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Final Public Report

1st May 2009-30th April 2011

http://www.europeanatravel.eu/

Table of content

Project Objectives

This report marks the end of the EuropeanaTravel project which was one of a series of projects funded by the European Commission's eContentplus Programme, that digitised material from cultural heritage institutions to feed into Europeana, the portal providing access to Europe's digital cultural heritage. The project started on 1 May 2009 and ran for two years.

The project digitised over a million resources, including maps, manuscripts, photos, films, books and postcards on the themes of travel, tourism, trade routes and exploration.
The materials came from many well known national and research libraries in Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, The Netherlands and the UK.

The project also delivered an 'aggregation service', a tool which enabled LIBER (The Association of European Research Libraries) member institutions to aggregate their materials in order to be included in Europeana.eu. Europeana takes content from a number of aggregators and does not normally deal with individual institutions. Whilst CENL members (national libraries) have The European Library as an aggregator, LIBER needed to find a permanent solution to this issue and explored the options through the EuropeanaLibraries project.
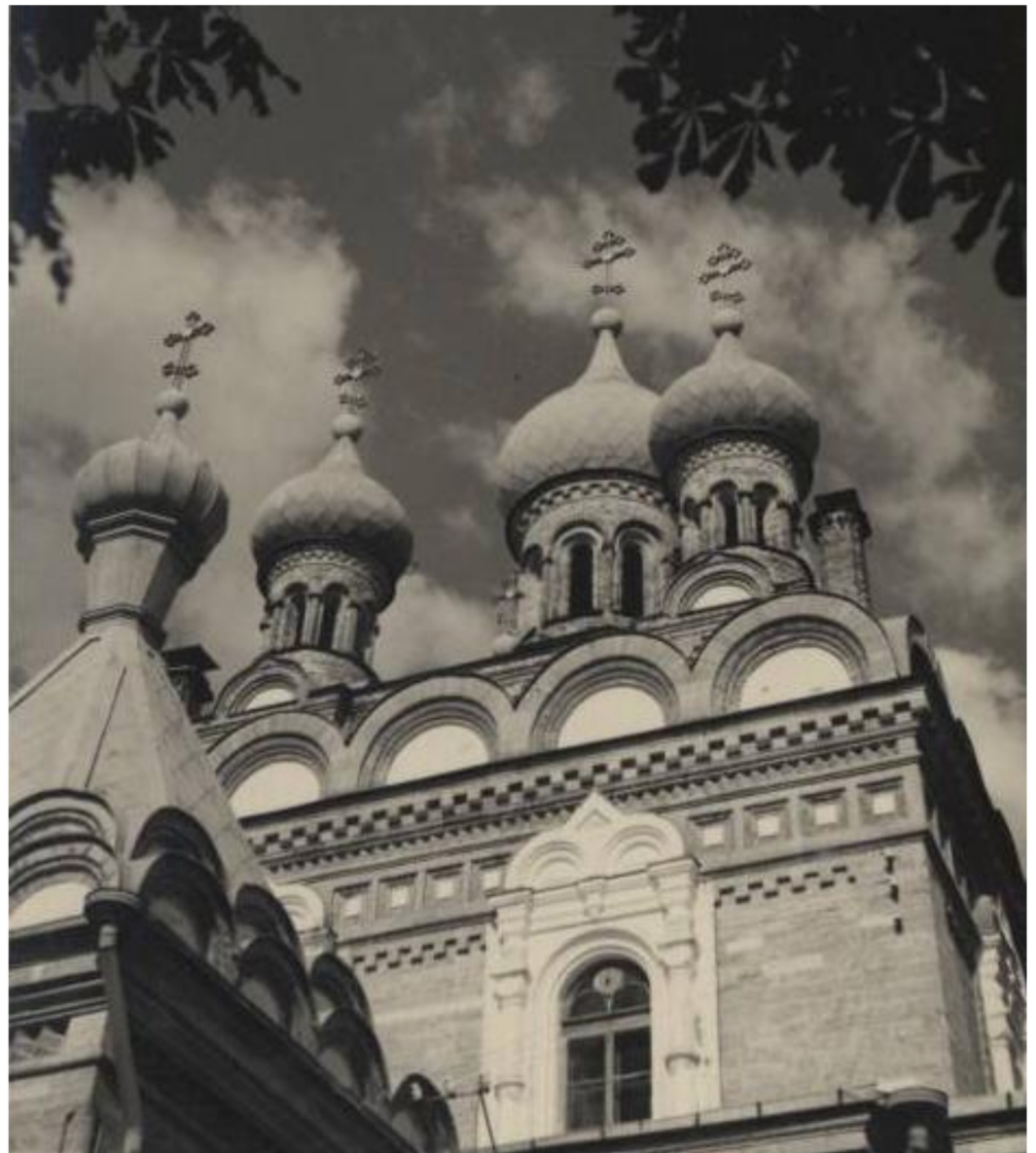
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travel

2 A secondary objective of the project was to strengthen collaboration between CENL and LIBER by extending their experience of joint working in support of Europeana. The Conference of European National Libraries CENL www.cenl.org and LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries) www.libereurope.eu gave their full support to the project. CENL includes 48 national libraries from 46 European countries. LIBER includes almost 400 research libraries in more than 40 countries.

Consortium

Of EuropeanaTravel's 19 partners, 16 were libraries contributing content. Of these, 8 are national libraries, members of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) and contributing their content to Europeana through The European Library (TEL). The other 8 are research libraries and members of LIBER.

The National Library of Estonia coordinated the work and contributed content. The library of University College London led the work on planning digitsation and aggregating content of the LIBER libraries, as well as contributing content itself. The Europeana Foundation provides access to all the metadata through its portal. Eremo s.r.l. took care of communications and assisted with management. The State and University Library of Lower Saxony (Goettingen) worked on a survey of digital preservation practice.

3 The remaining partners listed digitised and contributed materials:

- National Library of Finland
- National Library of Latvia
- National Library of Poland
- Austrian National Library
- Slovak National Library
- National and University Library (Slovenia)
- National Library of Wales
- Lund University Library
- National Library of The Netherlands
- University Library of Regensburg
- Moravian Library in Brno
- University of Innsbruck
- University and National Library of Debrecen
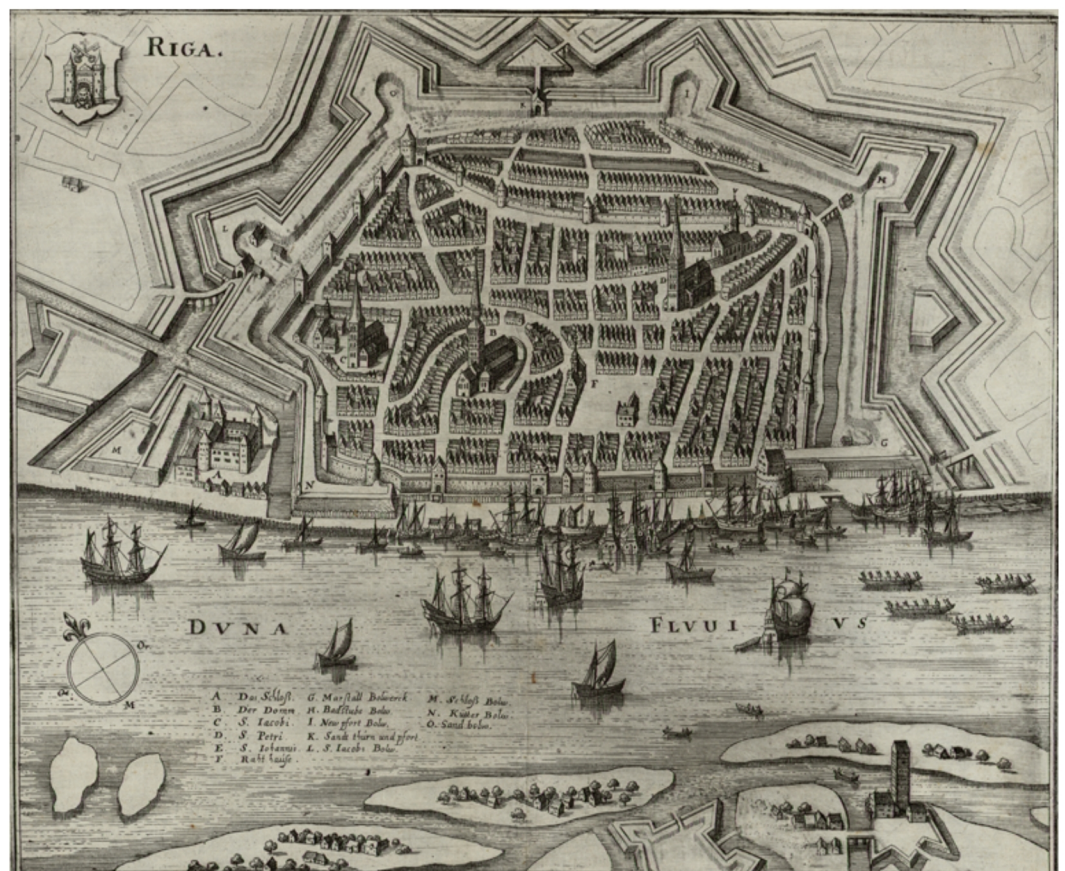- Trinity College Library (Dublin)

The Project's Work and Results

Europeana Travel aimed for the following results:

- Over a million resources from European national and university libraries made available via Europeana.eu.

- An aggregation service enabling any research library willing to contribute to Europeana, to easily aggregate their resources and make them available.

By the end of the project:

• Digitisation was complete. Some partners digitised more and others less material than originally planned but in total more material was digitised than originally planned for.

• Aggregation into The European Library and onwards into Europeana was a success.

• Digitised material was and will remain available in partners' digital libraries and as a collection in The European Library and in Europeana.

• A Survey of research libraries on aggregation of digital content (January 2010) was undertaken to help inform the development of aggregation services.

• A report Best practice examples of library digitisation was completed and made available

• A report Sustainability of the LIBER aggregator was published demonstrating the progress made in the partnership between CENL and LIBER as a result of the project

• A virtual exhibition called "Travelling Through History" showcasing Europeana Travel's material was running on The European Library website.

4

During the first year, planning for the digitisation took place.

Partners agreed that two standards were essential for successful collaboration in the project. These were conformity to the [then] recently approved Europeana Semantic Elements (ESE) as a metadata standard; and OAI-PMH compliance for participating repositories, to allow harvesting of all content by the relevant aggregators for delivery to Europeana. This approach was fully compatible with the relevant Europeana requirements.

Having agreed the framework of standards, partners went on to share their plans and methods for digitisation and these were documented by the project in an internal planning document. A standardised methodology for monitoring progress was also devised and implemented.

Planning for aggregation was also carried out in year one and by the end of the year, actual aggregation by The European Library was beginning. Work on developing the LIBER aggregator also went ahead and was documented in internal reports and in the Survey reported above.

During the second year, work on digitisation and aggregation continued and was completed and the project's main goals of digitising material and exposing it to Europeana were achieved.

Throughout the project's duration, work on the project's website, press releases in a number of languages, a fact sheet and other activities made sure that a professional audience and the general public could easily follow the project's progress. Close collaboration with Europeana and The European Library helped ensure that the project's results were widely known to the Europeana community of libraries, museums and archives.

In basic statistical terms Europeana Travel planned to digitise and provide access to the following content and did so with some small variations:

Type of material	Number of items
Images	16,800
Graphic sheets	900
Pages	107,400
Maps	4,260
Books	5,120
Documents	6,080
Glass plates	1,130
Film negatives	30,000
Photographic objects	9,200
Journal pages	217,250
Shellacs	100
Postcards	25,000
Manuscripts	9

5

It is hard to do justice to the quantity, quality and variety of the material, but here are a few examples.

From University College London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), the content to be digitised comprised approximately 160,000 pages from nearly 300 printed books, dating from 1557 to 1860, and providing comprehensive coverage of travel writing relating to Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and Russia throughout that period.

The earliest volume, Herberstein's RerumMoscoviticarum commentarii, was published in 1557, but the majority of the material comprises books published between 1700 and 1860. The geographical regions covered are Albania, Austria, the Balkans (also separately Croatia, Bosnia, Dalmatia, Istria and Montenegro), the Baltic countries, Finland, Germany and Bohemia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania (Wallachia and Moldavia), Russia (including Siberia), Central Asia and the Caucasus, Turkey and Ukraine. Two-thirds of the collection is written in English, but there are highly significant works in French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Polish, and Russian. Many volumes have outstanding plates of drawings and folded maps, some even in colour.

5 Some of the most attractive volumes date from the 17th century. They include works by Edward Brown, such as his A brief account of some travels in Hungaria, Servia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Thessaly, Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Friuli and An account of several travels through a great part of Germany. Both have attractive engravings. Other highlights are Vermehrte newe Beschreibung der muscowitischen und persischen Reyse by Adam Olearius (1656), and Alberto Fortis's Viaggio in Dalmazia, published in 1774. Other important authors featured in the collection include William Coxe, the Marquis de Custine, August Haxthausen, Alexander von Humboldt, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, Peter Simon Pallas, Sergei Pleshcheev, Edmund Spencer and Ferdinand Wrangel.

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The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) in the Netherlands contributed 30,000 pages of texts and drawings from manuscripts in French, Dutch and Latin. These comprise the Alba Amicorum (Books of Friendship) featuring the travel diaries of scholars, lavishly illustrated with pencil drawings and gouaches. They cover the time span from the late 16th to the early 19th centuries.

The Austrian National Library in Vienna made available 600 photographic objects on the theme of expeditions in the 19th century; 1,000 glass plates and film negatives on ethnography and travel from the years 1900–1960; 30,000 film negatives from Austrian photographers and on world travel covering the work of Harry Weber and Joe Heydecker and the continents and countries of Europe, Palestine, India, and South America; 500 photographic objects on the Austrian monarchy, ethnography, as well as topographic views from the years 1860–1918; 5,000 photographic objects covering Austria 1918–1960, the Lothar Rübelt archives and the Bilarchivaustria, covering travel, views, people, rural Austria, and Alpine scenes; 155,000 pages from journals in German comprising more than 30 titles on travel, hunting and sports with a focus on Austria and the Alps; and recorded sound, comprising 200 titles on 100 shellacs with folk songs related to travelling.

The University Library of Regensberg made available materials, mainly in German, on botanical excursions and expeditions in the 19th century comprising travel guides and diaries from the Middle Ages until the 20th century.

Partners contributed a wealth of rare and fascinating material.

Impact & Sustainability   6

Two aspects of the work of this project need to be sustained over time:

• The digitised content needs to continue to be made available to users and

• More LIBER content whose digitisation is not funded by this project needs to continue to be delivered to Europeana.

The libraries in this proposal are all publicly funded and they are all committed to continuing to make the digitised content available.

Finding a sustainable solution to funding the LIBER aggregator is work in progress but LIBER and The European Library have embarked on a new phase of partnership to solve this issue through the Europeana Libraries project which takes forward the work of EuropeanaTravel.

CENL members continue to have a sustainable solution to the question of delivering content to Europeana. They do so through The European Library which is continuing to develop strongly and is sustained by the subscriptions of its members.

There is also the issue of the sustainable long term usability of the newly digitised material. By using the most accepted current standards and through its quality plans, the project has done its best to ensure as far as possible that the material is usable long term or can keep up with technological developments.

The project completed its work in April 2011.