



Enabling 21st century archives

Paths and traces

**E-ARK Conference
6 December 2016, Budapest**

Alina Senn
European Commission
DG CONNECT
G2 Data Applications and Creativity
alina.senn@ec.europa.eu

HORIZON 2020

Structure of my presentation

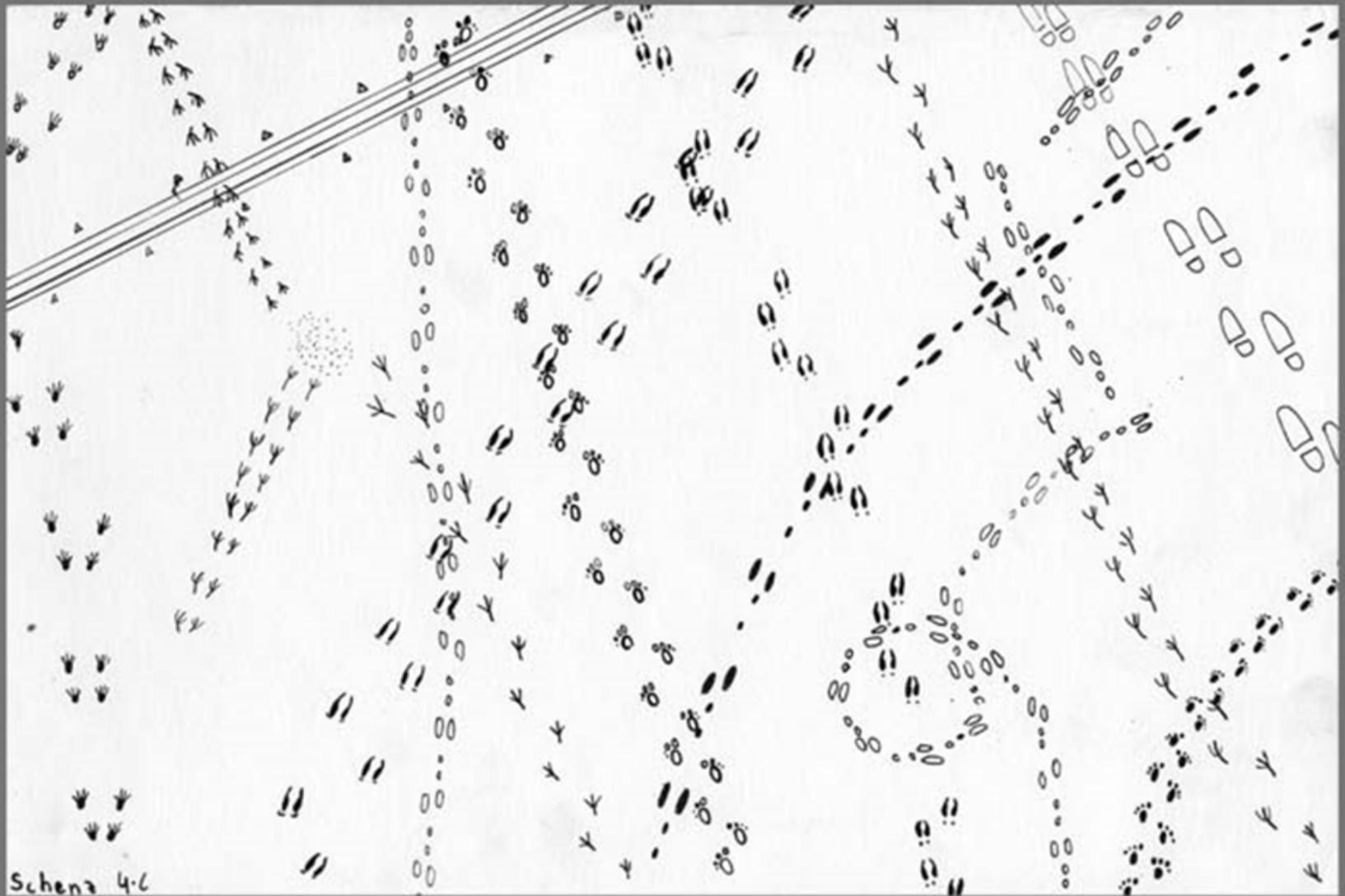
- Role of the archives
- Challenges facing 21st century archives
- Overview of my Unit's activities of relevance (Digital Preservation project funded so far, the Digitization Strand)
- Leaving traces – a personal touch
- E-ARK's trace



but what if ...



Isn't this clearer?



Schena 46

Aim of the E-ARK Project

- A multinational **big data** research project that aims to **improve** the methods and technologies of digital archiving, in order to **achieve consistency** on a Europe-wide scale.

The role of archives

- Determine what records are to be preserved for future generations
- Select, preserve and ensure access



Orwell in "1984"

- Who controls the past, controls the future; who controls the present, controls the past.
- Past events [...] have no objective existence, but survive only in written records and in human memories. The past is whatever the records and the memories agree upon.

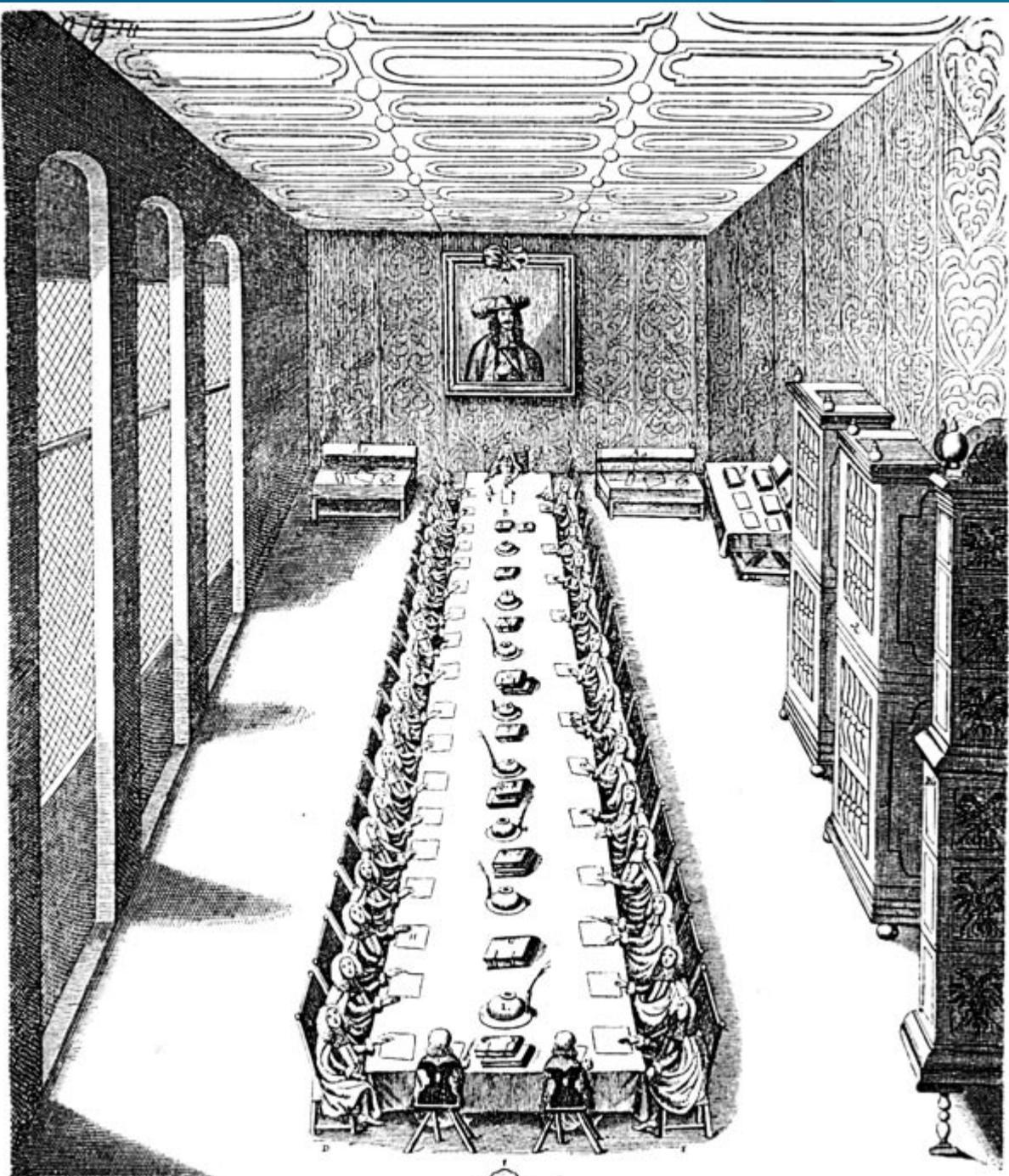
What to archive?

- Archivists make vital decisions about which documents will be saved for future generations and which will be excluded or destroyed.
- People's concern for the past – often a burning, feverish passion – produces the human desire for archives, for a recording that enables us to know our own origins.

• *Randall C. Jimerson*

Ensuring record of events

- It is essential for societies to preserve documentation of the past to prevent oblivion and to ensure record of events as precise and accurate as possible.
- This is why archives are so important – not only to historians, but to all citizens.



Sitting of the Imperial Aulic Council in Vienna; PC: Johann Christoph von Uffenbach, *Tractatus singularis et methodicus de excelsissimo consilio caesareo-imperiali aulico*, Vienna and Prague 1700



Challenges for archives in the 21st C

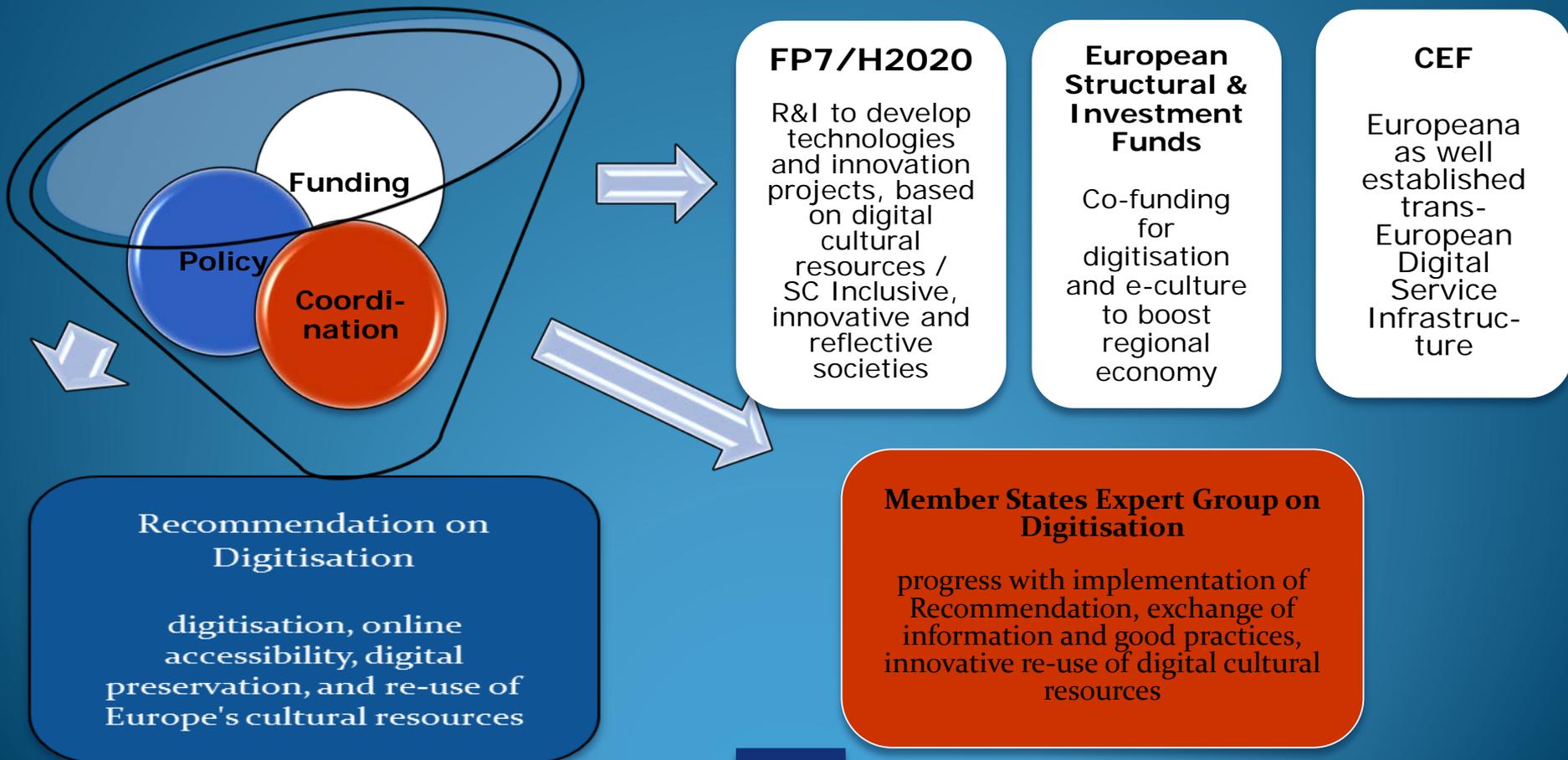
- Archives no longer work only with an institutional, a local, a national or a European audience.
- They have a global audience and a global responsibility.
- Today the information to be archived is created, shared, (re)tweeted and "liked" not only locally, but globally.
- Now, in such an environment, how can you "determine what records are to be preserved for future generations"?

Challenges for archives in the 21st C

- Continue to identify, collect, catalogue, and index the mass of archives
- Adapt archives to the digital society
- Improve methods and technologies of digital archiving
- Make records available to a broader audience
- Archiving 'digitally born' materials (digital preservation) as well as digitisation of analogue materials

Overview of DG CNECT G2 activities in the area of Digital Cultural Heritage

A mix of instruments



Digital preservation

- Digital Preservation research is concerned with the sustainability of digital resources
- i.e. their **accessibility, integrity** and **usability** over time.
- originally funded under Digital libraries & cultural heritage research
- a separate objective in FP 7 / Call 9 (2011)

Digi-Pres. Projects

- • 4C • APARSEN • ARCOMEM
- • BlogForever • DAVID • DIACHRON
- • DuraArk • ENSURE • ForgetIT
- • KEEP • LiWA • PERICLES
- • PrestoPRIME • PROTAGE • SCAPE
- • SHAMAN • TIMBUS • Wf4Ever

Recommendation on Digitisation

[To be renewed as from 1 January 2017]

➤ *Calls on Member States to:*

- ✓ Put in place solid plans for the digitisation of CH, foster PPPs and use structural funds to share the cost of digitisation
- ✓ Enable access to and re-use of digitised public domain material
- ✓ Promote open cultural data and reuse
- ✓ Create conditions to bring more in-copyright material online
- ✓ Reinforce strategies and adapt legislation to ensure long-term preservation of digital material

Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation & Digital Preservation

Representatives from national ministries and/or national cultural institutions (EU28); meet twice/year in Luxembourg

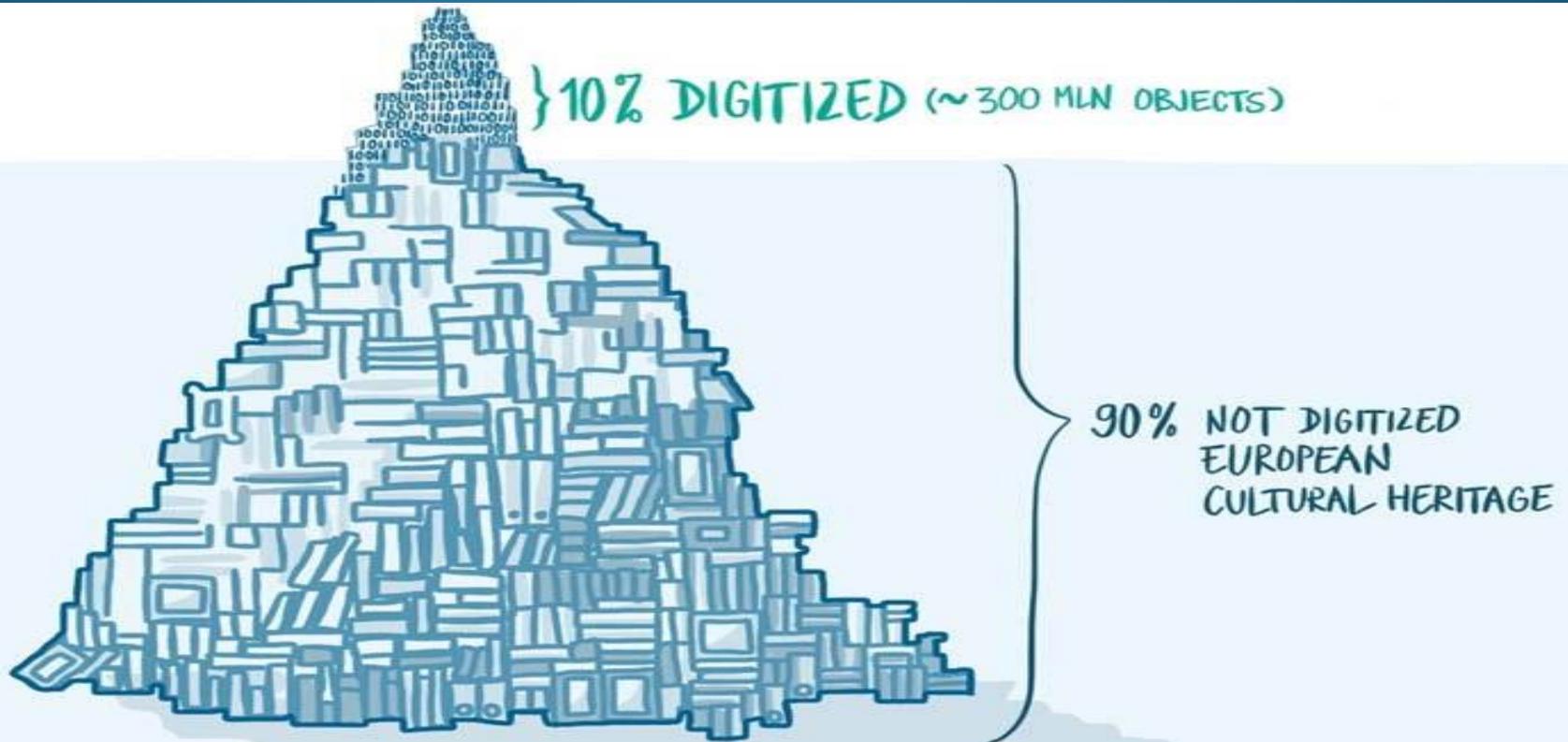
Monitors progress with implementation of Recommendation in the MS
/ progress reports every 2 years

Exchanges information and good practices of MS policies and strategies on the digitisation, online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation

Monitors developments regarding innovative re-use of cultural material

Digitisation – Future Orientation

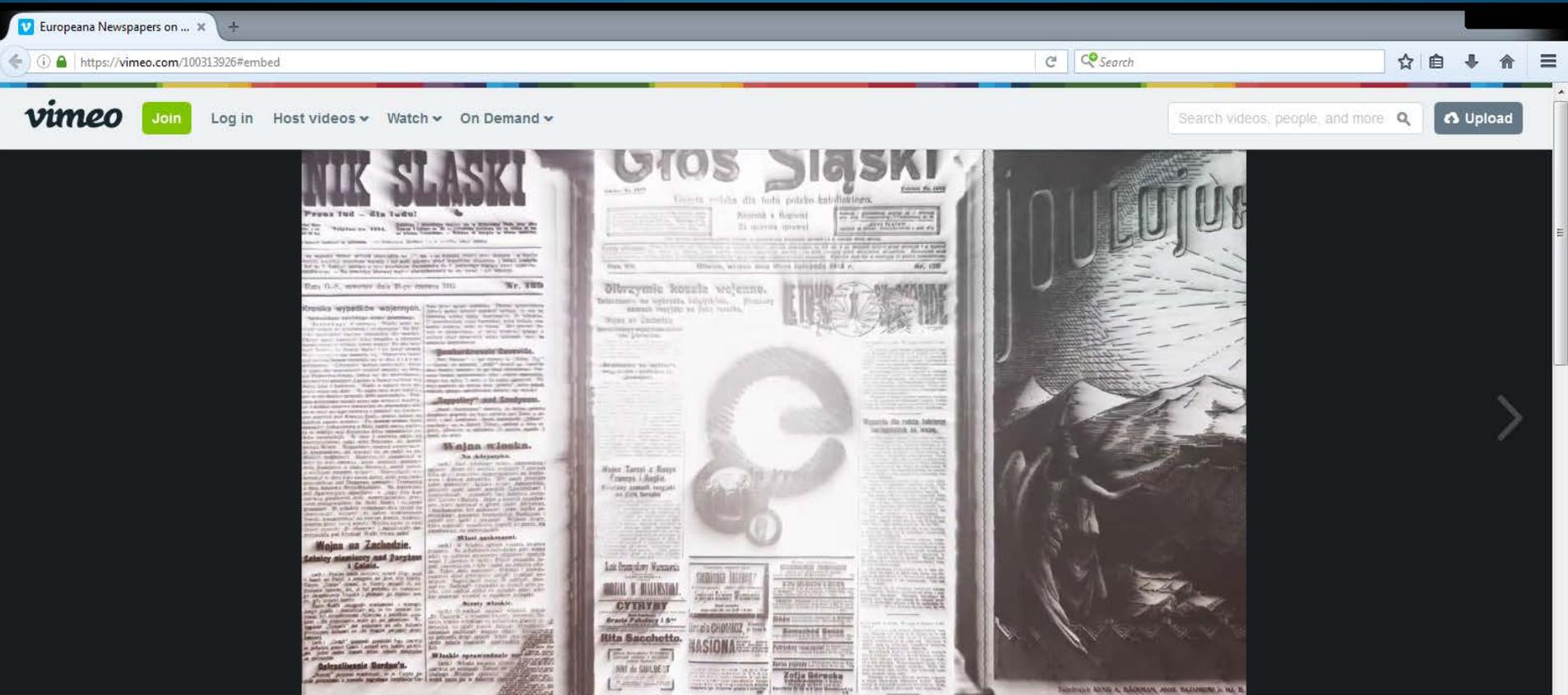
Monitoring implementation of the Rec. on Digitisation – topics covered are still relevant but reflection whether the Recommendation is still up-to-date needs to be continued



Archives Portal Europe network of excellence (APEx; 2012 - 2015)

- European-based Best Practice Network project aiming at expanding, enriching, enhancing and sustaining the access to Archives Portal Europe's web-content.
- Archives Portal Europe = online research tool providing free 24/7 access to high-quality information held in archival institutions throughout Europe.
- Expanded network of contributing archival institutions throughout Europe
- Substantially improved interoperability with Europeana
- Stabilised infrastructure of the Archives Portal Europe
- Power innovation in usability and Web 2.0 functionality to ensure up-to-date content delivery

Europeana Newspapers Funded under CIP programme



Europeana Newspapers

from Europeana Newspapers 2 years ago | more



+ Follow

Recommended

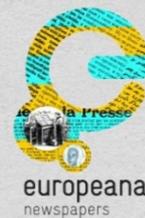
Autoplay on



Europeana Newspap...
from Europeana Newspapers

<https://vimeo.com/100313926>

- ✓ 18 partners including National Libraries of DE, NL, EE, AT, FI, FR, PL, LV, UK, TR,
- ✓ more than 20 million historic newspaper pages made available online,
- ✓ more than 12 million newspaper pages converted to full text, so pages are fully searchable thanks to the large-scale refinement work,
- ✓ special content viewer improving online newspaper browsing,
- ✓ Built tools that allow professionals to better assess the quality of newspaper digitisation in relation to level of detail, speed and costs,
- ✓ Gained expertise to be used in German national newspaper digitization scheme financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG).



Project fact sheet

Europeana Newspapers is a project funded by the European Commission's ICT Policy Support Programme as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). The total project budget comprised €5.2 million, with a max. EC contribution of €4.1 million. The project consortium brought together a total of 18 partners, coordinated by the Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin). Over a duration of 38 months, starting February 2012 and running until March 2015, the project set out to:

- 1) Aggregating 18 million historic newspaper pages for Europeana, the European platform for digital cultural heritage, and The European Library;
- 2) Converting 10 million newspaper pages to full text;
- 3) Creating a special content viewer to improve online newspaper browsing;
- 4) Building tools that will allow professionals to better assess the quality of newspaper digitisation;
- 5) Raising awareness and fostering knowledge exchange through workshops and Information Days.

Europeana Newspapers

Special Issue - Final Report

The Europeana Newspapers project (www.europeana-newspapers.eu) is an EU-funded Best Practice Network to make European digital historical newspapers available via Europeana (www.europeana.eu) & The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org).



20+ million newspaper pages available online

The 18 partners in the Europeana Newspapers project aimed to make Europe's digital historical newspapers more accessible

(1) by gathering and providing metadata for 18 million pages of digitised newspapers via Europeana, and,

(2) by using refinement to make the vast amount of 10 million pages fully searchable.

At the end of the project, all partners deem the result to be an overwhelming success.

More than 12 million pages fully searchable

When newspapers are digitised, the resulting electronic versions are often just scanned images which do not yet allow users to search for specific articles or keywords within the text. Europeana Newspapers changed that dramatically, creating fully searchable electronic text versions of 12 million digital newspaper pages using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.



Search millions of newspaper pages on the Europeana Newspapers Portal.

The overall amount of digitised newspapers that can now be accessed online has been increased dramatically:

(1) by ingestion of metadata in Europeana for more than 20 million pages, and,

(2) by making more than 12 million pages fully searchable.

With this, Europeana Newspapers has not only produced the largest contribution of records to Europeana by a single project, but also contributed the largest ingest so far in the Europeana Data Model.

In terms of volume and functionality, the Europeana Newspapers portal is on par with other major international newspapers digitisation programmes such as Chronicling America in the US, or the Australian Trove.

The scale of Europeana Newspapers is truly putting Europe on the global map of leading providers of digitised newspapers. For a detailed breakdown of statistics regarding the total number of pages and issues processed and ingested to Europeana by the project, please see the Facts & Figures on page 3.



31 July 2015

Free and Open Source Software Tools for Newspapers

The Europeana Newspapers project has developed a number of free and open source software tools. These tools can help libraries and other institutions to refine their digitised historical newspapers and to evaluate the quality of refinement.



All software tools produced are either free to download or have even been released as open source projects. You can get them from the project website and also from GitHub.



What is Europeana?

Europeana is a multilingual internet portal and metadata aggregator that provides a single point of access to the European digital cultural heritage. Europeana holds records for more than 44 million digital objects, contributed by more than 2,500 cultural heritage institutions across Europe. Europeana is funded by grants from the European Union along with support from its Member States. As of 2015, Europeana Foundation has become a Digital Services Infrastructure under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

Construction of meaning

- Telling stories of our pasts is a quintessentially human activity [...]
- Story is crucial to our construction of meaning and is carried by our dream of the impossible.
- Without story we are without soul.

• *Verne Harris*



THE NAPHTHYRIDINES

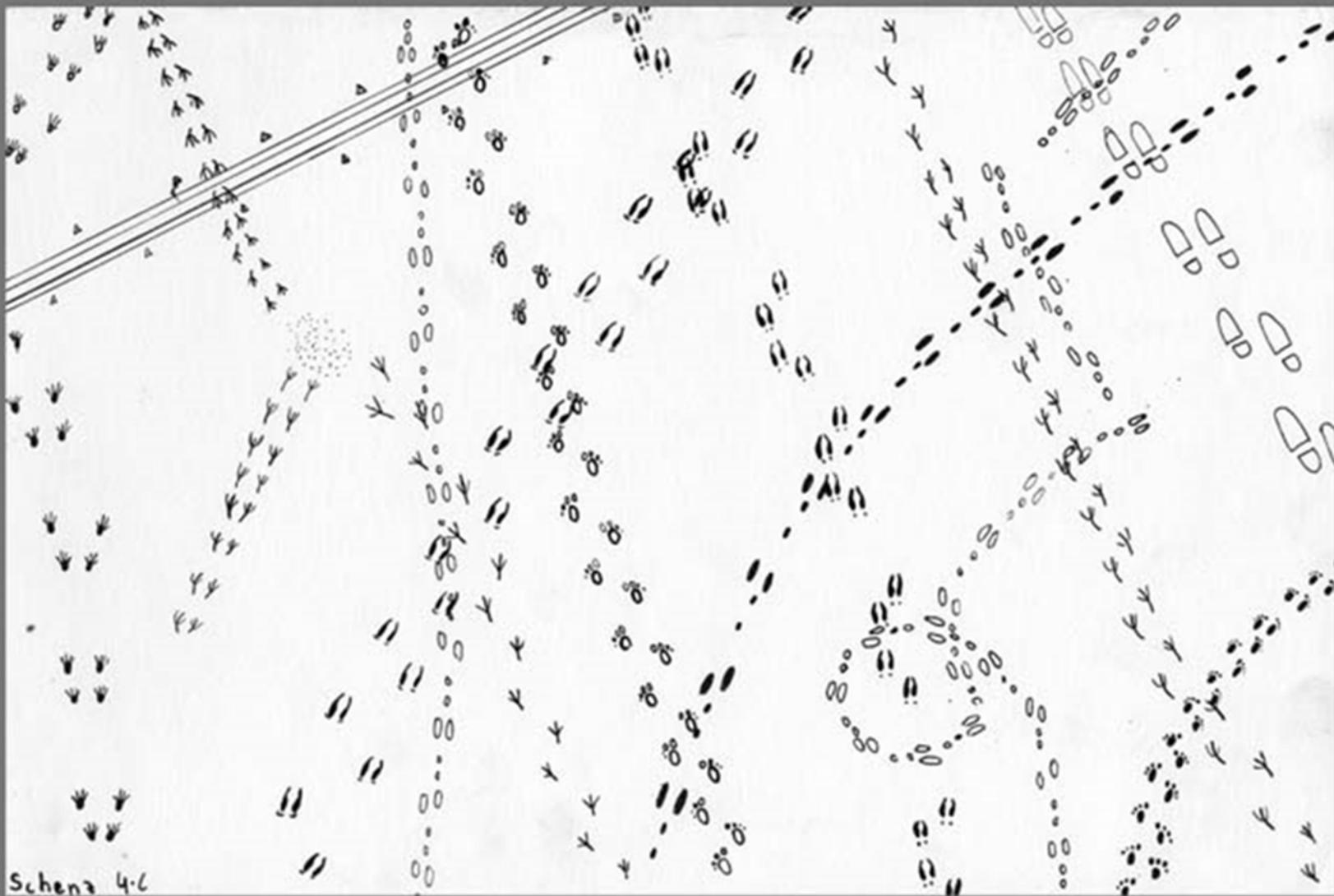
D. J. Brown

Research School of Chemistry
Australian National University
Canberra

*To the memory of
Marian Wozniak, a prolific contributor
to naphthyridine research*



AN INTERSCIENCE PUBLICATION
JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC.



Schena 4.6

[...] it is so refreshing that a project in the area of long term digital preservation and archives management, that is mostly set up for the benefit of the MS, turns up sufficiently early on our radar so that we can benefit from its deliverables and findings to fine tune our own internal requirements/needs/tools to ensure digital preservation within our own organisation.

Let's hope that, at the end of the project, the team finds the right platform and working model to be able to preserve all the precious results of their work. [...]



European
Commission



HORIZON 2020

Thank you
for your attention!

alina.senn@ec.europa.eu