



Estonia

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Policy scenario

1. General description of the political support for digitisation (and national ownership)

With his directive No. 31 from 13 February 2004 the Minister of Culture affirmed "The National Strategy for the Digital Preservation of Estonian cultural heritage 2004-2007". Along with the strategy "The Action Plan 2004-2007" was affirmed. The Council for Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage was set up to implement the strategy (directive No. 71, 8 April 2004 of Minister of Culture) with the aim to coordinate digitisation and digital preservation of cultural heritage in Estonia. In November 2005 the Ministry of Culture will present the strategy for approval to the Government of the Republic of Estonia, to start the national programme for digital preservation of cultural heritage covering the period 2005-2010.

2. Range of policy (geographical, institutional and ideological)

The strategy for the digital preservation of cultural heritage is interdisciplinary covering of all main memory institutions in state and public sector, including the national radio and television.

On the bases of the major memory institutions involved with digitisation competence centres (including training, new technologies and methodologies) will be developed and pilot projects of digitisation will be supported.

3. Available instruments and the use of those: guidelines, funds, target organisations

Funding will come from the following sources:

- 1) institutional budgets pre-assigned for digitisation;
- 2) annual budget of the Ministry of Culture for implementing the strategy of digital preservation (includes the funds of the MINERVA Plus).

In 2005 the following guidelines will be compiled:

- 1) a standard list of the digitalised cultural heritage metadata that considers the requirements of all memory institution;
- 2) assignment of the Register of the digitised collection, assignment of the digital archive;
- 3) translation of the *Charter of Parma*, handbooks *Good Practices* and *Handbook for quality in cultural websites* into Estonian. In the year 2004 the *Lund Principles* and the *Quality principles of cultural websites* were translated into Estonian.

Co-operation

1. National networks

Council for Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage
A council affiliated to the Ministry of Culture, consisting of representatives of memory institutions, charged with the direction and management of digitalisation of cultural heritage, its use and preservation in Estonia. The Council consists of representatives from the State Chancellery, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Science, Estonian National Library, State



Stained glass, 1749
Estonian History Museum
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"



Conservation Centre "Kanut", Estonian National Archive, Estonian Literary Museum, Institute of History, Foundation "Estonian Film", Estonian National Radio, Estonian National Television.

Council for preserving cultural heritage in libraries, museums and archives

A council that advises the Minister of Culture on the policy concerning national cultural heritage. The council is charged with making proposals regarding the fundamentals of preservation, principals of conservation training and unified vocational requirements in Estonia.

The council comprises representatives from the Academic Library of the Tallinn Pedagogical University, Estonian Art Museum, National Heritage Board, Estonian National Library, State Conservation Centre "Kanut", Ministry of Culture, Estonian National Archives and University of Tartu.

Museums' Council

A council that advises the Minister of Culture on the policy for museums.

The council is composed from representatives of the central museums in Estonia:

the Estonian Open Air Museum, Estonian National Museum, Estonian History Museum, from municipal and county museums Tartu Museum, Hiiumaa Museum, Viljandi Museum, Foundation Virumaa Museums.

The objective of the council is to direct the activities of the museums, work out their funding principles and development trends, review the issues of the protection and use of the museums' collections, make proposals for the adoption, alteration or supplementing of relevant legal acts, counselling and co-ordination of museums' co-operation.

Technical Committee EVS/TK 22 of standardisation in Estonia "Information and Documentation"

A subsidiary of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation that is charged with the issues of preserving cultural heritage. The 22 units of the EVS/TK are composed from representatives of the Ministry of Economics and Communication, Ministry of Culture and representatives of several national memory institutions.

Working group for compiling metadata of the digitisation of cultural heritage

A working group that was set up upon the decision of the Council for the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage and which is charged with working out metadata for the unification of describing digitisation processes.

Working group for compiling an information system for the Estonian museums

A working group directed by the Museums' Adviser in the Ministry of Culture that is charged with advising on working out a comprehensive database for collection in Estonian museums that would be flexible and multifunctional.

Working group for compiling a dictionary regarding the museums' information system

Working group of museum experts that is affiliated to the Ministry of Culture. Its aims are to supplement and correct the terminology of museology and conservation that is used in the cultural heritage database.

The Consortium of Scientific Libraries ELNET

A consortium of scientific libraries in Estonia





that is mainly charged with the management and development of information systems and information services and also arranging common biddings for scientific information.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS IN ESTONIA

DEA - Digital Newspapers in Estonia

Digitisation of the oldest newspapers in Estonia and making them accessible to the public. A joint project between the Estonian Literary Museum, National Library and the Academic Library of the Tallinn Technical University.
<http://dea.nlib.ee/>

SETOMAA

Project with the aim to preserve the past and present culture of Setumaa (an historical county in South-Estonia). Estonian Literary Museum in co-operation with the Chair of Archaeology, University of Tartu.

Digitisation of local traditions connected with place-names etc

Estonian Literary Museum in co-operation with local authorities, e.g. Lääne-Virumaa, Järvamaa, Valgamaa.

Oldest Estonian Children's Books

Distribution of children's literature and making it easily available. Estonian Literary Museum in co-operation with Tarkvarastudio OÜ.



Spinning wheel
Mahtra Peasantry Museum
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"

2. International co-operation

NRG

The official representative of Estonia is Anton Pärn, Undersecretary for cultural heritage, Ministry of Culture.

MINERVA

The Estonian Ministry of Culture joined the MINERVA Plus project in December 2003, the project will continue until January 2006. The official representative of the Ministry of Culture is Anton Pärn, Undersecretary for cultural heritage, and the technical co-ordinator is Marika Ahven, Senior Specialist of the IT division. Estonia participates in two working groups:

- MINERVA WG 5 "Identification of user needs, content and quality framework for common access points" – Liina Enok from the Estonian National Library participates.
- MINERVA WG 6 "Identification of good practices and competence centres" – Andres Uueni from the State Conservation Centre "Kanut" participates.

Technical committee CEN/TC 234 "Conservation of Cultural Property" at the European Committee for Standardisation

The member organisation from Estonia is the Ministry of Culture. Ruth Tiidor, Head of the Preservation department of the Estonian Historical Archives participates in the work of the CEN/TC 346 Working Group 1 "General guidelines and terminology". The aim of the working group is to unify the terminology for preservation and conservation and to compile relevant guidelines.

ICA temperate zone Preservation Committee ICA-CPTe

Estonia is represented by the Estonian Historical Archives.



Bernt Notke's altar, 1483
 Tallinn, The Holy Ghost Church
 © Conservation Centre "Kanut"

The aim of the committee is co-operation in the field of preservation and development of the sphere.

IASA (International Association of Sound Archives) and FIAT/IFTA (International Federation of Television Archives)
Estonia is represented by the Estonian Film Archive.

European Broadcasting Union EBU
Estonia is represented by the Estonian National Television.

DLM forums
Co-operation in the field of digital documents management and archival records management between EU member states, development of the sphere.

CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

ReUSE is a EU co-operation project that aims at creating a reliable digital archive that meets the requirements of long-term storage standards. In addition to creating the technical environment and system of metadata for a digital archive, a monitoring of the public sector publishers will be carried out and a co-operation network for collecting digital materials to the archive will be developed. The project implementation stage is 26.06.2004 – 25.06.2006. The project partners include the Innsbruck University Library (co-ordinator), National Library of Austria, National Library of Slovenia, Estonian National Library, Graz University Library, Linz University Library, Humboldt University Library, Ljubljana University Library and Die Deutsche Bibliothek.
www2.uibk.ac.at/reuse/

TEL-ME-MOR (The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources)
The objective of the TEL-ME-MORE project is to secure

better access to the digital information resources of Europe via national libraries. TEL-ME-MORE is an extension of the TEL project (The European Library), where 8 European libraries participated as partners aiming at creating a uniform environment and service (The European Library Service) to exchange digital collections. TEL-ME-MOR will involve national libraries from 10 new member states in order to increase the exchange of quality digital information via The European Library Service. The project implementation time is 1 February 2005 to 1 February 2007.
www.telmemor.net/

MIP (Transitional Metal in Paper)
The project aims at researching the mechanism of ink corrosion on manuscripts and working out suitable preservation methods. The project partners are the national archives, national libraries, universities and institutions of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands (co-ordinator), Great Britain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Spain and France. Estonia is represented by the Estonian Historical Archives. The project takes place from 1 March 2003 to 28 February 2006.
www.miponline.org/

Digital corpus of Baltic-Finnic runic songs
A co-operation project between the Estonian Literary Museum and the Finnish Literary Society, which aims at creating a uniform and easily applicable digital corpus of Baltic-Finnic runic songs.

Digitisation of wax rolls
A co-operation project between the Estonian Literary Museum, Melody Archive of Sweden and the Swedish Radio, that aims at securing accessibility of music that has been recorded on wax rolls.



Baby carriage
Lääne County Museum
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"



3. NRG and MINERVA results, interpretation and impact

The seminar "Digital cultural heritage in Estonia 2004", that was held on 9 December 2004 and targeted at Estonian memory institutions introduced the aims and activities of the MINERVA project and presented the site in Estonian that has been created to disseminate information regarding digitisation. The site www.digi.kul.ee presents information about the MINERVA project and its publications and other information regarding digitisation. The site is going to be the central information source for digitisation activities in Estonia.

500 MINERVA publications have been distributed to memory institutions in Estonia. The most important MINERVA handbooks and guidelines will be translated into Estonian and distributed during 2005 (see also Policy Scenario). On 5-6 May 2005 the Ministry of Culture organised an international conference "Managing Heritage Collection II: Continuity and Change (<http://conference.kul.ee/>) existence in changing times". In the framework of the conference a MINERVA seminar will take place.

Main digitisation initiatives

1. National portals for culture / networked digital repositories

State Conservation Centre "Kanut" website and digital repositories

www.kanut.ee

- Collection of digitised materials of museum objects to be preserved.

- "The Red Book" of Estonian museums – collection of digitised museum objects in danger of being destroyed.

National Library of Estonia website and digital repositories

www.nlib.ee

- Electronic catalogue of Estonian libraries ESTER
<http://ester.nlib.ee>
- Catalogue of e-magazines of the Estonian National Library
<http://atoz.ebsco.com/home.asp?Id=natl1e>
- Theme gate of the Estonian National Library
- On-line databases
- Database of Estonian national bibliography ERB
<http://erb.nlib.ee/>
- Central bibliographical database of articles in the humanitarian and social field ISE
<http://ise.nlib.ee/>
- BIE (Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica) – juridical bibliography database
<http://bie.nlib.ee/>
- DEA – digitised Estonian newspapers; a selection of papers from 1857 to 1920
<http://dea.nlib.ee/>
- Digital collections – digitised materials from the collection of the Estonian National Library
- Web publications of the Estonian National Library
- E-exhibitions of the Estonian National Library
- EU questions and answers
<http://elik.nlib.ee/?id=32>

Estonian Literary Museum's website and digital repositories

www.kirmus.ee



- BIBIS database of the analytical bibliography of Estonian media
- Databases of Estonian folklore (proverbs, sayings, puzzles in Estonian and English
www.folklore.ee/Droodles/; wordplay, conundrums, riddles, web humour, ethno astronomy
- JUSTKUI – database of sayings and phraseology
- LEPP – portal of South Estonian tradition
- E-collection: queries in the internal server Klaabu of the folklorists (electronic publications, digitised manuscripts etc.)
- Sugrimaa – website of Fenno-Ugric nations
- ERNI – Estonian cultural and literary history in texts
- Estonische Sprichwörter mit der buchstäblichen Übersetzung in die deutsche Sprache. (12,700 Estonian proverbs with translations into German; searchable by keyword and type number either among Estonian or German texts
<http://www.folklore.ee/r1/date/saksa/>

Estonian National Museum's website

www.erm.ee

- Presentations of museums' collections with samples (photo collection, objects collection, library, archive, film archive)
- Exhibitions and events, including electronic exhibitions
- Estonian folklore – overview of Estonian traditions, customs, lifestyle, work, items etc.
- For children – games, events, educational programmes

National Archives of Estonia website

www.ra.ee

- Information system AIS of the National Archives of Estonia – database of archived documents
<http://ais.ra.ee/ais/>

The Estonian Historical Archives' website and digital repositories

www.eha.ee

- SAAGA – digitised genealogical microfilms of the Estonian Historical Archives; access via local web of the archive
- Electronic catalogue URRAM of the library of the Estonian Historical Archives
tara.eha.ee:81/avalik/avaleht/avaleht.php/
- 17th century publications (until 1710) in the fund of the Estonia Historical Archives
www.eha.ee/plakatid/
- Album Academicum Universitatis Tartuensis 1918-1944 – database of the study certificates of the University of Tartu supplemented with bibliographical data, located at the Estonian History Archives
- Archival records in the archives of the Estonian Evangelist Luther Church that include bibliographical data
- Tartu projects – collection of blueprints of the buildings in Tartu approved by the Tartu City Government during 1871-1918
- Fellows of the George medal in Estonia
- Register of the maps of the Estonian History Archives
- Register of the manors on the Estonian territory
- Register of the communes in Estonia from 1866 to 1917

Estonian National Television's website and digital collections

www.etv.ee

- From the year 2004 the news and sports programmes of the Estonian National Television are operated and stored in digital format
- Digitised materials of the photo archive of the Estonian National Television



Henri van Lacke, Tallinn Town Hall's tapestry, 1547
Tallinn City Museum
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"



Herman Halliste, Maiden's portrait statue, 1933
The State Archives
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"

Estonian Institute's website

www.einst.ee

- Calendar of cultural events in Estonia
<http://kultuur.info/>
- Electronic versions of publications about Estonia.

2. Services for the users

State Conservation Centre "Kanut"

- Digitisation projects at the subscription of museums and other institutions. One of the outputs of such projects are virtual exhibitions

Estonian Literary Museum

- Making digital copies of the analogue recordings of the Estonian Folklore Archive (the whole collection has been digitised)
- Scanning or digital photographing of original manuscripts, registers, photos and other records; digitisation of sound and video recordings; compressing of digital video material

The Estonian Historical Archives

- Digital reproduction
- Scanning (up to A3)
- Digital photographing
- Scanning of microfilms

Estonian Film Archive

www.filmi.arhiiv.ee

- Digital copies of sound recordings and photos;
- Electronic subscription of photos (digital images are issued by e-mail).

Estonian National Television

- Upon subscription production and sale of the output of ETV on CD-ROMs

3. Emerging initiatives

State Conservation Centre "Kanut"

- Digitisation project "Carpets in the Tallinn Town Hall" – the originals of the picture carpets of the Tallinn Town Hall dating from 1547 were digitised and restored. Based on the outcome of the final product new carpets were woven, the digitised material was archived and made accessible for the researchers
- In co-operation with the Tartu Art Museum a virtual exhibition "Modernism in Estonian Art at the beginning of the 20th century" was compiled. The project was initiated by the need to secure access to digitised material

Estonian Literary Museum

- RADAR project about local traditions (including also folklore and monuments) connected to GIS (geographical information system): a CD was produced for the purpose of tourism and education. A further development of RADAR is foreseen by means of mobile phones
- Folk calendar: digital presentation of special days connected with tradition: educational CD
- BERTA – database about important days in the folk calendar of the past and the present
- Digitisation of folk music recordings: modern recordings of folk songs (see "Anthology of Estonian folk songs" 3 records, first recording in 2003, re-issue in 2004), folk music MP3-1 etc.



Chest, private ownership
© Conservation Centre "Kanut"

- Digitisation of video collection: recording the traditions of Finno-Ugric nations on DVDs
- Digitisation of exhibition materials: a portal “Kreutzwald’s century” is being compiled, that gives an overview about the development of Estonian culture during the 19th and 20th centuries as compared to the development of Western Europe and Russia
- A portal of the Estonians in the East is being compiled: depicts information regarding the people who moved from Estonia to the East

The Estonian Historical Archives

- An internet-based access is being compiled to the database of genealogical material SAAGA (digitised genealogical microfilms of the Estonian History Archives). The users will have access to the genealogical material of the communes in Estonia in the 19th-20th centuries.



Lüder Heismann, Detail of emporium in
Tallinn St Nicholas Church, 1643
The Art Museum of Estonia / Niguliste
Museum (St Nicholas Church)
© Conservation Centre “Kanut”