

Ireland

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A. DIGITISATION AND ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

A1. Progress on the systematic gathering of information about current and planned digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, photographs, museum objects, archival documents, audiovisual material and the availability of overviews of such digitisation in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote collaboration and synergies at European level.

The Department in cooperation with other agencies will set up a system to be overseen by a steering committee made up of the key stakeholders. The system will be based on an Irish Manuscripts Commission working paper and seminar on best practice and will involve the IMC and the National Library Council. National Cultural Institutions and local County Museums and Libraries will participate. A full analysis will be done of the present situation on digitisation. The <http://www.culturenet.ie> will be utilised to examine the current position. Bulletins will be sent to all participating institutions on best practice, on policy and encouraging them to become fully involved.

A2. 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.

As part of the analysis of existing and proposed digitisation and a network of institutions qualitative statistics will be compiled and circulated.

A3. Progress on partnerships between cultural institutions and the private sector in order to create new ways of funding digitisation of cultural material.

A number of major projects are under way. The Irish Times Newspaper in partnership with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

has put its entire archive from 1859 to date on line. This involves the optical scanning of every newspaper including supplements published in that time. The National Archives of Ireland is working with this Department and the National Archives Canada to digitise the entire record of the 1901 and 1911 census. Dublin 1911 is already online at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>. Later this year the entire collection will be available online. Already it has proved very popular with the public and academics worldwide. The analysis referred to above will identify the other projects under this heading which are in place or which are proposed.

A4. Progress on the set-up and sustaining of large scale digitisation facilities.

Some national institutions and local institutions have commenced a programme of digitisation. The Analysis referred to above will identify the extent of this.

A5. Progress of cultural institutions, as well as publishers and other rightholders to make their digitised material searchable through the European Digital Library. Describe in particular the progress on the application of common digitisation criteria by cultural institutions and, where relevant, private companies, in order to achieve interoperability with the European Digital Library and to facilitate cross-language searchability.

The National Library of Ireland through participation on EDL (European Digital Library) project is making their catalogue available through the EDL. Other organisations have participated in project proposals to the EU under eContentplus and are awaiting results with a view to making content available through EDL. The Department will alert the institutions of the need to examine OAI compliance in order to make the content available. The new steering body

will oversee and carry out a wide ranging survey and emphasise the initiative.

A6a. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of orphan works.

For consideration by the Steering Group.

A6b. Progress on mechanisms to facilitate the use of works that are out of print or out of distribution.

For consideration by the Steering Group.

A6c. Progress on the availability of lists of known orphan works and works in the public domain.

To be established in the survey.

A6d. Progress on the identification of barriers in your legislation to the online accessibility and subsequent use of cultural material that is in the public domain – and the steps taken to remove them.

No barriers identified to date. This will be reviewed in the light of the survey results.

B. DIGITAL PRESERVATION

B1. Progress on national strategies for the long-term preservation of and access to digital material. Describe the organisational approach, indicating the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved as well as the allocated resources. Describe the specific action plans outlining the objectives and a time-table for the specific targets to be met.

There are published guidelines for local public libraries, county museums/archives and at National Cultural

Institution level. The steering group will consider organising these into a more cohesive national strategy.

B2. Progress on exchange of information with other Member States on your strategies and action plans.

Ireland has participated in MINERVA global reports, has participated in MinervaEC, input a report on Ireland's strategy and action plan, fully participates in the expert group and will participate in other reporting arrangements.

B3. Progress on legal provisions for multiple copying and migration of digital cultural material by public institutions for preservation purposes.

There is a provision in the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 awaiting enablement. The Steering Group will examine and progress.

B4. Progress on policies and procedures for the deposit of born-digital material. Please note how you are taking into account developments in other Member States in order to prevent a wide divergence in depositing arrangements.

The steering group will progress this. When legislative opportunities arise the matter will be considered. There will be consultation on any revised legislation and any required updating of reciprocal arrangements.

B5. Progress on legal provisions for the preservation of web-content by mandated institutions.

There is a provision in the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 awaiting enablement.