

# POZNAŃ SUPERCOMPUTING AND NETWORKING CENTER



Access IT e-Learning courses – overview  
of an educational offering dedicated for  
small memory institutions

Adam Dudczak

Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center

[maneo@man.poznan.pl](mailto:maneo@man.poznan.pl)

# About PSNC

- Established in 1993
- Affiliated by the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Currently 5 divisions and over 200 employees
- High performance computing (HPC) center
- Center for security of computer networks and systems
- Poznań city network operator (POZMAN)
- Operator of the Polish Optical Internet -PIONIER network

# About PSNC (2)

- Research and development center in:
  - Next generation networks
  - Grid systems and high performance computing
  - Portals and content management systems
    - PSNC Network Services Department
      - Digital Libraries Team
        - <http://dl.psnc.pl/>



# Introduction

„The aim of the Access IT (<http://access-it.org>) project is to help small memory institutions to develop their digital libraries and connect them to Europeana”

- To achieve this we have developed two online courses:
  - “Digital repositories for small memory institutions”
  - “Cooperation with Europeana”

# Agenda

- Basic assumptions behind the development of the e-Learning courses
- Some statistics about courses content
- Overview of “Digital repositories for small memory institutions” content
- Overview of “Cooperation with Europeana” content
- Online demo of eLearning platform
- Closing remarks

# Basic assumptions

- For whom is this course?
  - Term “Small memory institutions” is very broad
  - The entry knowledge level may be different
  - Looking for the common denominator
- In February 2010 together with our partners we have prepared a three days workshop in Veria



# Basic assumptions (2)

- During those three days we have delivered a series of lectures, covering issues related to:
  - Digitisation best practices
  - Metadata creation
  - Creation and maintenance of digital repositories
  - Metadata aggregation
  - Cooperation with Europeana and other services
  - ...

# Basic assumptions (3)

- During and after the workshop we have obtained a rich feedback from participants
- This gave us a little bit more insight into informational needs of institutions in Turkey, Serbia and Greece
- On top of this we have formulated our basic assumptions



# Basic assumptions (4)

- Course should be:
  - Practical – only necessary theory illustrated with practical examples
  - Non-technical - it is for librarians, not for programmers
- Simple recipes for complex problems?
  - Not always possible

# Availability of the courses

- Reference instance of the e-Learning platform is available at: <http://dl.psnc.pl/moodle/>
- Courses can be used by other institutions under the terms of **Creative Commons BY-SA-NC** license
- Courses are based on Moodle software - renowned and free eLearning platform

# How can I participate in the course?

- There will be a separate instance (copy) of e-Learning platform for Serbia, Greece and Turkey
  - Adaptation of courses content to local conditions
  - Gathering local community in one place
- Serbian instance already available at:  
<http://e-ucionica.nb.rs/moodle/>
- Greek instance can be found here:  
<http://accessit.libver.gr/>

# Some statistics

- 40 Moodle modules (lessons and articles)
- More than 200 questions in 12 quizzes
- Not only text but also images and audio-visual materials

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- It consists of 9 topics divided in 27 modules
- By the end of each topic there is a quiz
- Course participants should have basic knowledge about computers and Internet
- During the course you will learn how to:
  - Organise digitisation workflow
  - Digitise various cultural heritage objects
  - Describe objects in order to make them more accessible

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- During the course you will learn how to:
  - Prepare digital content for web delivery
  - Get access to digital library - is it necessary to create DL on you own?
  - Promote your objects in the Internet
  - Assure objects availability in long term
  - Evaluate usability and accessibility of digital library website
  - Cooperate with other portals i.e. Europeana



# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
  - Perform graphical post-processing of the images
  - Scan and deliver large images over the network using Zoomify and Google Maps image cutter
  - Easily convert images using tools like Irfanview and GIMP
  - Capture text from images in order to get searchable representation of text

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
  - Create PDF and DjVu documents for web delivery of textual content
  - Prepare audio and video material for online presentation using tools like Audacity, VirtualDub
  - Convert audio files between various formats
  - Publish digital audio-visual content in digital library

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
  - Create and publish panorama images
  - Digitise and deliver image-based presentations of sculptures and other exhibits

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
  - Publish digital objects using DSpace, Greenstone and dLibra
  - Evaluate usability and accessibility of the digital library website
  - Monitor usage of your digital library

# Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- Things which are not in the course:
  - How to install, configure and customize digital library software
- Too many technical problems potentially involved – too technical issue.
- In case of problems with this kind of things use Access It mailing list.

# Cooperation with Europeana

- It is much shorter it consist of 3 topics divided into 13 modules
- By the end of each topic there is a quiz
- Course participants should have knowledge necessary to create and maintain a digital library
  - These includes some technical and information management skills.



# Cooperation with Europeana

- During the course you will learn:
  - What is Europeana
  - Why and how it was built
  - Is it worth to cooperate with Europeana
  - What benefits Europeana offers to end-users
  - What is metadata aggregation and why it is so important
  - Basics of Europeana Semantic Elements

# Cooperation with Europeana

- During the course you will learn:
  - How to normalize and convert your metadata to Europeana Semantic Elements
  - How to pass your resources to Europeana
- Course features also a few additional modules which gives more insight into:
  - Some more advanced issues related to metadata aggregation
  - Europeana related projects and political background

# Cooperation with Europeana

- Things which are not in the course:
  - Setting up a metadata aggregator
- In case of problems with this kind of things take a look at list of aggregation software presented in **“What should I do when there is no aggregator near me?”**
- As far as we know this is quite unique initiative – no similar courses available.

# Additional resources

- Access IT - resource database:
  - <http://dl.psnc.pl/moodle/mod/data/view.php?id=130>
  - Links to over 80 resources which were used during the development of the course
- Slides from Veria workshop
  - <http://dl.psnc.pl/biblioteka/publication/286>
- Access IT mailing list
  - <http://groups.google.com/group/access-it>
  - In case of any technical questions or feedback regarding course content

# Online demo

# Closing remarks

- Courses were reviewed by Polish experts and obtained good marks
- We are waiting for your feedback



# Questions?

- Adam Dudczak
  - [maneo@man.poznan.pl](mailto:maneo@man.poznan.pl)
- Access IT mailing list
  - <http://groups.google.com/group/access-it>

With the support of the Culture Programme (2007-2013) of the European Union



Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme

# POZNAŃ SUPERCOMPUTING AND NETWORKING CENTER



Thank you for your  
attention!

**Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center**  
affiliated to the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences,  
ul. Noskowskiego 12/14, 61-704 Poznań, POLAND,  
Office: phone center: (+48 61) 858-20-00,  
fax: (+48 61) 852-59-54,  
e-mail: [office@man.poznan.pl](mailto:office@man.poznan.pl), <http://www.man.poznan.pl>