Daguerreobase

Collective cataloging tool for daguerreotypes
and daguerreotype literature

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DELIVERABLE

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REVISION HISTORY AND STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Organisation	Description
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Entity Model

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0. Introduction

The collection Management Setup of the renewed Daguerreobase was derived from the current Daguerreobase database. The meaning of 'collection' in the Collection Management Setup is '*collection of daguerreotypes descriptions and related literature*' that will be collected during and after the project runtime.

In our communication with the consortium we were using the term '*Entity model*' to define the underlying structure or framework for the different parts of the renewed Daguerreobase, together with the definitions of the preferred models or standards for metadata that should be applied.

The entity model and metadata model were constructed during a close cooperation by the three technical partners from WP3, WP5 and WP7. The entity model was presented during the consortiums Best Practise Meeting in Cologne, in February 2013. After consultation and tackling of questions, the consortium agreed on the use of this entity model, including the mentioned standards, that would form the base from which the metadata model was defined.

The metadata model will contain all the necessary descriptive fields to describe in detail daguerreotype objects. From this very detailed metadata model, a selection of necessary fields will be selected to define and to agree on by the consortium, two standards that will be developed in WP3:

- A technical standard for the general description of daguerreotypes content (D3.2.a)
- A community standard for the general description of daguerreotype objects (D3.2.b)

And to complete the overlap between several packages, attention was given to the required functionalities of the renewed Daguerreobase, these can be found in D7.3 User requirements and IPR Guidelines.

In a next step, the linking and exchange of data with Europeana will be realised, following the latest developments in the EDM. In order to prepare a fluent alignment with Europeana, the necessary API and Linked Open Data integration will be realized. The selection of metadata that will be set available will be defined in the DEA. Descriptions of these next steps are part of WP5 (D5.4 and D5.5). The actual execution of linking will be a task of WP4.

1.1 Objectives

WP5 objectives

Activities described in WP5 have to result in an increased number of high quality descriptions of daguerreotypes and related objects (literature, camera's or other photographic equipment), as well in the Daguerreobase platform as in the Europeana portal.
The Daguerreobase platform will bring together the technical infrastructure and expertise and knowledge on daguerreotypes, to exchange and interoperate within the Europeana platform.
Realising the objectives is depending on the outcomes of:
- WP 2 Awareness raising, dissemination and networking activities;
- WP 3 Best practice and standards descriptions;
- WP 4 Renewed Daguerreobase and service delivery.

1.2 Daguerreotypes

What makes a daguerreotype different from a photographic print?

Daguerreotypes must be seen as rather complex objects, objects containing a photographic image on a silvered cupper plate, the daguerreotype plate. This daguerreotype plate is kept in a protective housing. Often the housing is referred to as a daguerreotype, but that is not always truth, because during the same era, other photographic techniques were discovered and some of them were mounted and presented in the same way, but that is not making daguerreotypes of them.

Is this housing of any importance?

The housing will vary in kind and shape, depending on the period of making, and on the place of origin. Thus making the housing an important and distinguishing part of the object that can be a lead in dating and placing the origin. The most obvious differences are visible as European (cassette) and Anglo-American (etui, hinged case) style housings.

In this project we will focus on collecting descriptions of the European style daguerreotype objects. During the making of an inventory of daguerreotypes in European collections, we found that only a relative little number of this first ever made photographs, were available. And this in contrast with the Anglo-American style daguerreotypes, that are available on a regular base in shops (mainly USA) and on the internet. We do believe that the practise of daguerreotyping was much more adapted in the USA then in Europe.

The entity model starts from the 'Daguerreotype' (object) and 'Image' (digital images from the daguerreotype object). A description of a daguerreotype object is split up in descriptions of the image content, the protective housing components and the daguerreotype plate (that can contain hallmarks).

A few images from daguerreotype objects.

European style daguerreotype object

Anglo-American style daguerreotype object