



ATHENA



eContentplus programme

ATHENA

Access to cultural heritage
networks across Europe



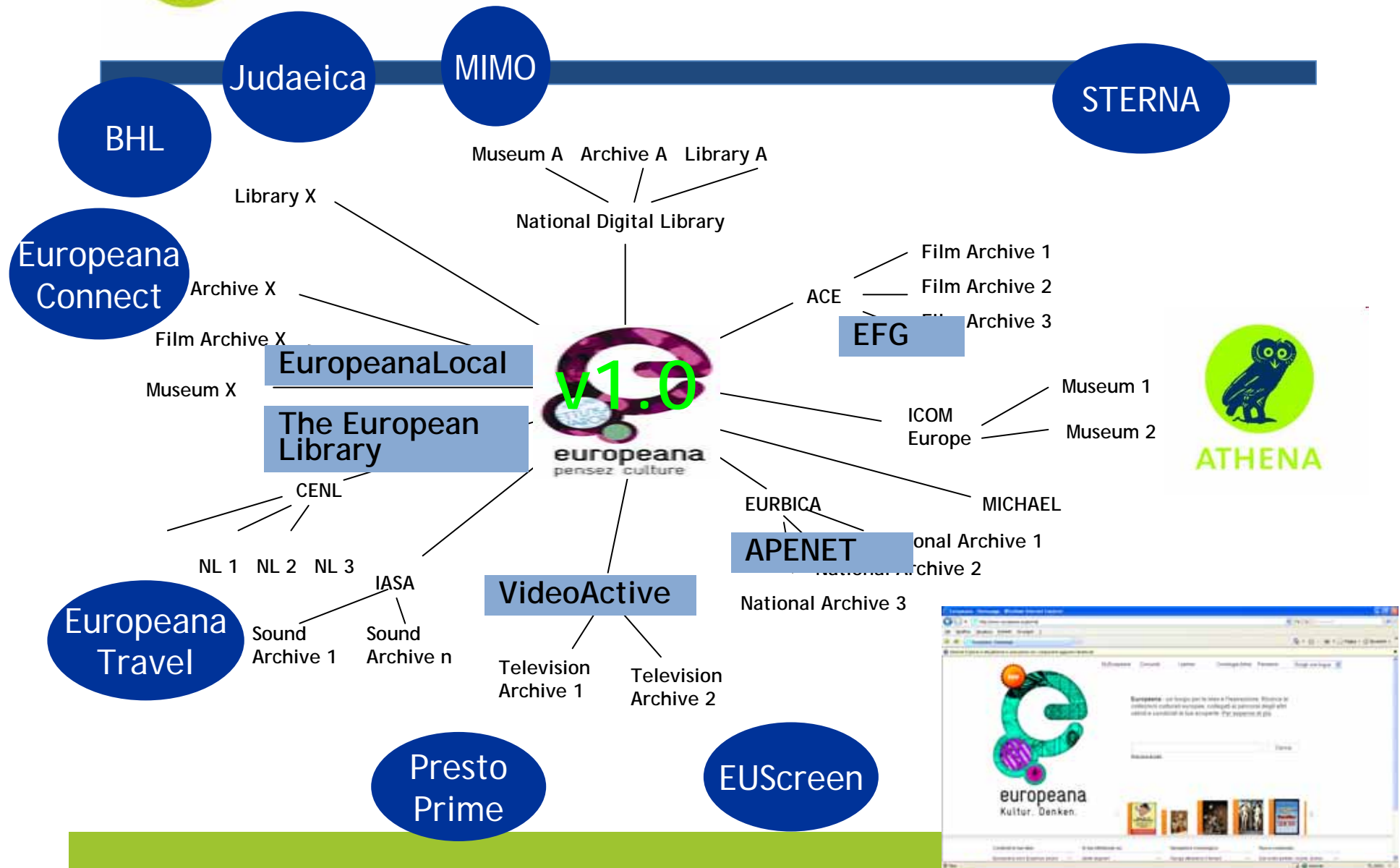
Maria Teresa Natale

Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali
Istituto centrale per il catalogo unico
delle biblioteche italiane





The Europeana Family





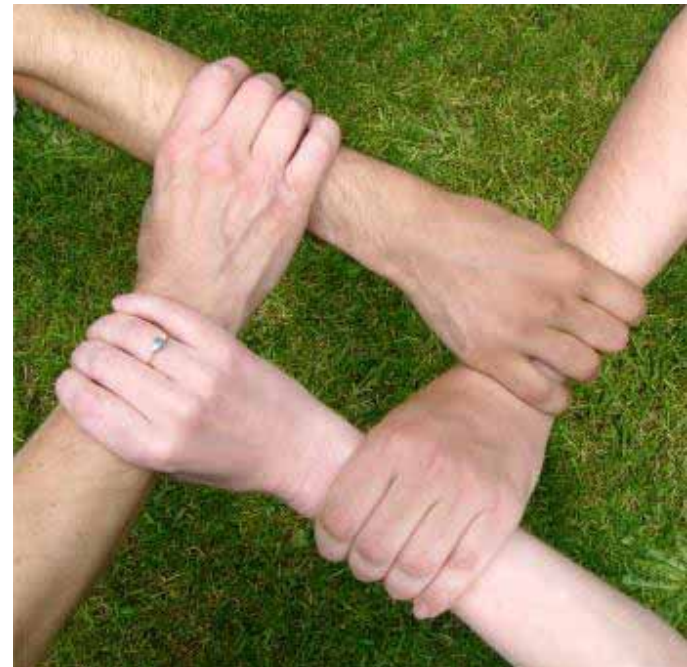
Basic information

ATHENA is

- a network of good practices financed by programme *eContentplus*
- a 30 month project (2008-2011) coordinated by MiBAC
- a result of the MINERVA project

ATHENA involves:

- 20 EU Member States, Israel, Russia and Azerbaijan
- 109 museums and other important cultural institutions in Europe





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The museums' scenario in the field of standardisation



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Towards standardisation

... in the past ...



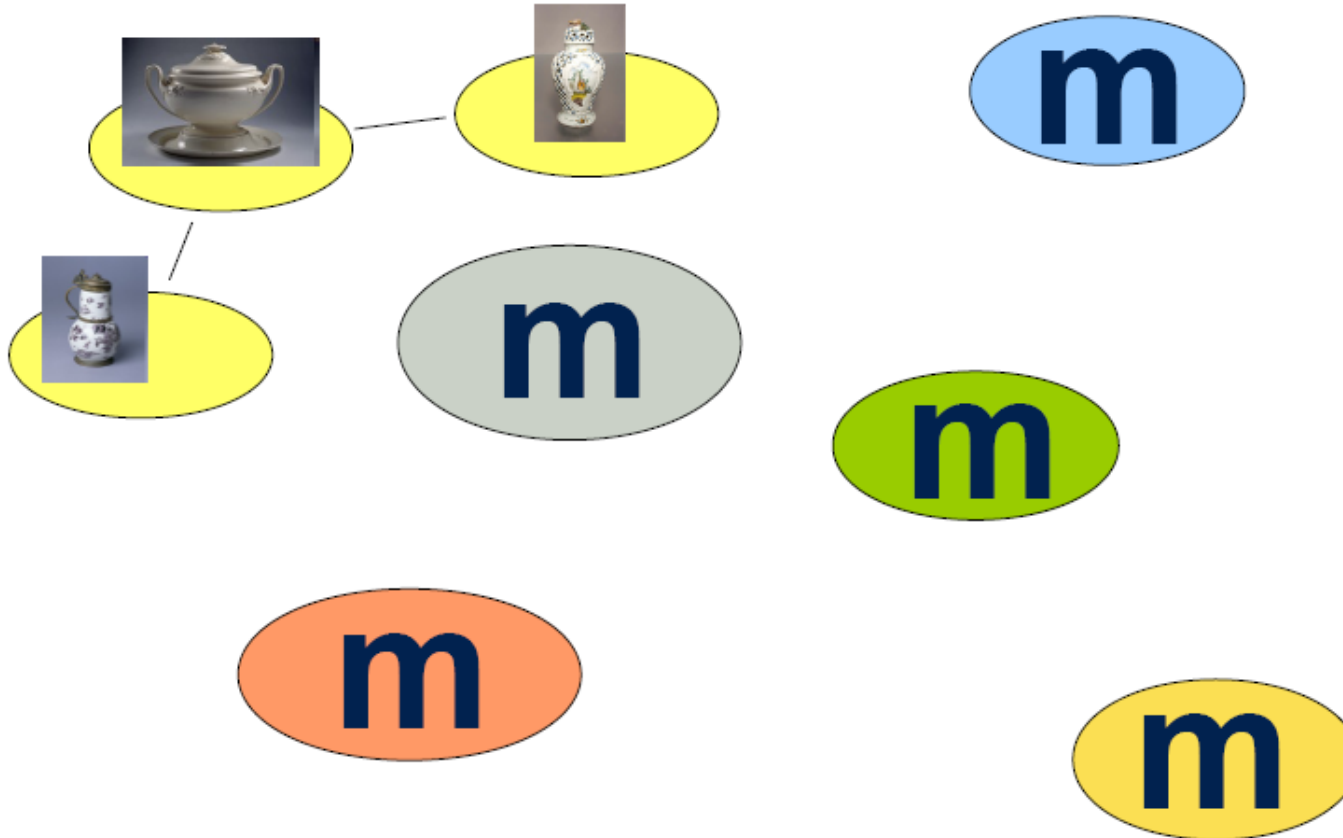
... each museum was its own island ...



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Towards standardisation

... in the past ...



... collaboration in joint exhibitions and temporary object exchange ...



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Towards standardisation

... in the past ...

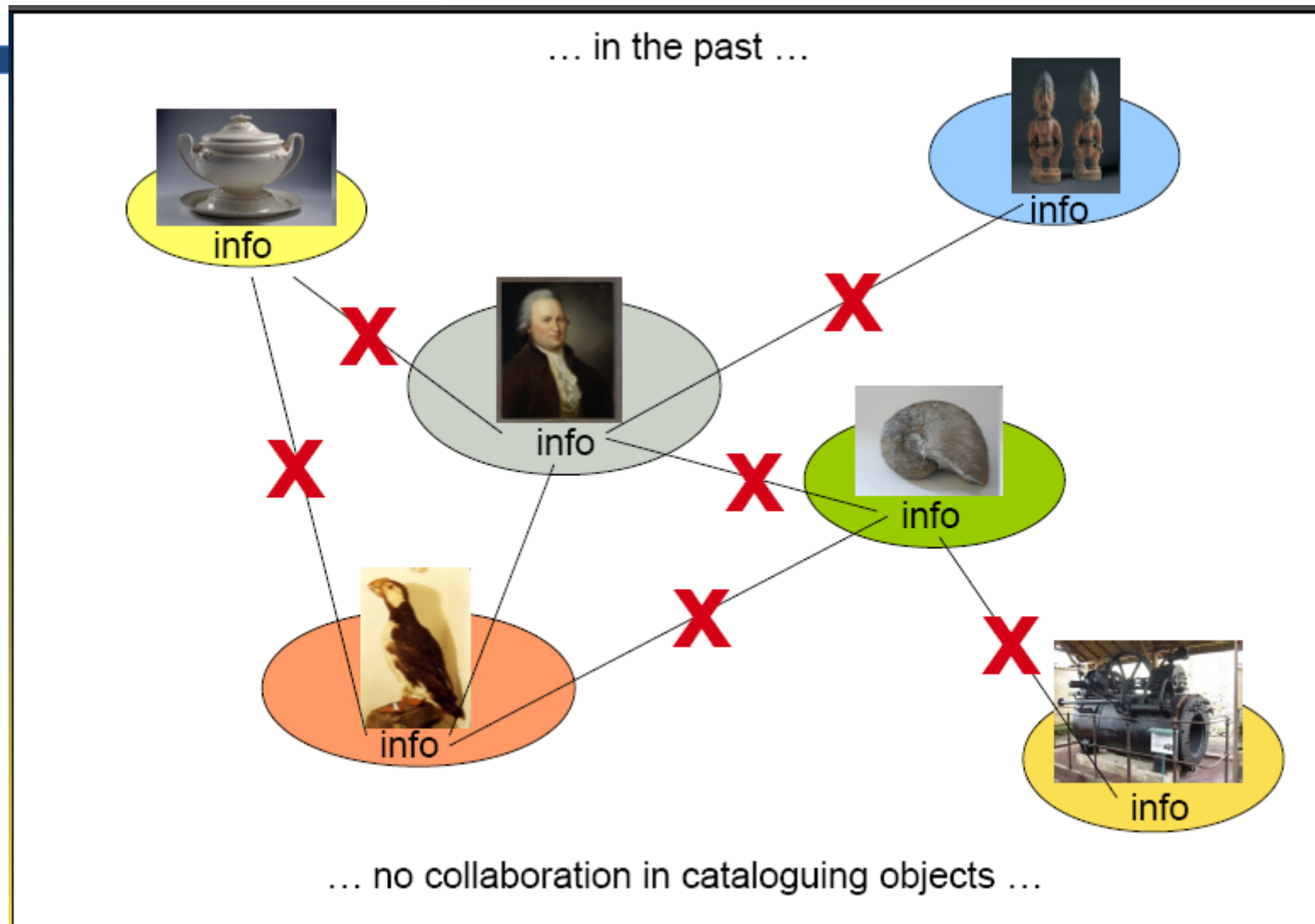


... museums have a high amount of often unique objects ...



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Towards standardisation





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Towards standardisation

... consequently ...



info



info



info



info



info



info

... no uniformity in development and use of controlled vocabularies ...



Towards standardisation

In the Internet age, things are beginning to change

There is more willingness to share
the knowledge on objects and exhibitions
not only during the real visit
but also through digital media

Towards standardisation

... with objects cooperation is more difficult ...



Painted 1784



Not painted ...

but „produced“ 1540



Painted 1769



Not painted ...

not produced ...

But: „first described“ 1863



Painted 1739



Not painted ...

Produced (when ??)

More important: „used“ around 530

Towards standardisation

... object description has to take several aspects into account ...



Produced in GDR

Part of official dress of olympic cadre Rome 1960 (women)

Only produced for this occasion

By misunderstanding real silver (expensive) was used

without context ... only a shoe ... but with context: full of meaning

... a shoe is not only a shoe ...

DAMENSANDALETTE



Beschreibung ...

Diese Damensandalette wurde 1960 im VEB Schuhfabrik "Roter Stern" in Burg, der früheren Schuhfabrik "Tack" für einen ganz besonderen Zweck hergestellt: Der Betrieb wurde von staatlichen Stellen beauftragt, für die weiblichen Mitglieder der DDR-Olympiamannschaft (Rom 1960) silberfarbene Sandaletten mit gleichfarbigen Schnallen zu entwickeln und herzustellen. Der Direktor für Materialbeschaffung bestellte aber versehentlich echte Silberschnallen, was den Betrieb teuer zu stehen kam. Dieses Modell (Größe 24) besteht aus silberfarbenem Kunstleder, der Schaft aus Riemchen mit Schnallenverschluss, die Sohle und der Oberfleck aus Gummi. Der Absatz ist bezogen, der Boden geklebt.

Material/Technik ...

Kunstleder, Silber, Gummi

Maße ...

L. 22,8 cm, B. 7,5 cm, H. 10,0 cm

Hergestellt ...

... herf: VEB Schuhfabrik "Roter Stern" Burg

... mann: 1960

... ort: Burg (b. Magdeburg)

Wurde genutzt ...

... herf: DDR-Olympiamannschaft (Damen)

... mann: 1960

... ort: Rom

Gehört zu ...

→ Heimatverein Burg und Umgebung e.V. → Schuhfabrik Burg [S 12a, G 617]



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Towards standardisation

... object description has to take several aspects into account ...



... a sword is not only a sword ...

- ... part of the official uniform of prussian mining inspectors around 1900
- ... it has inscriptions
- ... it was not made for duel or fighting
- ... it was an indicator of „position“



Towards standardisation

... object description has to take several aspects into account ...



... a stuffed bird is not only a stuffed bird ...

... this kind of bird (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) is extinct ...



... painting is not only a painting ...

... To understand ...

one needs to know:

Who painted whom when for what reason, why in this pose, what should this pose express, why was Lessing painted in these clothes, ...



Towards standardisation

The state of the art

European museums have different approaches:

- in cataloguing
- in digitisation
- in the use of metadata standards



Often standards are local instead than national

Italy (for example)

data base generally based on cataloguing ICCD standards



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The role of ATHENA within this scenario



ATHENA activities

WP3 - IDENTIFYING STANDARDS AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

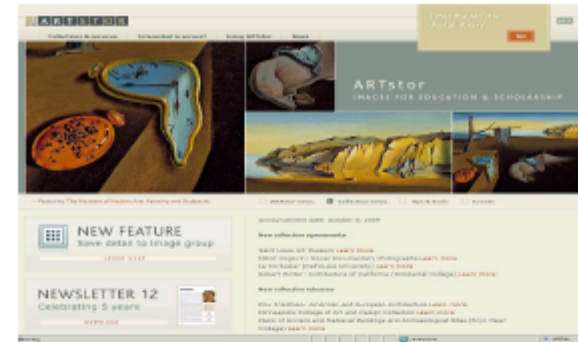
TASKS:

Collection of data on the application of standards by European museums

Identification of standards and common harvesting formats and the publication of recommendations

Review of requirements and specification of tools to support the conversion of proprietary museum data

Towards standardisation



Categories for the Description of Works of Art

J. Paul Getty Trust
College Art Association

Revised 9 June 2009 by Patricia Harpring
Martha Baca and Patricia Harpring, Editors

= CDWA Lite

Le Cabinet des Beaux Arts
(print), ca. 1690
probably engraved by
Pierre LeClerc
(1688-1744), active in
Paris, France
From Le Cabinet des Beaux
Arts, ou Recueil d'estampes
général d'après les tableaux
des musées ou les beaux
arts, avec explication des
explications de ses diverses
tableaux.
Dedicated to Charles de
Claude Perrault, pt. 2.
Paris: Bibliothèque, The
Getty Research Institute
88-812241



Guidelines for the description of art objects and images, including a discussion of issues involved
in building art information systems.

http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/standards/cdwa/

Categories for the Description of Works of Art

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Le Cabinet des Beaux Arts
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From Le Cabinet des Beaux
Arts, ou Recueil d'estampes
pour l'usage des tableaux
d'un palais ou d'un salon
avec une description des
expositions de ces mêmes
tableaux.
Dedicated to Charles de
Claude Perrault, pl. 2
Dedicated Library, The
Getty Research Institute
00-012245



Guidelines for the description of art objects and images, including a discussion of issues involved in building art information systems.

- + Adaptations by „Working Group Data Exchange“ of the German Museum Association
Made suitable for all kinds of museums (not only art museum)
- = museumdat (harvesting format for object information)
(compatible with CIDOC-CRM)

Towards standardisation

museumdat



+ Adaptations by ATHENA Working Group 3 – enriched with SPECTRUM - MMade it suitable for all museums in Europe (to deliver data to EUROPEANA)

= LIDO (Lightweight Information Describing Objects)
(compatible with CIDOC-CRM)



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LIDO Basics

- LIDO = **L**ight **I**nformation [for] **D**escribing **O**bjects;
- Uses *CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model* (CRM);
- Has **D**isplay elements and **I**ndexing elements;
- Full support for **M**ultilinguality;
- Aligned to Getty's *CDWA Lite* schema;
- Informed by *SPECTRUM*;
- In 'use' in **BAM Portal**.



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LIDO Top Level Elements

- Identifier
- Category
- **Object Classification:**
 - Object / Work Type (mandatory)
 - Classification
- **Object Identification:**
 - Title / Name (mandatory)
 - Inscriptions
 - Repository / Location
 - Record (mandatory)
 - State / Edition
 - Object Description
 - Measurements
- **Event:**
 - Event Set
- **Relations:**
 - Subject Set
 - Related Works
- **Administrative Metadata:**
 - Rights
 - Record (mandatory)
 - Resource



Towards standardisation

LIDO vs. ESE

The added
value
of ATHENA



ATHENA activities

WP4 - INTEGRATION OF EXISTING DATA STRUCTURE INTO EUROPEANA

TASK:

To develop and broaden the integration of all kinds of resources used by museums and other cultural heritage domains in Europeana, focussing in particular on terminologies and semantic tools

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

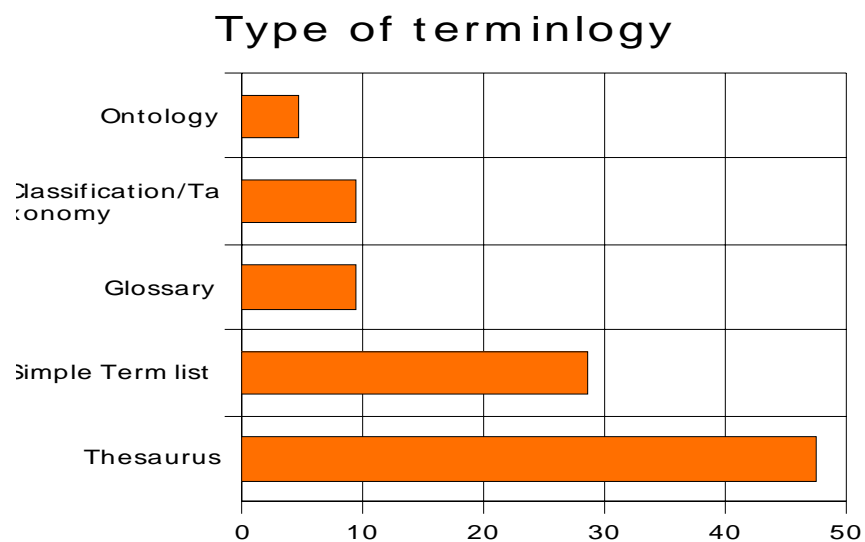
- Analysis and comparison of existing dictionaries, terminologies, thesauri, classifications, taxonomies etc.
- Analysis and comparison of existing multilingual tools (thesauri, technical solutions etc.)
- Recommendations for data providers in order to facilitate semantic integration of their content into Europeana



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ATHENA activities

WP4 Survey



Some figures:

- 24 countries
- 105 terminologies
- 40% thesaurus
- 30% multilingual



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ATHENA activities

WP4 current steps:

- Identification of cases
 - to cover all kind of problems
 - from the simplest to the most complex
- A cooperation platform, a Wiki
 - to contribute to the first steps of an ATHENA thesaurus
 - to share and discuss the results
- Editing of recommendations for museums



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ATHENA activities

- Prefer the use of thesauri
 - SKOSifiable
 - Structurally rich enough
 - Rather adopted in museums
- Prefer domain-specialization and create bridges in-between
 - Specialized domain of description
 - Little dimension (number of terms)
- Be “general-user-oriented”
 - Access and retrieval concern
 - Combined with professional requirements



ATHENA activities

WP7 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATHENA INGESTER

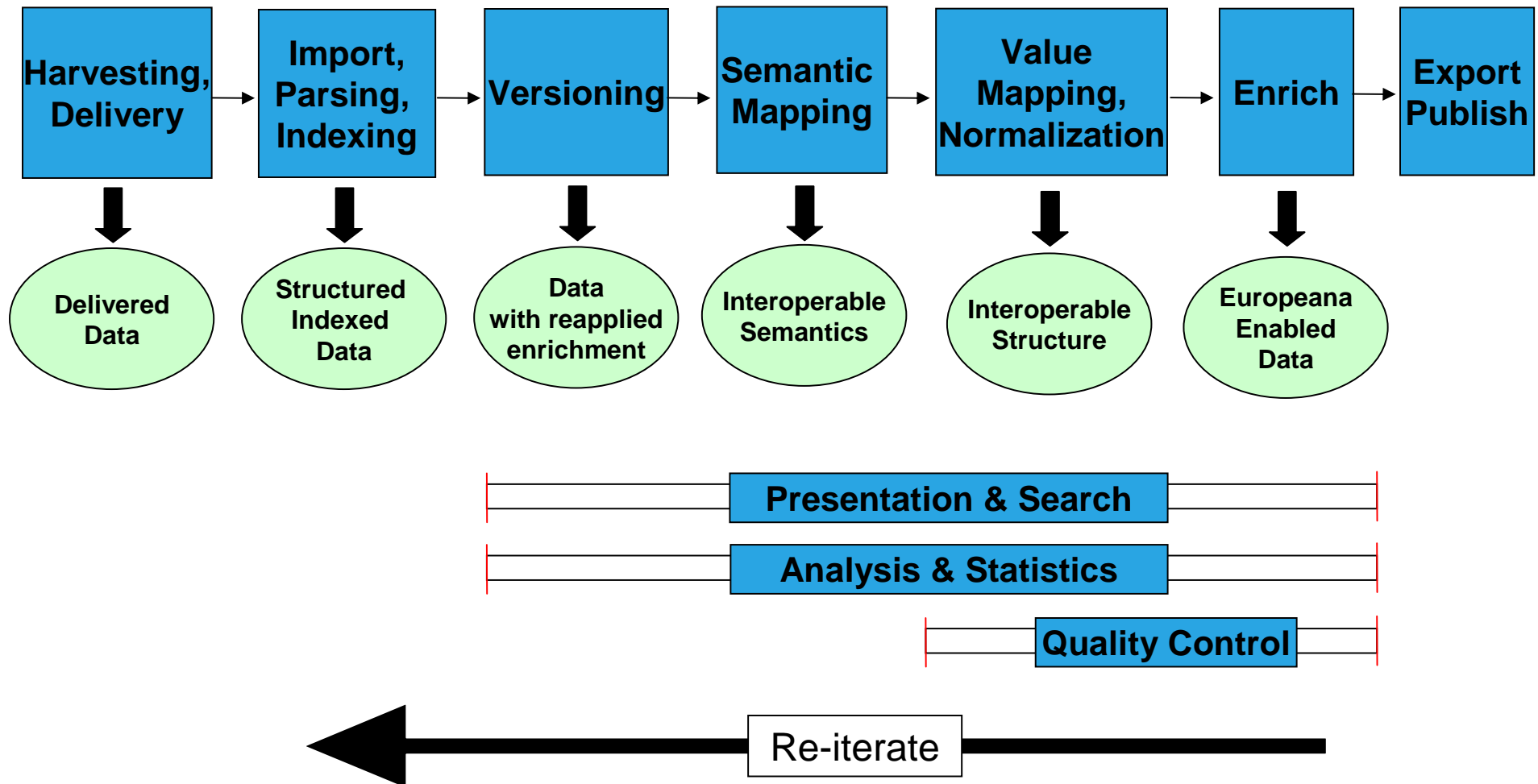
TASK:

Development of a tool able to integrate the different standards and harvesting formats, focussing also on semantic interoperability

In order to practically bring the ingested content of the content providers into Europeana




ATHENA activities





ATHENA ingester



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HOME PROFILE ORGANIZATION ITEM SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION IMPORT LOGOUT

— Create new user —

Username*:

Password*:

Password Confirmation*:

First Name*:

Last Name*:

Email*:

Contact phone num:

Job role*:

Organization: -- N/A -- ▾

Type of user: -- please select -- ▾

submit reset

-- please select -- ▾
-- please select --
Admin
Annotator
Internet

©National Technical University of Athens

1st step:

Registration of the
content provider:


- Museum
- Library
- Aggregator
- Etc.



ATHENA ingester

2nd step: content
ingestion

3rd step: mapping
between one's own
standard and LIDO



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HOMEPROFILEORGANIZATIONITEM SUMMARYADMINISTRATIONIMPORTLOGOUT

– Import data –

Select your import method:

☐ Http Upload

☐ NTUA FTP Upload

☐ Remote FTP/HTTP Upload

☐ OAI URL

-- Select file --

-- Which Organization --

Browse...

Only zip, xml, and excel files allowed

NTUA FTP:

Give URL to remote ftp/http server

Give link to OAI repository

Parent organization upload support

submit

reset

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ATHENA ingester

Technical features

- Implementation in Java
- Database in PostgreSQL
- Queries made with Hibernate
- WebServer Tomcat
- Full Text Index via Lucene



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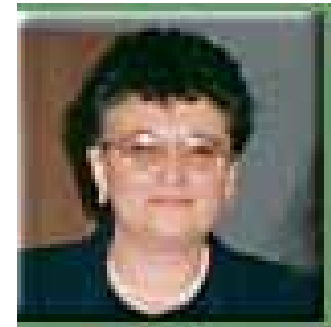
WP5 - Coordination of contents

MAIN TASKS:

- 1) Creation of a network of the NCP responsible for:
 - the data collection
 - the involvement of new content providers
 - the local dissemination
 - the support to the WPs activities
- 2) Coordination of the content provision
- 3) Investigation of national coordination mechanisms
in terms of creation of aggregators (thematic, regional, national)

Russian NCP

Nadezhda
Brakker





ATHENA activities

WP6 - Analysis of IPR issues and definition of possible solutions

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Overview of IPR legislation with respect to Europeana goals

Identification of possible solutions for conflicts among content providers and Europeana, also with regard to the Europeana Licensing Framework

Editing of a step-by-step guide



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ATHENA activities

ATHENA WP6 D.6.2. Step-by-step guide on IPR issues

1 What is your situation?

2 Where do you want to go? (Your goal)

3 Here is the way to get there...

4 Now you have got / are able to...



ATHENA activities

WP1 - Management **WP2** - Awareness and dissemination

They work in close cooperation to:

- Enlarge the network
- Disseminate the results
- Produce promotional materials and publications
- Organise training workshops for the content providers



January 2010: Training Workshops in Rome and Berlin
on LIDO and the ATHENA Ingestion tool



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**WHO IS NOT
SHOWING HIMSELF
WON'T BE SEEN**

IS YOUR MUSEUM IN EUROPE?

**ATHENA IS YOUR BRIDGE
TO EUROPEANA**

**ATHENA IS YOUR BRIDGE
TO EUROPEANA**

Network enlargement with Russian museums

Signing a cooperation agreement,
you can:

- participate in working groups activities
- be a content provider

Two possibilities of providing
contents to Europeana

- Rhine Release (July 2010)
- Danube Release (July 2011)



Network enlargement with Russian museums

ATHENA gives to interested museums:

- Information
- Technical helpdesk
- Training

info@athenaeurope.org

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ATHENA, presented as a Network of Best Practice within the [eContentplus Programme](#), takes its origins from the existing [MINERVA](#) network.

ATHENA will bring together relevant stakeholders and content owners from museums and other cultural institutions all over Europe and evaluate and integrate specific tools, based on a common agreed set of standards and guidelines to create harmonised access to their content.

ATHENA will contribute in the content provision to [Europeana](#).

[Link to external website](#)

Events

[Roma, Italy: CulturaItalia e il contributo italiano a Europeana](#)
2 April, 2009

[Jerusalem: Athena National Workshop](#)
22 April, 2009

[The 13th Annual Conference ADIT 2009: Cultural Heritage and Information Technologies](#)
15-10 June, 2009

News

2009-02-11 [ATHENA page on Russian site of MINERVA PLUS](#)
More ▶

2009-01-11 [National ATHENA Workshop held in Belgium](#)
On the 8th of January PACKED vzw and KMKG/MRAH organised a national ATHENA workshop at the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels, Belgium. **More ▶**

2008-12-05 [Rome: ATHENA Kick-off](#)
The Kick-off meeting took place in Rome on the 10th December 2008 in Rome. **More ▶**



Europeana
think culture



Michael
Multilingual inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe



minerva
eEurope

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<http://www.athenaeurope.org>



Thanks.

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