

Report on the Workshop Digital Initiatives at Universeum 2016

University of Utrecht, Friday 10 June 2016, 15.00 - 17.30

Organised by: Delphine Issenman, Frank Meijer and Martin Stricker.

The meeting in Amsterdam was a participatory workshop, in which the WG mainly aimed to gather input from participants, in order to develop a program for the upcoming years. The aim of the workshop was to reflect upon digital solutions and tools to increase online visibility, sustainable management, access and use of university collections. And to identify the needs for these tools and steps that are necessary to get university collections, museums and academic heritage online and see how we as a working group can help to facilitate this. Furthermore the aim was to evaluate the needs in terms of training and consulting and try to identify the actions that could be launched by the WG in that matter.

Program

- Introduction: goals and plans of the Working Group, and introduction to the workshop (Delphine Issenman)
- Examples of Academic Heritage online (Martin Stricker)
- Group discussion (FM / DI / MS)
- Conclusion and presentation group discussions (Frank Meijer)

Examples of Academic Heritage online

As a preparation of the workshop, the participants were asked to answer some questions on their 'own' collections online.

How is academic heritage represented online at your university/institution?

- Please send us the address(es)/URLs for the online site(s)
- What do you like?
- What would you change?

Several colleagues provided information that was used for the first session of the workshop. Martin Stricker presented some of these examples of academic heritage online. The 'owners' of the websites were given the opportunity to comment and engage in a discussion with the other participants. The websites we discussed ranged from 'classical' collection websites (digital collections, digitized and catalogued objects online) to more general academic heritage related websites.

The following websites were discussed:

Phaidra

Lorisa Andreoli from the University of Padua presented the *Phaidra – Digital Collections* website (<https://phaidra.cab.unipd.it/>) of the University Library System of Padova shows part of academic heritage – coming from archives, museums and libraries – that is otherwise not easily accessible. The

homepage presents the most interesting and the recently published content. Also museum objects are now online.

- *What do you like?* I like the web graphic design and the idea of a website as a point of access for university heritage coming from three different areas - archives, museums and libraries.
- *What would you change?* I would improve: the search engine (in particular, presentation of search result and search filters) and the managing of different metadata schemas.

Virtual tours, university of Padua

Alessandra Menegazzi from the University of Padua presented a virtual tour (in Italian and English) that can be used to present academic heritage and also create virtual collections using several different collections placed inside and outside of the university. See:

<http://itinerarivirtuali.musei.unipd.it> and <http://virtualtours.musei.unipd.it>.

- *What do you like?* "Virtual Tours" allows to create virtual itineraries and/or virtual temporary exhibitions in and out university heritage. An important goal is to connect general Italian cultural landscapes the academic heritage because they have a common cultural/historic background.
- *What would you change?* The Italian official cataloguing cards created by Ministry of Cultural Heritage are, obviously, in Italian. We have to translate each card when we harvest selected data import them into Phaidra or Virtual Tours. It could be useful to do this at the source database.
- A second but important question: Virtual Tours is a proprietary software. The possibility to use alternative open source software should be considered.

Finna

Jaana Tegelberg, of the Helsinki University Museum presented their database for collections that is connected to finna.fi, the National Digital Library portal in Finland. Finna provides free access to material from Finnish museums, libraries and archives. You can browse and read material available on the web. The museum collections can be found directly via: <https://museot.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb>.

Examples from the University Museum collections:

<https://museot.finna.fi/Search/Results?type=AllFields&filter%5B%5D=~building%3A%22%2Fyo-museo%2F%22>

- *What do you like?* It is necessary to work together to increase public accessibility to the museum collections. Finna-collaboration has been a big step forward in our museum and has resulted in a functional adaptive website.
- *What would you change?* For example, different organisations have different practises concerning the so called stamp on the surface of the image. In Jaana's opinion, no stamps are needed; small files should be royalty free.

University of Aberdeen, Neil Curtis

The most important online databases of the University of Aberdeen are accessed from

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/collections/index.php>.

- *What do you like?* Online access to the public of all records, directly drawn from the main records.
- *What would you change?* More content / details. Many items do not have individual electronic records, while a lot of records have no images.

Karsten Heck, University of Goettingen

Academic heritage can be found on the following sites of the University of Goettingen. On the homepage of the Göttingen Centre for Collection Development linking to single Collection homepages. See: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/kustodie>. On the landing-page of the Göttingen Collections Database (login-protected). See: <https://kuniweb.gbv.de/>. On an Exhibition Homepage from 2012 See: <http://dingedeswissens.de/ddw/de/projects>.

- *What do you like?* By the end of 2016 the data inside the Göttingen Collections Database will start to become visible on a web-portal and will feed into DDB and Europeana. I like to think of the material collection objects and their digital representations as two faces of a single medal, fostering and enriching each other vice-versa.
- *What would you change?* I would want people to be able to actively engage with the digital content from academic heritage collections, to open it for user generated content from academia and the broad public, and to facilitate collaborative research by linking collections and objects worldwide on some kind of platform. And I would like to encourage academics to go online with work in progress, to not only publish results but to shed light on the work while it's being done.

Stardust

Mauro Gargano is of the National Institute for Astrophysics (in Italian: Istituto Nazionale di AstroFisica), the main Italian body for the research in Astrophysics and Space Science; twelve observatories are part of INAF, and they preserve the most part of the historical heritage of Italian astronomy.

In 2012 INAF has realized *Polvere di Stelle* (Stardust), the web portal of the Italian astronomical cultural heritage, presenting its museum collections, historical archives, ancient and modern books.

See: <http://www.beniculturali.inaf.it>

- *What do you like?* The digital showcase, and the multiOPAC searching on six different kinds of materials we have catalogued (books, scientific instruments, artworks, manuscripts, historical archives, and biographical profiles of Italian astronomers).
- *What would you change?* The structure of the record for the instruments (too much information that is not always useful to the users) and the CMS used to publish informations and news of the web site.

The Hunterian, Maria Economou

The general website of The Hunterian (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/hunterian/>) provides access to online collections of the University of Glasgow. But the site is not easily or directly linked with other departments/parts of the University which also represent academic heritage, e.g.:

Special Collections (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/specialcollections/>) and Archive Services (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/archives/>).

The Hunterian's old collections management system (<http://www.huntsearch.gla.ac.uk/>) is still available online but has not been updated since Nov 2013. The web-interface of the new KE Emu (now part of Axiell) is still being worked on. See: <http://collections.gla.ac.uk/> For the time being both systems work in parallel.

- *What do you like?* Richness and diversity of collections and potential interconnections. The ease of getting basic information for visitors planning their visit (but limited depth currently on the web). Hunterian Associates Projects – interesting ways our PhD students have engaged with the collections and created digital outputs. See:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/hunterian/learning/hunterianassociates/hunterian%20associate%20projects/>

- *What would you change?* The KE Emu web interface needs to be made much more user friendly asap. Show its potential for digital storytelling and linking items from the collection. Find good balance between limiting T4 programme that the corporate communications department of the University asks all departments to use for web design with capturing diversity of interpretative digital approaches. Better integration of Special Collections, Library, Archives collection with The Hunterian (all using KE Emu is a good starting point). Better integration of Hunterian online catalogue with teaching platforms (moodle) for objects lists and other ways to support teaching effectively.

A Million Pictures

Sarah Dellmann from the university of Utrecht presented the project *A Million Pictures: Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefacts in the Common European History of Learning*. See

<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/>. Part of this project is Lucerna, the magic lantern web resource: <http://slides.uni-trier.de/>.

- *What do you like?* The relation between the objects is documented.
- *What would you change?* To make it more appealing for a general audience: create an entry point for non-specialized users, e.g. via a theme or a topic. To make it easier to export data / datasets to Europeana and to/from other collection websites.

Eckhard Kluth, Münster University

The main collection site of Münster University, created in January 2016, gives an overview of the recent and historical collections of Münster University. It was created as a tool to demonstrate the number and diversity of the collections – aimed firstly at the universities leaders but of course the scientific community and the broader public as well.

See: <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Kustodie/sammlungen/index.html>.

The Library collections can be found via <http://www.ulb.uni-muenster.de/sammlungen/index.html> and the archive via www.uni-muenster.de/Archiv/

- *What do you like?* It is the first time an overview of the recent and historical collections of Münster University can be given.
- *What would you change?* We hope to have an English version of the main collection site soon, and there are plans for an aesthetically more pleasing version of the main collection site.

We are planning to add a short history of the collections at Münster University and we would like to show, that and how the collections listed are actively used in teaching and research. Starting the summer of 2016, our IT-service will provide a collections management system, that will enable us to present objects from the collections on the main collections site as well as on Europeana etc.

Group discussion

After the plenary session, the workshop split up into three groups for debate and discussion. The goal of this discussion was to look for a common ground between the participants, to identify shared topics that we could work on as a community.

The discussions were very lively and diverse. This report presents the main topics that came up in the three group-discussions.

Sharing projects

Share projects and knowledge on a European level for a specific object or subject areas. This can be achieved by providing a network and/ or mailing list

Catalogue best practices, create a register of databases / overview of what has been done, what is available out there. To learn from each other.

- Is a different level than only sharing projects.
- For the register of databases it is relevant to look at the UMAC Worldwide Database of University Museum Collections: <http://university-museums-and-collections.net/> .
This is a model that we should consider to use if we want to create a register of databases.
- A list of projects and the people involved, and their needs

Sharing tools and resources

Make tutorials, training videos and make them available for the Universeum community.

- What topics? Who holds the authority?
- Universeum should do: training programs; maybe instead of workshops at location also tutorials online (video or ...), goal: metadata + images/digital representations + connecting collections / databases online / portal.
- Need of description collection standards : are already existing, to list and to share.
- Make guidelines for the digitization of videos and 3D and their presentation.
- Sharing collection standards.

List projects to be done together: focussing on what we all have, specific collections such as models, mathematical models, architecture, glass slides,...

The public / use of website or database

How are the websites being used? Who are consumers ? curators, researchers ? what political or economical power do they have ? and what do they want (note RIN report) ?

- Need for an audience survey. Is this something we can collaborate in?
- Modern user experience, responsive, flexible for different user groups
- The site must be found, not hidden on the 5th or 6th level of the university
- Let the objects be found by search engines.

User generated content: make it easy to give feedback, comments from the end users

Data

The most important thing for a searcher is data, whatever it looks, doesn't have to look nice, standardized etc. The researchers want the data, even if it is not clean

- From a cost/benefit view: push data online! (also raw data, no fancy interface needed), publish open source / open access: data will live somewhere even if your system goes away (also: people can use your data, make interesting things).
- First, you have to have a database, then you can put the data online
- Use open source licences as much as possible.
- Metadata: should have a good quality, deep, and should help to understand the object
- Collection description : is there a need for a data standard ? or can search engine find them anyway ?
- Sharing collection standards
- Who are producers of data (wic images): Curators, Publishers, Researchers?
- Who owns the data when digitization is outsourced by third parties?
- Is quality control possible, or desirable/

Money

How do we find the money to digitize collections. Is that something we should find together?

- Google Institute: is anyone using it? They have money.
- Museums could use support for funding (expertise for applying to Europe)

Policy and strategy

Provide the community with input for policy and strategy on digitization that can be used within the own organization (for funding etc.)

- limit it to basic / main points
- make it practicable as Recent Heritage group did
- make it progressively

Create guidelines for good digitization (of academic heritage).

Longlist derived from notes:

- metadata: should have good quality,
- good search tools, good discovery tools
- first, you have to have a database, then you can put the data online
- Don't wait for clean data
- Data should be free to use
- the site and objects must be found (by search engines),
- modern user experience, responsive, flexible for different user groups
- Share your tool / project with the universeum community