

Sharing Museum Information: Theory or Practice? – A European Experience

Sharing museum information in a larger context – thematic, regional or also cross-sectoral – without losing its rich semantics is recently being discussed broadly. The XML harvesting schema LIDO has been specially developed to facilitate the delivery of such information into portals. What is the practical experience with sharing content: Which problems do we meet during implementation, and do we succeed in integrating the data?

The discussion of these questions will be based upon the biggest application case currently under implementation for the museum community in Europe. The ATHENA project is one in a series of projects to build up Europeana as a common access point to European cultural heritage, and provides a mechanism for harvesting museum holdings into Europeana. The metadata format used in the ATHENA ingestion process is LIDO, e.g. any museum data ingested through ATHENA has to be converted into LIDO.

Since the Bildarchiv Foto Marburg contributes its own collection of about 800.000 digital photographs on European art and architecture through ATHENA, and provides support for the implementation of LIDO in ATHENA, the whole process starting from practical data conversion from one's own information system to comparison of data coming in from different institutions to final presentation in Europeana will be reflected.

From this, the paper will try to draw practical conclusions on how to prepare museum data for sharing in greater contexts.

For related information see
<http://www.lido-schema.org/>
<http://www.bildindex.de/>
<http://www.athenaeurope.org/>
<http://www.europeana.eu/>

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