

## Cultural, Artistic and Scientific knowledge for Preservation, Access and Retrieval - CASPAR

CASPAR - Cultural, Artistic, and Scientific knowledge for Preservation, Access, and Retrieval - is an Integrated Project co-financed by the European Union within the Sixth Framework Programme (Priority IST-2005-2.5.10, Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources) and started on 1 April 2006

As digital information is getting ubiquitous and indispensable, and at the same time extremely fragile, CASPAR intends to provide secure, reliable, and cost-effective access for digitally encoded information for the indefinite future. CASPAR intends to define the methodology and infrastructure to deal with the impacts of changing technologies, including support for new media and data formats, and with evolving user communities.

The CASPAR mission is to build a framework which will preserve the heterogeneous spectrum of cultural, artistic, and scientific data subdivided into three interdisciplinary user communities: Cultural, Contemporary Art, and Scientific Data testbeds.

The CASPAR framework is based on the OAIS reference model (Open Archival Information System, ISO:14721:2002), which is a conceptual framework for an archival system dedicated to preserving and maintaining access to digital information over the long term. Thus, the CASPAR framework, handling the preservation of the digital resources of diverse user communities, will enhance state of the art technology in digital preservation and will develop technological solutions aimed at sustaining this expansion.

Another goal of CASPAR is the aspiration to be user oriented. CASPAR will be an open system able to interoperate with as many different systems as possible and to be operated and re-implemented in the framework of existing preservation solutions. The active participation of the CASPAR Preservation User Community, which is a growing, worldwide aggregation of institutions and individuals interested in digital preservation at all levels, will facilitate a wide adoption of CASPAR and guarantee that the system can evolve with the requirements it has been designed for.

To achieve these challenges, CASPAR has assembled a consortium composed of international professionals and organisations, such as digital holdings, scientific, cultural and creative professionals and experts, commercial partners and information preservation leaders. CASPAR also collaborates and teams with other relevant international digital preservation initiatives, such as Digital Preservation Europe and PLANETS.



Internet: <http://www.casparpreserves.eu/>