

Daguerreobase

Collective cataloging tool for daguerreotypes
and daguerreotype literature



DELIVERABLE

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D3.2.1 Technical standard for the general description of daguerreotypes content

Version 2.3

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1. REVISION HISTORY AND STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp



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2. INTRODUCTION

In the first version of the Daguerreobase website, most attention was given to the description of the technical aspects of a daguerreotype plate and housing. Information about the image content was minimal. This was discussed within the consortium. During the validation process of our proposal for renewal of the Daguerreobase, the European Commission advised us to pay more attention to the description of the image content.

3. Research on available standards

Research is done on general and more specific standards that are available and used by other projects. Interoperability of these standards to the Europeana Data Model (EDM) or other content aggregators is part of deliverable WP5 but there is overlap with this WP3 as regards understanding and using the standards in a proper way. Existing standards for the description of photographs limit the description of the numerous daguerreotype object characteristics. These existing standards were mainly developed for collection management and are focussing on a more extensive description of the image, the author (photographer), the collector, collection and acquisition. They only provide general descriptive fields for the identification of the (photographic) technique.

As a thematic aggregator, Daguerreobase is collecting very specific and detailed information about one photographic technique. This information is used for research, comparison of daguerreotypes and locating, dating and relating daguerreotypes to creators.

Below we describe the more relevant standards we researched and how they are used or related to the Daguerreobase.

Lightweight Information Describing Objects (LIDO)

LIDO¹ is developed as a standard for museums to describe objects and events. The strength of LIDO lies in its ability to support the full range of descriptive information about museum objects. This is very useful for museums that want to take part in different sorts of aggregation projects as they do not have to make new data maps each time. The standard also provides a mapping to Dublin Core elements. We found this standard too general for use in the Daguerreobase model although we did serious studies on this standard because many other Europeana projects use LIDO as their descriptive standard.

General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G))

ISAD(G)² is a general international standard for archival descriptions. It also provides a mapping with International Standard Archival Authority Record (ISAAR)³, the standard we use for describing actors (photographers and depicted persons). We found this standard very useful as a validation tool when working on the metadata model and used many elements for our model. The standard is too general for the specific object descriptions of a daguerreotype. Therefore the ISAD(G) tags are only mentioned in the metadata schemas in 3.2.2, entities "Collection" and "Daguerreotype".

Dublin Core

The consortium has selected the Dublin Core⁴ Metadata set as the preferred standard for the description of the image content. We are using Dublin Core Qualified Terms, which is an extension of the original 15 elements of the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set (DCMES). In the metadata model we also use DC-tags for the object description in preparation of the mapping with EDM. The DC-tags are mentioned in the schema below.

¹ <http://www.lido-schema.org/schema/v1.0/lido-v1.0-schema-listing.html>

² <http://www.ica.org/10207/standards/isadg-general-international-standard-archival-description-second-edition.html>

³ <http://www.ica.org/10203/standards/isaar-cpf-international-standard-archival-authority-record-for-corporate-bodies-persons-and-families-2nd-edition.html>

⁴ <http://dublincore.org/>

Sepiades

The Sepiades⁵ standard is very close to the metadata model of the renewed Daguerreobase. It describes institutes, collections, images and photographic objects on a hierarchical basis. This standard also provides a mapping to the Dublin Core standard (chapter V of the description document⁶). In the schema below the Dublin Core elements and the Sepiades core elements are mapped if applicable. We have chosen this standard as the main standard for describing images and objects. The project EuropeanaPhotography⁷ is also using Sepiades for describing photographs.

International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings (ISDIAH)

The ISDIAH⁸ standard is used for describing (cultural) institutes with collections and collecting individuals. For the Daguerreobase an institute is an important entity to describe because daguerreotypes are spread over many institutes in Europe and the rest of the world. ISDIAH is too specific but for aggregation purposes we find it important to use the elements. ISDIAH-tags are mentioned in the schema in 3.2.2 for the entity "Institute Collector" and mapped to the SEPIADES-tags where applicable.

International Standard Archival Authority Record (ISAAR)

ISAAR⁹ is an international standard used for describing actors (organisations, persons and families). Even more important than institutes, actors should be described properly, exchanged and aggregated with international standards so information on daguerreotypists can be found and used worldwide and related to their daguerreotypes. We use the main ISAAR-elements in the metadata model and mapped the ISAAR-tags to SEPIADES where applicable. SEPIADES is very basic for describing actors so ISAAR is the leading standard.

⁵ <http://www.ica.org/7363/paag-resources/sepiades-recommendations-for-cataloguing-photographic-collections.html>

⁶ <http://www.ica.org/7363/paag-resources/sepiades-recommendations-for-cataloguing-photographic-collections.html>

⁷ <http://www.europeana-photography.eu/index.php?en/115/deliverables>

⁸ <http://www.ica.org/10198/standards/isdiah-international-standard-for-describing-institutions-with-archival-holdings.html>

⁹ <http://www.ica.org/10203/standards/isaar-cpf-international-standard-archival-authority-record-for-corporate-bodies-persons-and-families-2nd-edition.html>

4. Consensus building and best practice

During the reviewing and commenting process many useful remarks and suggestions popped up. It became clear that daguerreotype specialists want to go into the details when describing daguerreotypes. In contrast, non-daguerreotype specialists prefer to extend the descriptions of the image content and pay more attention to the more general characteristics and the actual registration process. This difference was reflected in the structure of the renewed Daguerreobase.

When the Daguerreobase is connected to Europeana the image description is very important for exchanging artistic and historical information. During the Consortium meetings in Paris, 09-10-2013 and in Prague, 21-01-2014, the use of a standardised list for image description was discussed. The most important fields for the description of the image content in the database are: 'image description', 'tags' and 'subject name'. These are all free text fields, but the consortium will work out a thesaurus for 'tags'. Moreover, this field will make use of so-called 'auto complete' functionality, which means that a list of suggestions pops up as soon as a user types the first few letters of a word. The manual will further make clear what kind of data should be entered in each field.

Institutions, collections and actors (creators of depicted persons) should be described in a proper and general way so these entities can be exchanged and aggregated. For all fields of our metadata model we tried to use general standards as mentioned above. The object descriptions of daguerreotypes however are too specific for comparisons with other photographic types or other cultural objects. We tried to use elements of Sepiades and ISAD(G) for describing the objects.

Mappable to EDM

As mentioned above WP5 will deliver a mapping to EDM. In the research on description standards we studied the EDM documentation. As we chose the main standards (described above) to describe the image and objects we expect no problems with mapping to EDM. All fields are mappable to DC-tags (see detailed views below) and in D3.2.2 and all DC-tags are mappable to EDM¹⁰. An OAI-PMH harvesting tool is already implemented in our system.

The Euro-Photo project¹¹ also uses Dublin Core to describe and map their metadata to EDM (and IPTC).

General instructions

Writing an online multilingual manual is part of deliverable D4.4. Here we will explain how participants in a general way will work on the Daguerreobase.

Participants can make contributions on two levels. The first level is part of the renewed www.daguerreobase.org website and uses Memorix Express, a basic editor provided by Picturae (PIM). Authorised persons can add and edit information in simple forms containing a basic set of fields. These fields are indicated in the schema below and in 3.2.2. The image description is one of these forms. Each entity in the data model will have its own form which can pop-up and be filled in. Amateurs and other people who only want to describe a daguerreotype in a quick way can use this level.

The second level is Memorix Maior, the collection information system developed by Picturae. In this level authorised participants can add and edit records in a very precise way and they have access to all fields. Also relating entities, changing thesauri terms and vocabularies and searching for specific fields can be done in Memorix Maior. This level is made for the specialist as mentioned above.

For many fields, vocabularies and thesauri are used to help participants choosing the right terms. They are shown in the metadata model below. We use these terms to compare and filter the results on the website. This is also important for a multilingual presentation of the data. Terms in the SKOS thesaurus will be available in translation in all languages of the current participants. Terms in the SKOS thesaurus will be available in translation in all languages of the current participants. As a result, visitors to the website will be

¹⁰ <http://pro.europeana.eu/web/guest/moving-to-edm#default>

¹¹ <http://site.project.euophoto.org/project/index.php?page=home>

able to search multilingually on the terms recorded in the thesauri. For instance, if they wish to find a daguerreotype with a specific material or colour, they may enter 'silver' or 'blue', and the search result will include all relevant daguerreotypes, regardless of the original language which they were described in. Of course, this multilingualism only applies to the thesauri.

For free text fields there will be no translation, the field will simply record any text entered by the user.

Metadata model for image description

Field	Type	Mandatory	Simple form	Repeat	Value list	SEPIADES tag	DC tag	Instruction/description
ID	integer			no			identifier	Automatically by system
user_id	integer			no			Contributor	Automatically by system
datetime created	timestamp			no			created	Automatically by system
datetime edited	timestamp			no			modified	Automatically by system
language	integer	*	*	no	SKOS language		Language	According ISO 639-2, in simple form combined with script
script	integer	*	*	no	SKOS script		Language	According ISO 15924
authorisation image	integer	*	*	no	Creative Commons options	E.1.3.2. ACCESS RESTRICTIONS - SPECIFICATION	Rights; accesRights	Options: BY, BY-ND, BY-NC, BY-NC-ND, BY-NC-SA, BY-SA
provenance	text			yes		E.2.2. History of the physical image	Provenance	Use one line for each ownership, custody or location
title	text		*	yes		E.3.1.1.1. Formal title	Title	Use the formal title of the image, if known
image description	text	*	*	no		E.3.1.2. DESCRIPTION/CAPTION	Subject	Describe the subject of the image
tags	text		*	yes		E.3.1.6.2.1. Classification terms	Subject	Tags used for website, such as 'women', 'child',
subject name	text		*	yes		E.3.1.3.1. Proper name	Description	Use only if no Actor can be depicted, see relation below
subject location	integer		*	no	SKOS geographical	E.3.1.4.1. Geographical location [R]	Coverage	According geonames.org. Choose as specific as possible.
inscription	text		*	yes		E.3.2.3.1. Inscriptions	Description	Inscription on the daguerreotype, use one line for each inscription
links	text		*	yes		E.3.2.5. REFERENCES	Relation	Insert URI to relevant web pages for this image

relation to Actor				yes			
name from Actor					E.2.1.1. NAME	Creator	
role	text			no	Creator, Depicted person, Copyright holder, platemark manufacturer	E.2.1.3. NAME – FUNCTION	Creator of Description
relation to entity Daguerreotype							
identification	text	*	*	no		e.1.2.1. main reference code	Identifier
dated begin	date		*	no		E.1.1.1. Date of the registration	Date
dated end	date		*	no		E.1.1.1. Date of the registration	Date
number of plates	integer		*	no		E.3.2. Physical Description	Format
stereo plates	boolean		*	no	N/Y	E.3.2. Physical Description	Format
general remarks	text		*	no		E.3.1.2. DESCRIPTION/CAPTION	Description
assessment	text			yes		E.3.2.4.1.3.1. After-treatment	
style type	integer	*	*	no	European, Anglo American, Other	E.3.2.4.1.2.1. Photographic type	Format
window size type	integer		*	no	inch, mm	E.3.2.4.1.5.3.3. Dimensions– measuring unit	Format Unit used for data entry, default is mm, inches will be converted
window size (width)	integer		*	no		E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions- measuring value-width	Format

window size (height)	integer	*	no		E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions-measuring value-height	Format	
housing size type	integer	*	no	inch, mm	E.3.2.4.1.5.3.3. Dimensions-measuring unit	Format	Unit used for data entry, default is mm, inches will be converted
housing size (width)	integer	*	no		E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions-measuring value-width	Format	
housing size (height)	integer	*	no		E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions-measuring value-height	Format	
housing size (depth)	integer	*	no		E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions-measuring value-depth	Format	
housing shape	integer	*	no	see list under instruction	E.3.2.4.1.5.3.2.2. Dimensions-measuring value-depth	Format	arch, arched, arched with sharp corners, braces, circle, half circle and rectangular, hexagon, octagon, octagonal with rounded sides, ogee, ogee and brace, other, oval, quarter circle, rectangle, rectangle with round corners, round, rounded rectangle, rounded rectangle with braces, stereo plates
relation to Collection							
title	text	*	yes		C.3.1. Title	Publisher	Name of the collection
identifier	text		no		C.1.2.1. Main reference code	Publisher	Short code for the collection
relation to Collector_Institute							
name from Collector_Institute	text		yes		A.1.3.2. Name	Publisher	Name of the collector of institution
Notes:							
To give a complete overview of the 'simple form' contributors can use the image description above also shows related items from other entities							
DC tag Type is always "daguerreotype"							
For some fields there is no Sepiades tag available; in such cases, the general Dublin Core-tag is used							