

Online Access to Cultural Heritage through Digital Collections: the MICHAEL Project



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- Digitisation activities: management and access issues
- Need for inventories
- Collection level description
- Inventories in France, UK, Italy
- MINERVA project
- MICHAEL project

Digitisation programmes

European countries invest significantly in programmes for digitising cultural and scientific content

Management and strategic issues:

- Avoid duplications
- Creating complementary collections
- Providing examples of practices to decision makers

Access issues:

- Enabling resources discovery
- Providing access to digital collections produced
- Fostering item-level access

Need for **inventories** of digitisation projects and digital collections:

- To identify what's going on with digitisation and which are the results of the policies
- To set priorities for the future

Growing interest in **collection level description**:
metadata to support resource discovery and disclosure

- To provide to both general public and professional users access
 - to digital content from multiple content providers
 - to physical collections through digital channels
- To build cross-domain services for the whole heritage field

- WordNet: “several things grouped together or considered as a whole”
- Dublin Core: “any aggregation of physical or digital items”
 - Different meanings according to specific environments
- Collections may be:
 - of physical items
 - of digital items

Collection level description

Collection level description:

- Description of the collection as a whole
- Finding aid: improves discovery of collections

Considerable work on collection level description:

- RSLP (UK, 1999-2002)
 - DC based metadata schema
 - Entity – relation data model
- DC Collection Description AP:
 - A core set of collection description properties, suitable for a broad range of collections
 - RSLP as a starting point

The French Inventory

Catalogue des fonds culturels numérisés (started 2001) http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/mrt/numerisation/fr/f_02.htm

- Tool for addressing digitisation policies and managing digitisation activities
- Cross domain, shared catalogue
- Unique access point to digital collections produced by different cultural institutions
- Formulaire
- Ca. 1400 records
- XML data base
- Open source software

Cornucopia (set up 1998) <http://www.cornucopia.org.uk>

- Searchable database of physical collections held by cultural heritage institutions throughout the UK
- Adopts RSLP CLD
- Schema representing the relationship between collections and the institutions that hold them
- 6 000 records (2005)

EnrichUK (started 2003) <http://www.enrichuk.net>

- NOF-digitise programme portal; 150 projects
- Online tool allowing projects to create collection descriptions (mandatory and re-usable)

WP3 Inventories and Multilingualism

- *Specifications for inventories of digitised content*
 - Data model and Metadata sets for inventories of digital cultural content
 - Describes Digital Collection, Institution, Project/programme, Service/product; physical collection
 - DC terminology or DC mapped

WP4 Interoperability and Service Provision

- *Technical Guidelines for Digital Cultural Content Creation Programmes*
 - Supports adoption of technical and metadata standards

Internet Culturale – Collezioni digitali

<http://www.internetculturale.it>

- Implements MINERVA specifications
- Collections digitised by libraries and archives
- Will be exploited through the MICHAEL service

Survey of MiBAC archaeology digital collections

- Implements MINERVA specifications
- Off line data base
- Will be migrated into MICHAEL

Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe

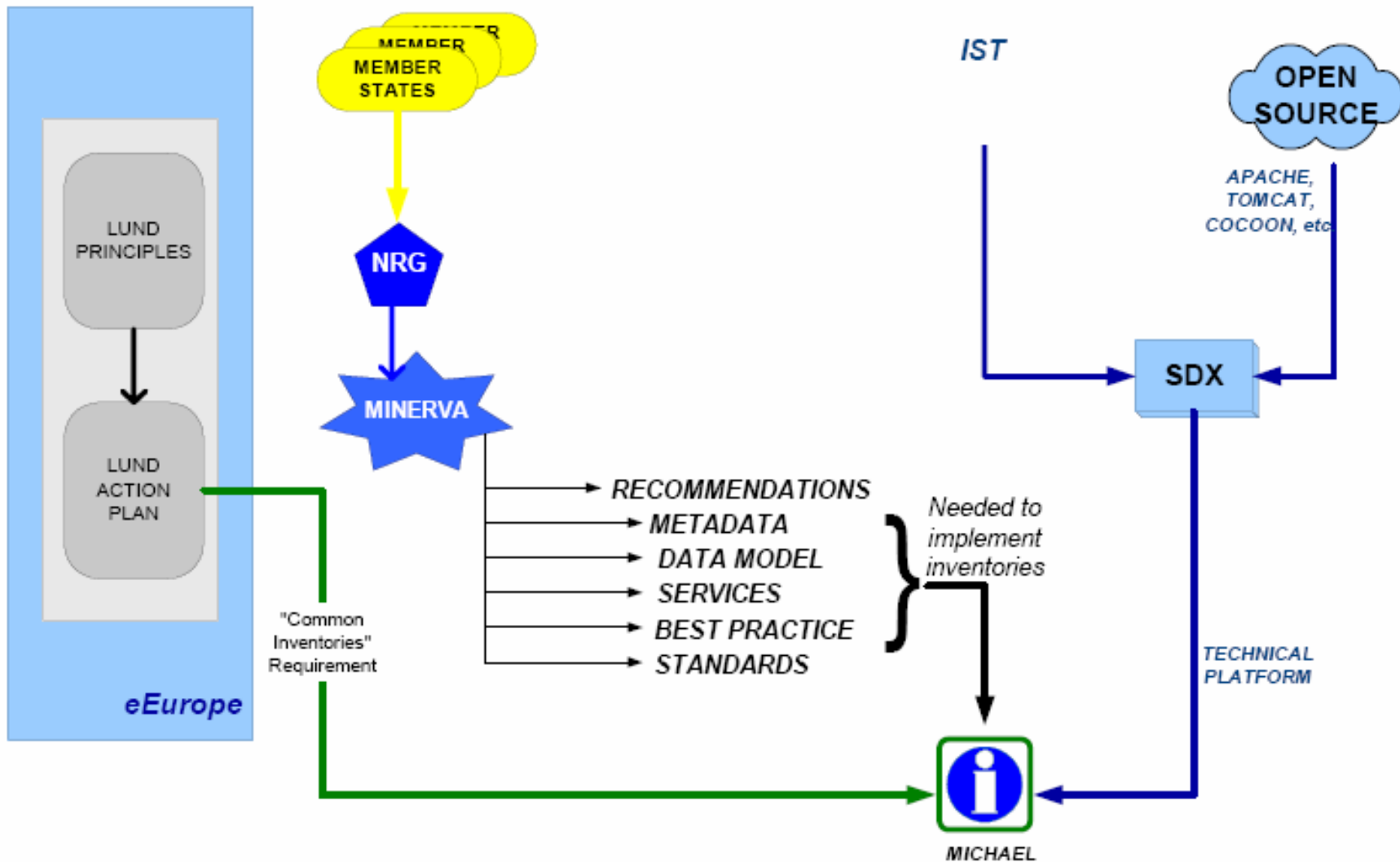
a MINERVA spin off project

Strategic objective:

Launching a European online service to enable the European cultural heritage to be promoted to a worldwide audience

- The MINERVA project and its resources and methodologies
- The metadata standard for inventories agreed by the National Representatives Group for Digitisation in Cultural Heritage
- The technical platform of the French inventory project

MICHAEL Building blocks



- Integrating national digitisation initiatives
- Agreeing on a common approach for digital cultural heritage inventories in Italy, France and the UK
- Implementing a distributed platform based on open source software
- Supporting multi-lingualism
- Building the infrastructure for sustainability
- Adoption by other countries in Europe

- Defining the architecture and data model ✓
- Collecting digital cultural heritage data
- Communications and marketing
- Building the infrastructure to manage and support the system
- Designing the delivery system and pan-European services

Data model and technical approach

DM centered on digital collection description

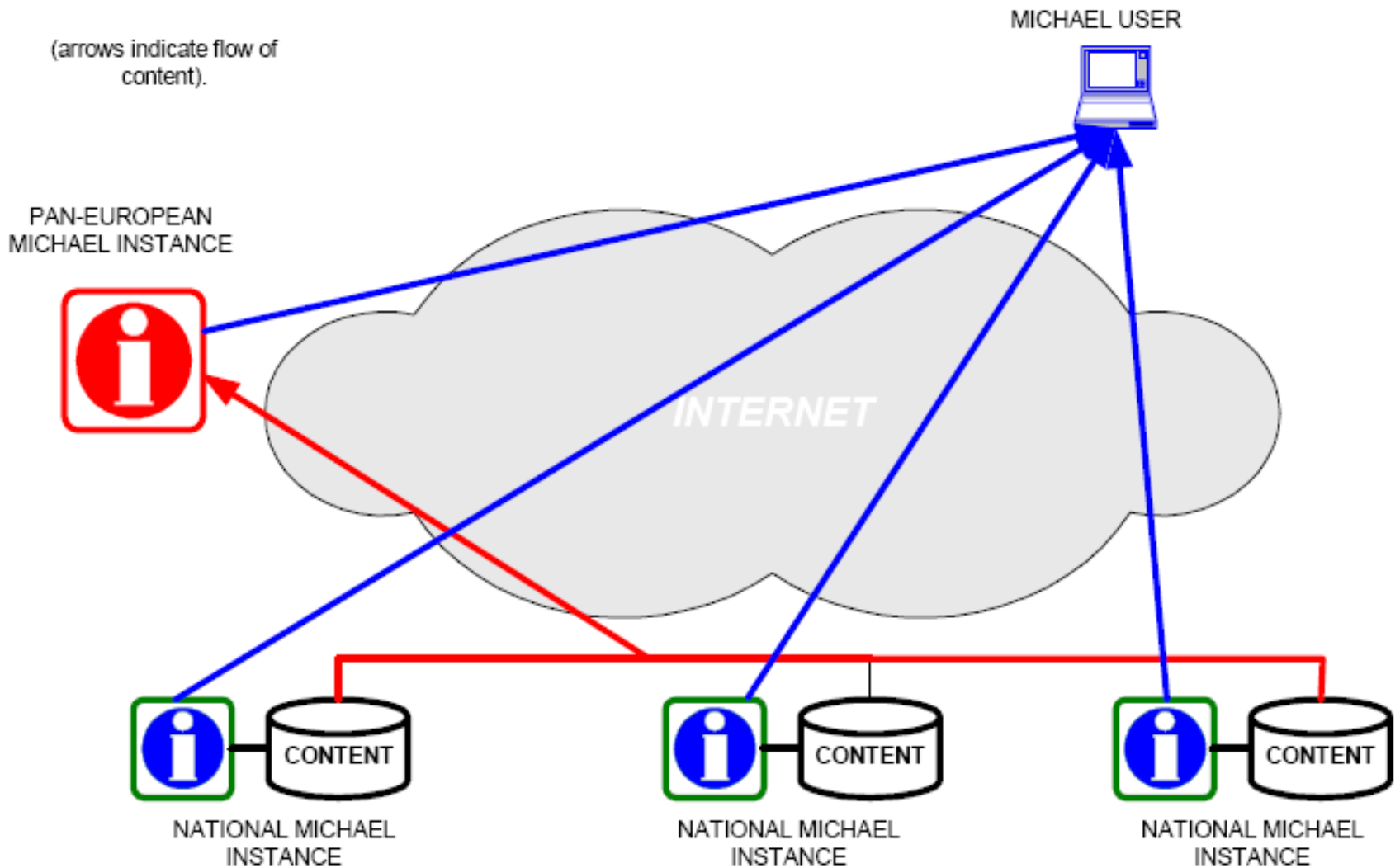
Includes information on:

- Services and products giving access to digital collections
- Institutions
- Projects and programmes
- Physical collections linked to digitised ones

Development framework:

- Apache cocoon, Java, XML database, SDX
- Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting

MICHAEL service



- 36 month project
 - 1 June 2004 to 31 May 2007
- Consortium
 - 3 National organisations in Italy, France, UK
 - 2 technical partners in Italy and France
 - 1 technical sub-contractor in France
- Funded by the eTen programme (10% of national investment in digitisation)



Logos!



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CULTURALI



Amitié

- Proposal submitted to EC on 10th May 2005
- 28 partners
- Extension of the participation to 8 EU countries:
Czech Rep., Finland, Germany, Greece,
Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland
- Evaluation of the proposal: September 2005

Find out more!



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Thank you for your kind attention

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