European Commission
Information Society and Media

The Statistical Framework is launched

All across Europe, a quiet revolution is taking place as cultural institutions employ digitisation and cultural internet services to safeguard and widen access to their materials, but who knows at what cost? And how can we measure the relative progress that has been made? To answer these questions, the European Commission has launched a two-year study (May 2007 until May 2009) to measure the investment made in the EU, and to catalogue the achievements of digitising Europe's cultural heritage and information materials. The study is called "Numeric".

The first major step in implementing this statistical framework was taken at the beginning of April 2008, when experts[1] from Member States of the European Union convened at a workshop[2], held in Luxembourg, to adopt a common survey methodology. The experts also agreed to coordinate the identification of relevant institutions in their own Member States, a sample of which would be selected to participate in a survey to gather consistent statistics during the second half of 2008.

The timetable for this important phase of the study in 2008 is as follows:

APR ✔ Questionnaire and sampling strategy confirmed

MAY ✔ Identification of relevant institutions to sample

 ✔ Language translations of the common questionnaires

JUN ✔ Circulation of questionnaires to institutions

NOV ✔ Analysis of the survey results

More information, including all the survey instruments, and common definitions developed for the framework can be found at **http://www.numeric.ws/**

Europe's digital library, museum and archive

Europeana.eu will bring the digitised cultural heritage of Europe together in a single website. A prototype of the Europeana portal will launch to the public in November 2008 with 2 million digital objects: meanwhile the team in The Hague is busy testing metadata compatibility and harvesting content from across Europe's heritage institutions.

A preview of the Europeana prototype is showing at a conference, **Users expect the interoperable** on June 23/24 in The Hague. The conference is also looking at the practical applications of technologies and standards that enable heritage institutions to bring their content together.

Paintings, books, photographs, papers, films and sound that have been digitised will be accessible through Europeana. The portal is developing a multilingual interface, to begin to open up cross-border access to our shared cultural richness and diversity.

For more information see Europeana.eu or contact **jonathan.purday@kb.nl**

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1. As listed at the end of this Newsletter.

2. http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/ activities/digital_libraries/mseg/mseg_meetings/

About Numeric – The story so far

The study has tested a framework for collecting and analysing data relating to digitisation activities of materials held by libraries, archives and museums in the EU and is now implementing this with the help of nominated experts in each European Country. The deriving measures will relate to the costs to the institutions concerned, and the progress made towards both preserving and making their materials accessible on-line. Such statistics are required to:

- **better identify the total European digitisation effort and progress;**

- **make international comparisons, between countries;**

- **stimulate further digitisation by demonstrating the current progress;**

- **better inform stakeholders that have an interest or direct involvement in digitisation policies and funding (governments, statistical agencies, cultural institutions, academic and scientific institutions, publishers, industry).**

The first year of the study (2007/8) was devoted to assessing previous research and gaining an emerging picture

An important step in the study was taken to establish appropriate and consistent definitions of 'digitisation' activities. This is a classic example of the problem of finding appropriate indicators that describe value rather than simply volume. There is such a diversity of materials to consider: books, journals, newspapers, photographs, monuments, antiquities, other objets d'art and documents, as well as the audio-visual materials of academic and scientific institutions, publishers, broadcasters, industry, libraries, museums and archives. A census approach is clearly impractical, and has not proved successful for previous researchers, so NUMERIC spent the first year of the study testing simpler statistical methods such as establishing the proportion of

analogue materials (e.g. the physical documents) that have been digitised in a sample of institutions, in order to estimate the whole progress in Europe.

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) continues to develop consistent definitions in many areas, and there are some key performance indicators being set for collating digitisation activity in libraries (ISO 11620). These include electronic serials, e-books, content downloads from databases, simple internet sessions, and on-line catalogues. However, these are not suitable definitions in other institutions, (e.g. film archives) and in any event, it is necessary to define consistent measures for investment in digitisation activities and recurrent expenditure on servicing electronic access and services. As a result, a number of new definitions have been formulated which, if found practical, will provided tested standards for Eurostat and consideration by ISO.

Data sources such as the compendium produced by the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research, and statistics published by Eurostat and UNESCO have helped the study to construct a foundation database upon which the universe of relevant cultural institutions undertaking digitisation work can be estimated. Further data is now being sought to improve the judgements that inform the study estimates. Inferences can be applied to the foundation database, based on sample survey results, to gain estimates of digitisation activity and associated expenditures across all cultural domains and countries. Then, the results can be verified by collaborators in the various Ministries and professional institutes in each country to modify and improve on the emerging picture.

The next steps (2008/9)

The research team convened by IPF Ltd (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) is collaborating with nominated experts[3] in each country to apply common survey standards and definitions which are also recognised as practical measures for managers of cultural institutions. A framework sample survey is planned to take place throughout Europe and the support of the professional bodies managing the institutions to be included in the surveys has been sought. The study wishes to engage the interest and cooperation of partners working on other projects across the cultural sector in Europe and beyond. It is intended to make use of procedures already in place, rather than set-up duplicate or parallel systems and networks.

The focus of the study is on Europe, but this will not prevent the researchers from including information about any country. If you believe that you have the experience and inclination to lend this study your advice and assistance, please contact: **NUMERIC@IPF.CO.UK**

Coverage

EU27 = European Union = Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom.

3. As listed at the end of this Newsletter.

The Dutch approach to the implementation of the Numeric framework

DE DIGITALE FEITEN

The Netherlands is one Member State that chose to implement Numeric framework and formed a study team to manage the survey. De Digitale Feiten (The Digital Facts) project was established with the intention of developing an approach to coincide with Numeric, the European Commission initiative to measure digitisation statistics. For the Netherlands, the start of Numeric, comes at a convenient moment. Early in 2008, the national digitization infrastructure was evaluated and a nationally coordinated approach was advanced in order to construct the Dutch Digital Collection. The Dutch Digital Collection is a metaphor for the bringing together of all digital cultural heritage in a accessible, usable, and authentic manner. There is currently no insight into the size of this growing national digital collection, nor the cost arising in its making.

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science (OCW) asked Digital Heritage Netherlands (DEN, Digitaal Erfgoed Nederland) to implement the project because **DEN** is the agent appointed by OCW to collect and distribute knowledge about ICT standards and other quality instruments.

Late in 2007, DEN accepted the assignment and conceived **De Digitale Feiten**, to be undertaken from February and until December 2008. Because there has been a long-standing national interest in gathering statistical information about digitization, the project was designed with two main goals:

- to **gather statistical data** that would give policy makers an insight into the currently available digital heritage and the investment that has taken place, coinciding with the framework developed by Numeric;

- to develop a system that can be implemented for the **structural gathering** of digital heritage data (its production output and costs), supporting the construction of the digital national infrastructure.

PROJECT ORGANIZATION

A **project officer** was hired to support the co-ordination of the project, and to facilitate the communication between the Numeric team, DEN, OCW and other involved constituencies.

An **advisory committee** was appointed, with members representing the main sectors. With regular meetings, their expertise has been instrumental in successfully developing the methodology. During our last meeting, the longest though most fruitful yet, we were happy to receive the visit of Phillip Ramsdale. Sharing the Numeric experience was most valuable for the participants. The advisory committee is composed of:

Name	Organization
Jos de Haan	Social Cultural Planning Office SCP / Erasmus University Rotterdam EUR
Frans Hoving	Erfgoed Nederland
Janneke van Kersen	Dutch Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science OCW – Cultural Heritage Directorate
Isjah Koppejan	Erfgoed Nederland
Marie France van Oorsouw	Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage ICN
Henk Voorbij	National Library KB / University of Amsterdam UvA
Agnes Vugts	MusIP
Robert van der Zwan	Dutch Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science OCW

A **communications strategy** has been devised in order to (1) spread the word about the project, make it visible in the community, in terms of the goals, the methods, and the expected results; (2) bring to the attention the significance of the research and the benefits from having access to information that may inform decision making at all levels; and (3) update on the progress made. A description of the project was published online at an early stage.
http://www.den.nl/docs/20080319160505/

IMPLEMENTATION

De Digitale Feiten has been designed in **two phases**.

The first phase is connected with the Numeric framework and involves the following:

• **Desk research** is conducted on the data available from the heritage field (reports, ongoing research, surveys, yearly reports) to establish the national context.

• IOO was appointed by the advisory committee to gather the data. They devised an **online survey** based on the Numeric questionnaire, which was tested on five heritage institutions with representative collections (archives, text, images, objects, multimedia and monuments). Seven different heritage institutions were chosen for a telephone interview to further test the survey. The experience from the five case studies was compared to the experience of the telephone interviews leading to a revised online survey.

• The **analysis report** of the data gathered is expected mid June.

Based on the data collected and analysis resulting from available documents as well as from the 30 survey responses, the second phase will involve:

• The suggested Numeric quota for the Netherlands, now adjusted to 100 heritage organizations for which a broader invitation to fill the online survey will be considered.

• The identification of voids of information.

• A strategy to complement data gathered thus far.

• The second phase will take place later in the year (2008).

COLLABORATION

The experience of Numeric has been invaluable for the design of the online survey. Learning from the Desk Research Findings as well as from the Pathfinder Survey Results, the Netherlands was able to contribute to the development of the final Numeric questionnaire. The resulting adaptation of the Numeric questionnaire is thought to support the desired national digital infrastructure. This is one of the many examples in which Numeric and De Digitale Feiten have had synergic results.

The Dutch version of the questionnaire has been shared with Flanders.

Data has also been gathered from a number of surveys and reports taking place regularly in the heritage sector. With intention to piggyback on existing channels for gathering data, an inventory of data sources is being compiled. We aim to collaborate with a number of national initiatives that already gather heritage data and propose the addition of questions regarding digitized collections to be included into the next survey cycle. Some of the projects include: the Memory of the Netherlands (National Library), Benchmarking (University Libraries), the Project Bank (DEN), MusIP, the Collectiebalans (ICN), ICT Monitor Archives, and the Year Book of Monuments, Archaeology and Cultural Landscape.

National Reports on digitisation

Colleagues interested in government policy and activity in the European Union will note that on 15 April 2008 - Reports by Member States were published on Implementation of the Commission Recommendation on Digitalisation and online accessibility of Cultural Material and Digital Preservation.

The recommendation asked the Member States to undertake specific work and to report on progress annually. These are the first annual progress reports and there is one for every EU Member State.

Colleagues working in and with these countries will find food for thought in these reports which give good insight into the state of development of digitisation related activity in cultural institutions in the countries concerned.

One of the issues on which the Member States are to report is progress on the development of quantitative targets for the digitisation of analogue material in archives, libraries and museums, indicating the expected increase in digitised material which could form part of the European Digital Library and the

budgets allocated by public authorities. Once work on this really gets underway in the Member States it will provide immense impetus for the issues which Numeric addresses. Some of the reports already contain a few statistics. Whilst there is clearly much to be done, there seems to exist a positive atmosphere in which to work.

Report on digitisation in European National Libraries 2006-2012

Numeric stakeholders will be interested to learn of a Report on Digitisation in European National Libraries 2006-2012 which was recently completed by the Austrian National Library as part of the EDLproject. The report is available on the project's website.

This report gives an overview on how much digitised content there is now and will be in 2012 in European national libraries including the metadata position and solutions for converting image-mode collections [e.g. newspapers] into searchable collections. This important snapshot provides in convenient form a great deal of specific up to date information about the strategic plans, projects and achievements in the field of digitisation of the 37 European national libraries that responded to a survey undertaken in 2007 as part of the EDLproject. All member libraries with digitisation programs and projects responded. It also records their opinions on the obstacles remaining in this field. The report draws on the survey and on desk research including information from The European Library and CENL

(Conference of European National Librarians) members and from the MINERVA EC network.

CENL sees a continuing need to provide statistical information on content digitisation and digital content available in European national libraries and recognises that the need may not be met by national statistical offices. Accordingly, CENL has established an annual reporting system for its members. It is hoped that parts of the survey used for this report will be completed on a regular basis by member libraries to keep the information current. This work is seen as a natural partner to The European Library through which CENL members provide access to their digital content. CENL members will also consider whether this report can provide a starting point for a roadmap on co-ordinated digitisation in European national libraries.

Data from the survey which underlies the report was used to assist the NUMERIC team with its test survey, and as a consequence some reasonably reliable estimates are already emerging about national libraries' investment and

progress. Despite good progress in some countries, the scale of work to be undertaken is daunting as shown in the following grossed up summary for the EU27 area:

European [EU 27] national libraries extrapolated by Numeric from EDLproject survey

Digitisation revenue spending (2007)	€44.8m
Digitisation spend as % of Total Revenue Budget	5.7%
Staff time devoted to digitisation (full-time equivalent)	250
Dedicated digitisation effort as a % of all library staff	1.6%
Proportion of the analogue c ollection digitised	1.4%
Proportion of collection remaining to be digitised	67%
Digitised volumes of books	4.1m
Remaining volumes awaiting digitisation (allowing for duplicates)	201.9m

Experts co-ordinating the Numeric framework in each country:

Country	Experts	Organisation
Austria	Mr Rainer Hubert Ms Irene Hyna Mr Hans Petschar Mr Gerhard Tarmann	Mediathek Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture National Library Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum
Belgium	Ms Lydia Merckx Mr Philippe Pepin Mr Jeroen Walterus Ms Elena Phalet	Administrative Organization of the Federal Public Service Observatoire des Politiques culturelles Flemish Contact Point for Cultural Heritage Scientific and Technical Information Service
Bulgaria	Mr Georgi Prangov	State Agency for IT and Communications
Cyprus	Mr Marinos Ioannides	Higher Technological Institute
Czech Republic	Mr Adolf Knoll Mr Vladimir Opela	National Library National Film Archive
Denmark	Mr Henrik Jarl Hansen Ms Randi Svendsen	Heritage Agency Library Agency
Estonia	Mr Indrek Eensaar	Ministry of Culture
Finland	Mr Markku Mäenpää Ms Sirkka Valanto Ms Minna Karvonen	National Archives The National Board of Antiquities Ministry of Education
France	Ms Sonia Zillhardt Mr Bruno Dietsch	Ministère de la Culture et de la communication Ministère de la Culture et de la communication
Germany	Ms Monika Hagedorn-Saupe Mr Hans-Jörg Lieder	Institut für Museumsforschung Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Greece	Mr Alexios Georgantas Ms Cleopatra Christopoulou	National Audiovisual Archive Ministry of Culture
Hungary	Mr Gábor Veres	Ministry of Culture and Education
Ireland	Ms Joan Ward	Library Council
Italy	Mr Salvatore Vitrano	Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities
Latvia	Ms Kristine Paberza	Culture Information Systems State Agency,
Lithuania	Mr Juozas Markauskas Ms Regina Varniene	Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council National Library
Luxembourg	Mr Guy Frank Mr Patrick Peiffer	Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research National Library
Malta	Mr Luciano Mulé Stagno Mr Pierre Sammut	Heritage Malta Heritage Malta, Director of Finance
Poland	Ms Agnieszka Lissowska	National Library
Portugal	Ms Helena Patrício Ms Amélia Fernandes	National Library Institute of Museums and Conservation
Romania	Mr Radu Stefan Malureanu	Centre for Studies & Research for Culture
Slovak Republic	Mr Pavel Antalik Mr Michal Cudrnak	Ministry of Culture National Gallery
Slovenia	Ms Brigita Lipovsek	Ministry of Culture
Spain	Ms Barbara Munoz De Solano Ms Maria Elena Cortes Ruiz Mr Luis Rodriguez Moreno Mr J Carlos Sanchez Olivares	National Library National Archives Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes, Ministerio de Cultura
Sweden	Mr Martin Jacobson Mr Börje Justrell Mr Erik Peurell	National Archive for Sound and Moving Images, National Archives Arts Council
The Netherlands	Ms Trilce Navarrete Hernández Mr Marco De Niet	Digital Heritage Netherlands Digital Heritage Netherlands,
United Kingdom	Mr Javier Stanziola	Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

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Numeric

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Please register your interest on the website:

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Pascale Van Dinter, from the Scientific and Technical Information Service in Belgium, won some book tokens for her registration last year.

European Commission
Information Society and Media

Cover picture: British Library, London