ATHENA lessons learnt
1. The importance of the workflow

Maria Teresa Natale
Italian Ministry of cultural heritage, ICCU

Piergiacomo Sola
Amitiè, Italy
What’s behind this screenshot?

Listen to a story…

- ATHENA

- Made of Gu, the spirit wife

- My Europeana
  - About us
  - Communities
  - Partners
  - ThoughtLab
  - Choose a language

- Item details

- Europeana collection Name: 08902
- Advanced search

- Find: europeana_collectionName:08902

- Item details

- Title: Made of Gu, the spirit wife
- Item Type: Item Type
- Date: Date
- Description: Description
- Rights: Rights
- Archive: Archive
- Add a tag
- Send as E-mail
- Log in / Register

- Item: Item
- Description: Description
- Rights: Rights

- Search results

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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
109 museums and other important cultural institutions in Europe
plus new entries
National contact points

Trait d’union between content providers and the organisation and technical management
• Content provider information
• Collection description
• Digital object metadata
• Information scheme(s) (metadata)
• Intellectual Property Rights (including copyright)
• Geographic name terminology and co-ordinate standards
• Date format and time period terminology
• Subject terminology
• Person and organisation terminology
Survey conclusions
a big mess

• European museums have different approaches in cataloguing, in digitisation, in the use of metadata standards
• Museum metadata standards are not much used by the other domains
• Museums use other domain metadata standards
• Dublin Core is a popular metadata scheme
• A significant number of museums (and organisations from other domains) use an in-house developed metadata schemes
• About half of collections are using adapted standards

By ATHENA WP3
Complexity of museum objects

Which standard to use in ATHENA?

... 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 |
LIDO Basics: XML Harvesting schema

- LIDO = Light Information [for] Describing Objects;
- Uses CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM);
- Has Display elements and Indexing elements;
- Full support for Multilinguality;
- Aligned to Getty’s CDWA Lite schema;
- Informed by SPECTRUM;
- In ‘use’ in BAM Portal.
Towards standardisation

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
## Ingestion Plan

Today: 270 collections

**Ingestion plan:** the workflow of the collections until the publication into Europeana. Will they all be published in the European portal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGREEMENT AUTHORIZATION</th>
<th>PUBLISH PROCEDURE</th>
<th>UPLOAD</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>DATA PROVIDER (institution, aggregator)</th>
<th>COLLECTION NAME</th>
<th>TECHNICAL CONTACT PERSON</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
<th>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DIGITAL OBJECTS</th>
<th>OBJECT TYPE (if sound, video, text/images)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Danube</td>
<td>BE_007</td>
<td>FACA</td>
<td>Photograph collection database</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100000</td>
<td>text/images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>29952 (100 items)</td>
<td>BE_008</td>
<td>KIK RIJK</td>
<td>Photograph collection of art objects belonging to the other Belgian participating scientific institutions</td>
<td>Erik Bartholow</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erik.bartholow@krijk.be">erik.bartholow@krijk.be</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>1844</td>
<td>text/images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Danube</td>
<td>BE_009</td>
<td>NAMH</td>
<td>Museum collection database</td>
<td>Chris De Leuf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:c.deleuf@nagh.be">c.deleuf@nagh.be</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>613 objects</td>
<td>Images</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The collections’ quality

The cases

- Collections ready to be ingested (very few)
- Collections with low quality images
- Collections with metadata to be corrected
- Collections not yet fully digitised
- Technical problems
- Management problems
- Waiting for IPR clarifications
- Duplications with other projects
- Need to be ingested first in the national aggregator
- ...

The emoji sequence shows a range of emotions from winking to crying.
Europeana Data Provider Agreement with Europeana  
(ready in May 2010)  
Europeana Data Aggregator Agreement with Europeana  
(ready in May 2010)  

Long discussion among all stakeholders on  
• Metadata reuse  
• Non commercial reuse  

Content Providers’ Authorisation to ATHENA to deliver content to Europeana
Ingestion system

Cultural Heritage metadata aggregation
Organization, user and records management
Alignment of proprietary schemata
Export (XML, XSLT) & publish (OAI-PMH)

By NTUA
Ingestion system

Friendly interface
Easy to learn
Still in progress
Bugs

XML analysis, statistics & preview

Visual mapping (XSL) editor

XPath & constant value mappings, value concatenation
String value transformation functions based on XSL

Complex condition editor

By NTUA
Ingestion system

Harvesting, Delivery → Import, Parsing, Indexing → Versioning → Semantic Mapping → Value Mapping, Normalization → Enrich → Export Publish

- Delivered Data
- Structured Indexed Data
- Data with reapplied enrichment
- Interoperable Semantics
- Interoperable Structure
- Europeana Enabled Data

Presentation & Search
Analysis & Statistics
Quality Control

Re-iterate

By NTUA
Different cases
PERIODIC TRAINING WORKSHOPS

ONLINE TRAINING MATERIAL
Documents
Presentations
Guidelines
Videos
Worksheets

TESTS (TEST SERVER / FINAL SERVER)

TECHNICAL HELP-DESK
managed by WP3 and WP7 experts targeted at content providers

VIDEO TUTORIALS
Errors

Mapping errors
Thumbnail blurring
Shown at / Shown by
Images caching failed
Repetitions of items
Confusion in the names of content providers
Difference from ATHENA previews
Europeana content checker
Items duplications
New element europeana:dataProvider
Ecc.

“G. asked me to fix dcterms:title and change it to dc:title, map dc:source to europeana:dataProvider, leave dc:description as it is. I cannot change the display order of dc:extent. Dc;Type was another issue I now mapped it to dc:subject because this fits better. I tried to differenciate between dc:type and dc:subject but currently this information is all mapped to dc:type in the input file and there is no pattern that I could filter for. Not all items contain a true dc:type as first element in their metadata.”
Stakeholders in the process

- Technical team
- Metadata experts
- Ingestion plan coordinator
- Management
- Europeana Team
- Content providers
Houston
We have lift off!!!!!

Testimonials:

“How exciting to see it live! All of everyone's work is coming together. Well done”

“thank you for all your efforts and hard work - we are absolutely thrilled to be in Europeana”

“I would like to thank to the Europeana Ingestion Team”

“great news with the publication, congratulations and thank you for all you hard work. Their organisations should be the judges, within the limits of the systems, as to the quality of the results”

10 November 2010
2 millions ATHENA data in Europeana / half way
We are in Europeana

Museum-digital, Germany
Museum of History of Kazan University, Russian Federation
Rybinsk State History, Architecture and Art Museum-reserve, Russian Federation
Institute for Cultural Memory (CIMEC), Bucharest, Romania
Chouvashia State Art Museum, Russian Federation
Petofi Literary Museum, Hungary
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia
Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden Wurttemberg, Germany
Royal Institute For Cultural Heritage, Belgium
Hellenic Maritime Museum, Greece
ArtPast, Italy
Israeli Museum, Israel
FotoMarburg, Germany
Conclusions

- Respect technical guidelines in digitisation projects
- Image quality is very important
- Training, training, training…
- Help desk: it is strategic!
- Human interoperability: cooperation and exchanges of good practices between ICT technicians and cultural professionals
Open to new museums

New museums who want to publish their digital objects into Europeana are welcome!!!

ATHENA can be the right bridge!!!
ATHENA cooperates with other ongoing trans-European projects to fully support the development of Europeana:

**Cooperation with other European projects**

In order to:
- avoid duplications
- steer the content providers to the right project according to its needs
- share the project results
- exchange good practices
- coorganise dissemination events
More information

http://www.athenaeurope.org
info@athenaeurope.org