more info: <http://www.numeric.ws>**



European Digital Library

- Working name - not a library in the traditional sense of the word
- Address all types of items from all kinds of cultural institutions
- Clear objectives:
 - 2008
 - content should be directly accessible and retrievable at item level
- EDLnet is at core



Commission actions

- Strategic level:
 - High Level Group
 - Catalysing and bringing together stakeholders for coordinating the development of the European Digital Library – so far focus on interoperability
- Technical level: eContentplus, research programme



eContentPlus: targeted projects action 5.2 for digital libraries

(one or more of the following):

- Standards-based interoperability of cultural content held by **both commercial and non-profit** organisations
- **Access to copyrighted works** through the European Digital Library
 - Process and business models
- **Out of print and/or orphan works** - Databases, clearance mechanisms



eContentPlus: best practice networks action 5.1 for digital libraries

- Create better interoperability!
 - Museums
 - Archives
- Content accessible at item level through the European Digital Library



Important

- No parallel actions
- Proposals must contribute to the advancement of the European Digital Library, i.e. demonstrate how work will integrate with EDLnet project.



Timetable eContentPlus

June Publication of call for proposals

4 October **Call closure**

November Evaluation

December Evaluation report approved by Authorising Officer

January Draft Implementation Plan approved by Authorising Officer

February Committee Meeting

March Opening of negotiations

May Signature of grant agreement



Further information from

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/...

- “i2010 - Digital Libraries”: [...activities/digital_libraries/](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/)
- Research Programmes: [...research/eu_research](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/eu_research)
- eContentPlus: [...activities/econtentplus/](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/econtentplus/)

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