



Slovenia

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Policy scenario

1. Political support for digitization

Digitization as an important part of cultural, educational and economic development has been stressed in the strategic document on culture, the Resolution on the National Program for Culture, adopted by the Slovenian Parliament, defining priorities of cultural policy in the period between 2004 and 2007. Informatization in all parts of culture has been defined as an important means to achieve better access to culture, information on culture, research and scientific evaluation in culture. The measures designed to achieve these priorities were mentioned in the previous report. They aim not only at digitization itself but as well at making conditions for cultural institutions to be able to offer better services related to digitized cultural objects. First priority has been set on making digital collections of cultural heritage not only in libraries, museums and archives but as well in other cultural institutions. The next priority is the development of national cultural portals of cultural heritage and arts. Since 2004 Slovenia has now a new government which will be addressed by institutions of cultural heritage and by the Ministry of Culture itself to reaffirm and support digitization as a crucial element in sharing Slovenian culture with other European nations.



TV drama *Mira* (Ivan Cankar, Diana Martinec, dir. Anton Tomašič)
Actors: Bernarda Oman and Janez Škof
Photo: Stanislav Sršen, 1994
TV archive of Slovenian Television
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2. Range of policy (geographical, institutional and ideological)

A special body, the Strategic Group for Digitization, has been nominated by the Ministry of Culture. It is responsible for preparing a digitization strategy which would apply to different areas of culture. It has 14 members representing different institutions interested in coordinated digitization projects like libraries, museums and art galleries, music information centres, broadcasting institutions, faculties, ICT business associations and government services. The Slovenian member of NRG is also member of the strategic group. They have started to work on defining the state-of-the-art in digitization. The Group have agreed that in Slovenia there is a need to make steps towards coordinated activities in digitization and to use solutions and good practices, especially technical and normative concepts, that have been developed and used in other EU countries and are available through the MINERVA Plus and other ongoing projects. The Group has a two year mandate and its tasks are to present basic strategies for digitization of cultural heritage in Slovenia, in accordance with a Government document, the Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia in the Information Society (2003), and The Resolution on the National Program for Culture (2003) as well as to ensure an overview of ongoing and finished digitization projects in Slovenia. Its aim is as well to connect institutions of cultural heritage and take into account development programs, research papers and other documents on digitization adopted in these institutions. The Group will also promote the documents of MINERVA and propose translation into Slovenian language of the most important texts.



Filming documentary of poet Srečko Kosovel (dir. M. Frankovič):
Portrait of a poet
Author of the sculpture of the poet: Semolič, Darjo Friderik
Photo: Stanislav Sršen, 2004
TV archive of Slovenian Television
Copyright: RTV Slovenija

It also has the obligation to regularly inform institutions of cultural heritage about its work.

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

The need to intensify efforts in digitization has been presented by several institutions, especially libraries, media and archives. Libraries have been most active up to now but we have seen initiatives as well from the media, film, music and multimedia centers. It is obvious that coordination of all these different digitization efforts will not be an easy task, but as long as institutions know what each of them is doing in the field of digitization it is possible to find some minimum common ground. The overall strategy will hopefully be able to define target institutions which will be willing to share information about their projects and use common technologies and standards. About 35 such institutions have been listed up to now and hopefully more local institutions will join. We hope in this area the results and practical guidelines emerging from the MINERVA project will be welcomed by project planners. MINERVA printed publications have been distributed to all these institutions and to many more. The state funding of digitization projects is mandatory, especially when we speak of the national heritage institutions. Up to now digitization has been carried out through regular financial plans (and project money, also from international projects) for heritage preservation in these institutions and no «new money» has been directed to these new activities. According to the fact that digitization is an expensive task Slovenia needs to find new ways for funding these programs.

Co-operation

1. National networks

There are several cultural networks in Slovenia, some of them very closely connected and working with the same automation tools and sets of standards. Typical networks are library network, multimedia centers, museum network.

The Ministry of Culture has received information on a digitization project for library network, called «dLib.si» (Digital Library of Slovenia) which is an action plan to set a national knowledge management portal developed by the National and University Library. The library has invited several institutions to cooperate in this project, mostly research organizations dealing with ICT and media. The strategic aims of the project are:

- collecting and archiving electronically-born Slovenian publications
- offering access to electronic archives of these publications
- offering access to digitized classical library materials
- offering access to all library information resources through the internet
- offering internet based library information services, especially shared online information service through the COBISS system (COBISS is an integrated and shared bibliographic tool of Slovenian library network).

Starting the knowledge management portal is basic for the whole Slovenian library network. It will provide adequate services in the information society, put digital heritage to public use, develop information products with added value and motivate other cultural

institutions to join building the portal. «dLib.si» has been designed as an infrastructure for lifelong learning, research, cultural activities and access to virtual heritage kept by heritage institutions as part of European cultural diversity.

2. International co-operation

A number of Slovenian institutions have joined the survey on multilingual websites and thesauri carried out by the MINERVA working group on inventories and multilingualism. A Slovenian representative has been nominated into this working group. Slovenia has done very well in this survey, answers had been sent from 40 institutions. Slovenian representative attended the meeting in Budapest in November. Several Slovenian cultural institutions have joined international projects of cultural heritage protection in recent years. Ministry of Culture will work on inventory of these projects to get together as much information as possible and forward them to information organizations and heritage portals. Libraries have been included in projects like PULMAN and CALIMERA, ReUSE-Reuse digital master files of printed material, TELMEMOR, TEL, PaperTreat, SurveNIR, Chemiluminescence – a novel tool in paper conservation studies – EC Papyrus, Stabilisation of Iron Gall Ink Containing paper – EC InkCor; archives, museums and others have participated in projects like Digitisation of natural history collections (GBIF), Himmelschwer / Gravity, Art, Religion, Science (Culture 2000), European Heritage Net (Council of Europe), a project similar to MINERVA, etc.



3. NRG and MINERVA results, interpretation and impact

Ministry of Culture has nominated a contact person for good practices and competence centers working group and is interested as well in IPR working group. The 10 principles for quality of cultural websites have been translated into Slovenian language and published on the MINERVA website.

In Slovenia, the NRG member was invited to present the idea and goals of the MINERVA project and subsequently the responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture in coordinating digitization activities in the country. It was at the joint conference of libraries, archives and museums “Cooperation and Partnership – digitally”, the scope of which was to get acquainted with current digitization processes in Europe.

Main digitisation initiatives

1. National portals for culture

In 2004 the ten Slovenian regional libraries coordinated by the Library Development Centre of the National and University Library have started a project of a library portal, named KAMRA (first three digits represent the initials for libraries, archives and museums).

At the end of the project each regional library will start filling the portal with digitized information available in the region, thus connecting with museums, archives and other institutions.

Visualization of music: opera singer Vera Danilova
Photo: Stanislav Sršen, 2004
TV archive of Slovenian Television
Copyright: RTV Slovenija

The aims of the project are to:

- implement and maintain regional portal
- coordinate information collection from other areas of culture, education, science, social services, government and local information etc.
- make an access-point for digitized information, full texts, programs and projects
- make possible for people to be directly involved in cultural and social events
- make easy access for people who cannot physically visit cultural institutions
- help preserving Slovenian digital cultural heritage
- make partnerships on regional levels (with social services, business and tourist firms, non-governmental organizations, societies etc.) to foster communication in the region.

Ministry of Culture has financially supported the first phase of preparing the portal. The Ministry insists on using technical solutions and guidelines developed through MINERVA and CALIMERA projects in creating the portal. Further development and maintenance of the portal will be financed by libraries themselves through the programmes of regional library cooperation, supported by the Ministry of Culture.

2. Services for the users

Services for users of digitized cultural heritage have not yet been fully developed in Slovenia. The awareness of this fact is present everywhere through cultural institutions, many of them planning to join their digitization projects with future cultural portals and this way bringing to life intensive user orientation. The development of cultural

portals gives an additional push to making digitized collections user friendly and service oriented thus giving digitized materials an additional value.

3. Emerging initiatives

In Slovenia several cultural institutions are dealing with problems of digitization right now. They are ready to start their projects while trying to solve specific problems of technology and meta-data, depending from the type of material to be digitized. The newly founded Slovenian Music Information Centre is planning a number of digitizing projects, one of the basic ones is to digitize print music of Slovenian authors. There is a big problem with scanning of rare and fragile materials existing in only one copy. They also plan to digitize sound music and think about storing electronically born music. They also think of the retrieval of digitized print music by using initial tones as search elements. Slovenian Modern Art Gallery prepares a project of joining institution's data and digital photo collections. They have been working intensively on meta-data which could be used in shared collections of Slovenian art galleries and international digital collections. There has also been an initiative for cooperation between cultural institutions and Slovenian information industry. Slovenia has a lot of expertise in the field of ICT and software that could be used for the benefit of cultural institutions, especially in the field of quality digitization and long lasting storage and access of the digitized materials. Project of unification of museum information systems (part of which included digitized museum objects) has been interrupted but hopefully it will continue for the benefit of all partners.

Digitizing radio and TV programs is a very interesting field of digitization as well. Slovenian national radio and TV organization keeps a very big collection of radio and TV programs, a good part of it has cultural heritage value. They do not hope to digitize all of it but will have to make priorities, digitized TV programs will be in different resolutions. Different versions will be accessible to general users, researchers or business partners.



A. Adam, *Giselle*, ballet
Ballet: Eva Gašparič
Photo: Stanislav Sršen, 2002
TV archive of Slovenian Television
Copyright: RTV Slovenija

