Development of digital libraries infrastructure in Poland

Increase of the number of digital libraries between 2002 and 2013

- Several hundreds institutions
- 1.8M objects

Digital libraries in the PIONIER network
DInGO software – „Digitise and Go”

- **dLibra**: system for digital libraries (e.g.: [http://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/](http://jbc.bj.uj.edu.pl/))
- **dMuseion**: system for digital museums (e.g.: [http://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/](http://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/))
- **dLab**: system for management of digitisation processes
- **dArceo**: system for long-term digital preservation
Digitisation process and DInGO software

Selection of objects for digitisation

Preparation of digital object

Digitisation, standardisation

Presentation files

On-line publishing

Archiving

MASTER files

On-line access

Planned objects
Digital Libraries Federation

http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/

- Public portal
  - Searching, browsing
  - Digitisation plans, persistent identifiers

- Data provider for external services
  - Europeana, DART-Europe
  - KaRo

- Information website for DL creators
  - News, publications
  - Digital libraries database

- Advanced services for DL administrators
  - Traffic monitoring
  - Metadata analysis module

- Competence center for professionals
  - E-learning courses
  - Q&A platform
Federation statistics

Presently:
- 1.8 million objects
- 325 institutions
- 88 data sources

During last year:
- 4.5 million views
- 1.1 million visits
- 560 thousands unique users

Visits by country:
- Polska: 89.75%
- Niemcy: 2.50%
- Wielka Brytania: 1.42%
- Ukraina: 0.98%
- Irlandia: 0.75%
- Stany Zjednoczone: 0.56%
- Rosja: 0.56%
- Francja: 0.45%
- Białoruś: 0.36%
- Austria: 0.31%
Collaboration with Europeana

Europeana.eu = European Digital Library, Museum and Archive

- **2009**: Beginning of collaboration in EuropeanaLocal
- **2010**: Europeana API pilot program participation
- **2011**: Polish edition of Hack4Europe
- **2012**: Two more Hack4Europe contests as a part of Europeana Awareness project
- **2013**: Collaboration on Europeana Cloud project started
Spreading good practices in Europe

• As a part of ACCESS IT/ACCESS IT Plus projects two e-learning courses were created, covering digitisation and digital libraries topics
  – They were translated and made available in Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Greece, Poland, Serbia and Turkey
  – In different language versions over 1,000 persons finished these courses

• To make it easier to apply in practice, we made DigitLab – an operating system which supports digitization
  – In 2013 it won 3rd prize in the contest of Polish Foundation for Free and Open Software for the best academic open source project
  – http://digitlab.psncl.pl/
IMPACT European Center of Competence

- Shared infrastructure for digital libraries competence centers
- Optimization of resources usage in digitisation processes
- Standardization of data and tools
- Prizes, contests, events
- Best practices

Founding members:
- BnF
- KB
- Fraunhofer IAS
- INL
- Universitat d’Alacant
- Universidad de Alicante

http://digitisation.eu/
Cloud technologies in the cultural sector

Small institutions: LoCloud

http://locloud.eu/
Cloud technologies in the cultural sector

European infrastructure: Europeana Cloud

http://pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud
Most important success factors

- **Regional collaboration**
  - Development of digital libraries in Poland as they are at the moment was initiated as a series of regional projects, often WITHOUT any dedicated external funding.
  - In such “regional digital library” model there are usually:
    - One host institution which is providing the technical infrastructure
    - A number of partners providing content
  - First consortium was: Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries, PSNC, academic and public institutions from the Wielkopolska region – [http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/](http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/)
  - Such approach
    - Allows to lower the costs for each participating institution (in many aspects)
    - Gives small libraries opportunity to promote their collections on-line
    - Provides natural platform for collaboration for next projects
    - Requires the acceptance of regional consortium “identity”
Most important success factors

• **Good technical support**
  – Shared technology platform (in case of Poland: dLibra/DInGO)
    • Common development directions
    • Shared development costs
    • Lack of typical risks related to project-based funding
      – Not maintained in-house solutions
      – Abandoned commercial software
      – Rising prices and vendor lock-in
    • Documentation and technical support available locally
    • Natural environment for development of good users community
  – Requires reliable technology partner with proper business model
Lessons learned

• **Bottom-up approach** made all that possible
  – *Did I forget to mention any central institutions in my presentation?*

• but…
  – Some things were **not standardized initially on central level** and then “standards” were created in many places in parallel
    • 40+ variations of Dublin Core
  – Other **solutions were blindly copied**, while they could be tailored to specific local needs
    • The curse of DjVu format popularity
Most important challenges

• **Quality in mass digitization projects**
  – How to check within a month the quality of what a commercial company was preparing for 6-8 months?
  – How to eliminate cheating companies and not cancel the project?

• **Long-term digital preservation**
  – How to make sure that results of hundreds of digitisation projects are properly secured for the future?
Most important challenges

• **Data interoperability**
  – How to make sure that newly developed small systems follow best digital libraries practices?
  – How to use data automatically with tools for digital humanities researchers?

• **Open access to data and proper rights labelling**
  – Metadata – copyrighted or not?
    • Europeana requires CC0 statement
  – Content
    • Is digitisation a creative process?
    • Can commercial reuse of public domain materials be free?

• **Coordination of Europeana-related efforts**
  – Assuring proper representation of Polish heritage
Thank you for your attention!

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