

Cyprus

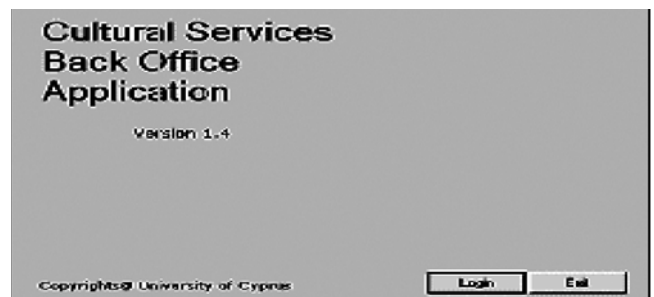
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Cyprus as a member of EU and its active participation in the last years in the NRG, tries to enrich the Digitisation of Cultural and Scientific Content in Cyprus. The Ministry of Education and Culture through the procedure of the creation of the Cyprus Cultural Portal puts into practice the guidelines of the decisions of NRG. Furthermore, we appreciate at the most the exchange of information we are able to have through NRG Network. In order to improve and increase the productivity of this effort, the Ministry will examine the possibility to create and establish a National Authority of Digital Culture. The Authority will work on a principal role to coordinate, advice and create a compatible platform that will link all local efforts (as far as digital content is concerned) with other European and International approaches. In addition to this, the Authority will establish a policy for the digital culture that will secure quality criteria and local institutions participation in an economy of scale approach. The dynamic open architecture approach of the strategic Plan of the Ministry gives the possibility to take into consideration not only NRG results (*Dynamic Action Plan*), but also other information that arrives to the Ministry committee from other National or European efforts on this issue.

Main Digitisation Initiatives

Digitisation project for the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture
The establishment of the Cyprus Cultural Portal

By the end of the year 2005 the experts of the Cultural Services (of the Ministry of Education and Culture) have finished the development of the Back Office Application for the digitisation of the Cultural Content. Its operation started at the end of 2005.



Within the 2006 Cyprus Cultural Portal Content Manager and Event Manager (Web Applications) are expected to initiate with the partners joining Cyprus Cultural Portal with their own content.

<<http://www.culturalportal.moec.gov.cy>>



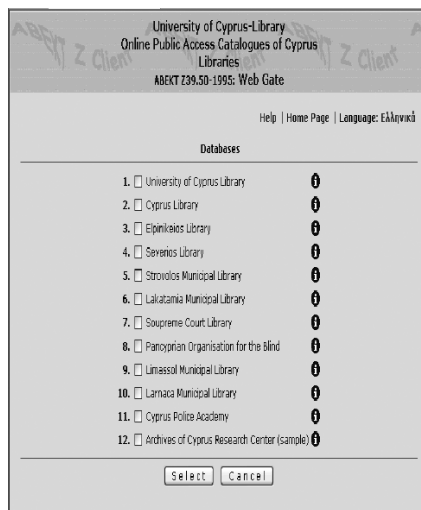
Digitisation project for the Cyprus Research Centre of the Ministry of Education and Culture
The digitization of the Cyprus Oral History Archives
The Cyprus Research Centre created the Digital Library for the Oral History Archives of the Cyprus Research Centre. The project included cataloguing and digitisation of 3.021 photographs and 7.046 audio cassettes. The project was completed in 2003.

Digitisation project for the Cyprus Library

The Cyprus Library is cataloguing its books using the ABEKT 5.5 system, creating the OPACS catalogues. The records are available for search through OPACS and Z39.50, as also for downloading. See University of Cyprus Library's Website.

Cyprus Library is now collecting the content which will be digitised in order to be preserved.

Cyprus Library is participating in CNL under the TEL_ME_MOR European program planning to be ready for the public in the first semester of 2006.



Digitisation project for the Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation (AMF)

The Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation participates as Partner in the Cyprus Cultural Portal that is headed by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The digitisation of the archives of the AMF has started since 2001 and it is almost completed with digital photographs of all the items and relative information with catalogues in electronic form. Scientific information loaded periodically will enrich the project and will be very useful to scholars. Updated information about events will be useful to visitors of the Museum.

Digitisation project for the Research Centre of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos

The Library of the Research Centre of Holy Monastery of Kykkos is investing in digitisation with its own initiative

for the digitisation of the content belongs to the Centre.

The Centre starts the process of digitisation for the old reprinted newspapers of 19th and the early years of 20th century. Since now, the centre digitised about 50 volumes. Also, is in the digitisation process of the old magazines, for example the «Apostolos Varnavas» magazine from the period of 1918-1936. The programme is in progress, planning to be completed by the end of 2006. The Centre is planning to invest in the digitisation process of approximately 1500 manuscripts and 3000 incunabular books.

Digitisation project for the Museum of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos

Digitisation of the objects of the Museum has started since 2003 and it is still in progress. It contains description of the items, digitised photographs and further information on them.

The Museum participates in the following projects:

- Corpus of the Christian monuments in the occupied part of Cyprus
- Architectural plans of the Byzantine churches of Cyprus (in cooperation with Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki)
- The Museum participates in the European project NOESIS: Non-destructive Image based manuscript Analysis System (in cooperation with the University of Westminster).

Digitisation project for the Laiki Bank Cultural Foundation

The active involvement of Laiki Group in the cultural life of the island began in 1983. Since then, the Laiki Group Cultural Centre has adopted a specific policy with regard to contemporary Cypriot visual arts, photography and major publications, with special emphasis on history, tradition and the island's heritage from Middle Ages to the present day.

The Center's main activities include, among others, the organisation of exhibitions and events, luxury publications, sponsorships, Museum Education Programs and its three major collections (Works of Art, Rare Books, and Photographs-Postcards).

In August 2000 Laiki Group and the Pierides Foundation established the "Laiki Group Cultural Foundation - Pierides Museum" trust. The trust includes an internationally re-owned collection of Cypriot antiquities,

a collection of medieval pottery, and a collection of old cartography from Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean and a library enriched with books for Cypriot studies. The Laiki Group Cultural Centre aspires to develop into a state of the Art Centre of Research and Information, available both to researchers, historians and students as well as to the public in general.
<<http://www.laiki.com>>

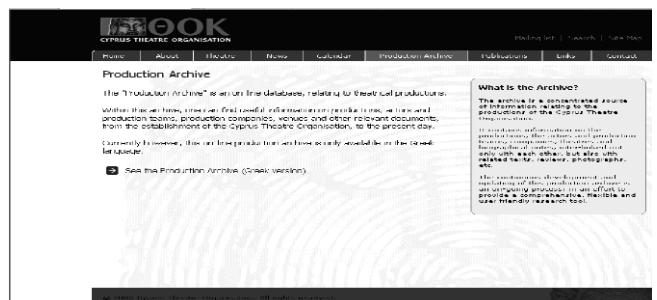


Digitisation project for the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

The oldest banking institution of the island, the Bank of Cyprus, has played a crucial role in the economic development of Cyprus since its foundation in 1899. Indeed, the economic history of Cyprus in the twentieth century is directly and indirectly related to the activities of the Bank of Cyprus. This was more obvious after 1960 when Cyprus gained its political independence. Since then, the Bank of Cyprus added a new dimension to its activities on the island as well as abroad: it became a pioneer and a major benefactor in the cultural field, directing a substantial percentage of its annual profits towards cultural projects. At this time, the Bank and its group of companies are clearly the most visible sponsors of cultural and scholarly pursuits on Cyprus. In this regard, it has adopted a tradition established by banks in Greece and in turn stimulated similar action by other financial and philanthropic institutions in Cyprus.
<<http://www.boccf.org>>



Digitisation project for the Cyprus Theatre Organisation
In accordance with its Founding Law (No. 71/1970) the aims and objectives of THOC are to «promote the art of theatre in Cyprus and to cultivate a sense of theatre among the people, and to promote artistic relations between the theatre world of Cyprus and that of Greece and other countries». The “Production Archive” is an on-line database, consisted of content relevant to theatrical productions. Within this archive, user can find useful information on productions, actors and production teams, production companies, venues and other relevant documents from the establishment of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation to the present day. However, the above mentioned on-line production archive is only available in Greek language at the moment.
<<http://www.thoc.org.cy/eng/archive>>



Digitisation project for Cyprus Tourism Organisation
Cyprus Tourism Organisation participates in the European Action EUMEDIS under sector – 3 Tourism and Cultural Heritage <<http://www.eumedis.net/en/actors/meda/cy>>. The Organisation is involved as partner in two out of the four projects of sector – 3 namely “Daedalus” and “Medina”.

The general objective of the projects is the promotion of cultural tourism in the Euro – Mediterranean region utilizing new technologies and the Internet. The projects are now in their final stage and ready to be delivered by 2006. The basic work is so far concerned with data/content identification and collection, technical content adaptation and categorization, initial creation of communities of interest and local service centers, dissemination of activities and promotion.

<<http://www.cyprustourism.org>>

Digitisation project for the Library of University of Cyprus

Projects undertaken by the University of Cyprus Library for the digitization of material and the creation of digital collections:

- Cataloguing of the collection of the Panypryan Organisation for the Blind (more than 3.000 records, completed in 2005), with plans to digitize the audio books in Daisy book format.
- Cataloguing and digitising the archives of the Council for the Historical Memory of EOKA 1955-1959. (in progress)
- Cataloguing and digitizing the slides collection (approx. 17.000) of the Archaeological Research Unit (University of Cyprus). (in progress)
- Digitization of newspaper articles for the period 1963-65, in collaboration with the Department of History and Archaeology (University of Cyprus). (in progress)
- Creation of a full-text database of the proceedings of conferences and seminars that have taken (and take) place in Greece and Cyprus on the subject of Library and Information Science. (in progress)
- Proposal for "The Organisation, Conservation and Digitization of the Radio and TV Archives of the State Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation" (approved in 2005)
- Digitisation of approximately 2.000 rare books from the UCY Library collection from the 16th-19th centuries. (planned) <<http://library.ucy.ac.cy>>

Digitisation project for the "AVLITOU EVAGORA" (Evagoras Back Yard) (in greek)

This is an educational tool run by the consortium which consists of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the UCY, the Cyprus Telecommunication Authority and Ten Twenty Limited. The effort is to set an educational tool on Cyprus history and culture and then turn it into an

eLearning tool. Now it is at the stage of content evaluation. The URL for the testing phase is <<http://195.14.149.87>>.



Digitisation project for the Open University of Cyprus

Through this eLearning portal University students will have the opportunity to have access to the educational material as well as any other material relevant to their studies. They will also be able to communicate with both their teachers and colleagues within the framework of their studies.

<<http://www.ouc.ac.cy/index.php/el/content/view/full/450>>



Welcome to Agrotourism in Cyprus

The Cyprus countryside is endowed with inexhaustible historical, natural and human riches, generously revealed to the visitor. Its traditional villages, enhance and complement a wonderful natural environment, with their local character, traditional architecture and village planning.

<<http://www.agrotourism.com.cy>>

