“Signatures of All Things I am Here to Read”: Digital Research as Practice, Digital Networks as Public Engagement

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Rome, 24.01.2017

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Europeana Cloud (2012-2016)

- Identification of research communities
- Web Survey
- Expert Forums
- Use cases on digital tools
- Focus Groups
- Case Studies on particular research topics
The Case Studies
Investigated conflicts ranging the 20thC:
- Greek/Turkish Conflict of 1920s
- Hungarian Revolution of 1956
- Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s

Asked theoretical questions of the data we found:
- What was international response to displaced population resulting from each conflict?
- How does this compare with the response to displaced populations in the 21st C?
Population Movement as a Result of Conflict in the 20th Century

Within Europeana:
- Newspapers had some info
- Radio Free Europe transcriptions offered first hand accounts of those fleeing Hungary
- EuroPhoto has a wealth of photos

Beyond Europeana:
- Hungarian Archive Portal
- Fortepan
- Columbia University Library Archival Collections

Nothing could be found externally for the Greek-Turkish conflict at the time of this study. Similarly, there were problems with finding much on the Yugoslav Wars...

https://www.facebook.com/anthoula.izmir/photos/a.362542673864696.1073741827.362533947198902/728105007308459/?type=1&theater

Refugees in Greece, 1922

Public Domain
Population Movement as a Result of Conflict in the 20th Century

Within Europeana
Newspapers (at the time) were not properly searchable
Metadata was often incomplete or inaccurate

Beyond Europeana
Specifically for the Yugoslav Wars, these are still subject to
a) govt embargoes,
b) cultural sensitivity, and
c) Lack of resources to maintain records

Hungarian Revolution 1956 memorial nearby Parliament
Commons.wikimedia.org
http://snappygoat.com/b/981a973c9c270e2223d30f195e1a18c87364a5cf
Public Domain

“Do You Remember The First Time?”
CC BY-SA
Considerations for Europeana

This was a worthwhile study, and there is much content beyond Europeana that can be potentially absorbed as part of a collection. Europeana needs to create stronger links to existing content and maintain that. Cultural sensitivities may be a problem in obtaining data, particularly for the more recent conflict of the 1990s. Financial issues may also be a problem for maintaining records and content within local GLAMs.
CASE STUDY: CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
Definition: “Children’s Literature is (among many other things) a body of texts (in the widest senses of that word), an academic discipline, an educational and social tool, an international business and a cultural phenomenon”.

Matching Children’s Literature to academic disciplines:
- History
- Cultural History
- Literature and Languages
- Education
- Library Studies
- Philology
- Textual Studies
- Linguistics
- Media Studies

Diverse audience → Diverse needs

Searching Europeana for related content resulted in:
Text (1596) / Image (194) / Video (25) records ranging chronologically from 1450 to 2014 and geographically from all over Europe, mainly the United Kingdom.

Diverse content retrieved in Europeana can be considered as brainstorm of results

Suggestions for promoting digital content reuse within Europeana:

1) Enrichment of content in the topic of Children’s Literature, even through potential collaborations with other digital libraries:
   - Gap in geographic coverage of available digital material
   - Collections as means of organising content
   - Easy access to references, databases, journals and books
   - Map of publications

2) Mobilizing already existing associations of this area in respect to new digital resources, tools and services will increase the number of potential users and community.

3) Further development of digital tools and services on such content gathers great attention among researchers who still employ more traditional, non-digital approaches in their research.
Europeana Collections

Explore 53,624,850 artworks, artefacts, books, videos and sounds from across Europe.
Europeana Research Grants Programme

Almost 200 submissions and 400 enquiries! Thank you for all the great ideas on @Europeanaeu material research! Now, to selection! #Grants
Thank you!