

MICHAEL

A European service for accessing the digital cultural heritage



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MINISTERO
PER I BENI E
LE ATTIVITÀ
CULTURALI



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What MICHAEL is

MICHAEL is a multilingual service providing an integrated and unique access to European digital cultural collections on a cross domain basis.



<http://www.michael-culture.org/>

A cross-domain initiative

The MICHAEL service allows to search and browse digital cultural information coming from:

- **all the CH sectors: archives, libraries, museums, heritage, audiovisual, landscape...**
- **all kind of cultural institution: national, regional, local, large and small, public and private...**

The MICHAEL data model is thought for describing the digital collections of all fields and for the related information:

institutions, projects or programmes, services or products and physical collections.

MICHAEL, funded by the eTen programme, is a spin-off of the MINERVA project.

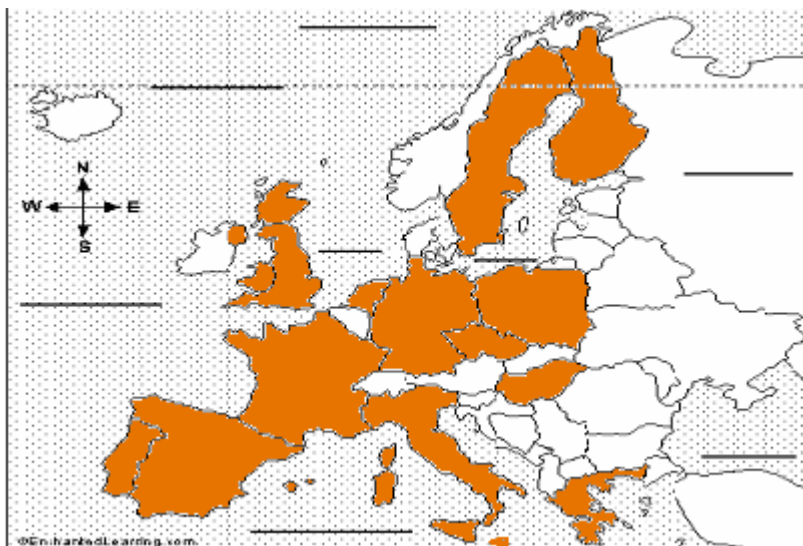
It is based on:

- **the work of the MINERVA working groups on inventories, discovery of digitised content and multilingualism, interoperability and service provision**
- **the technical platform of the French *Catalogue des fonds culturels numérisés***

Ministries and cultural institutions of 14 countries

Phase 1, MICHAEL (2004-7):

- Italy (coordinator)
- France
- United Kingdom



Phase 2, MichaelPLUS (2006-8):

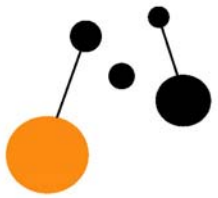
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Malta
- the Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

The German partners

The Federal Constitution gives the responsibility of Cultural Affairs at the Länder level. These seven top cultural institutions will jointly act as the national agency for Germany.

- **Bundesarchiv - Federal Archives**
- **Deutsche Nationalbibliothek - German National Library**
- **Bayerische Staatsbibliothek - Bavarian State Library**
- **Deutsches Museum - German Museum**
- **Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg - State Archives of Baden-Württemberg**
- **Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft - Senckenberg Nature Research Society**
- **Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz - Foundation for Prussian Cultural Heritage**

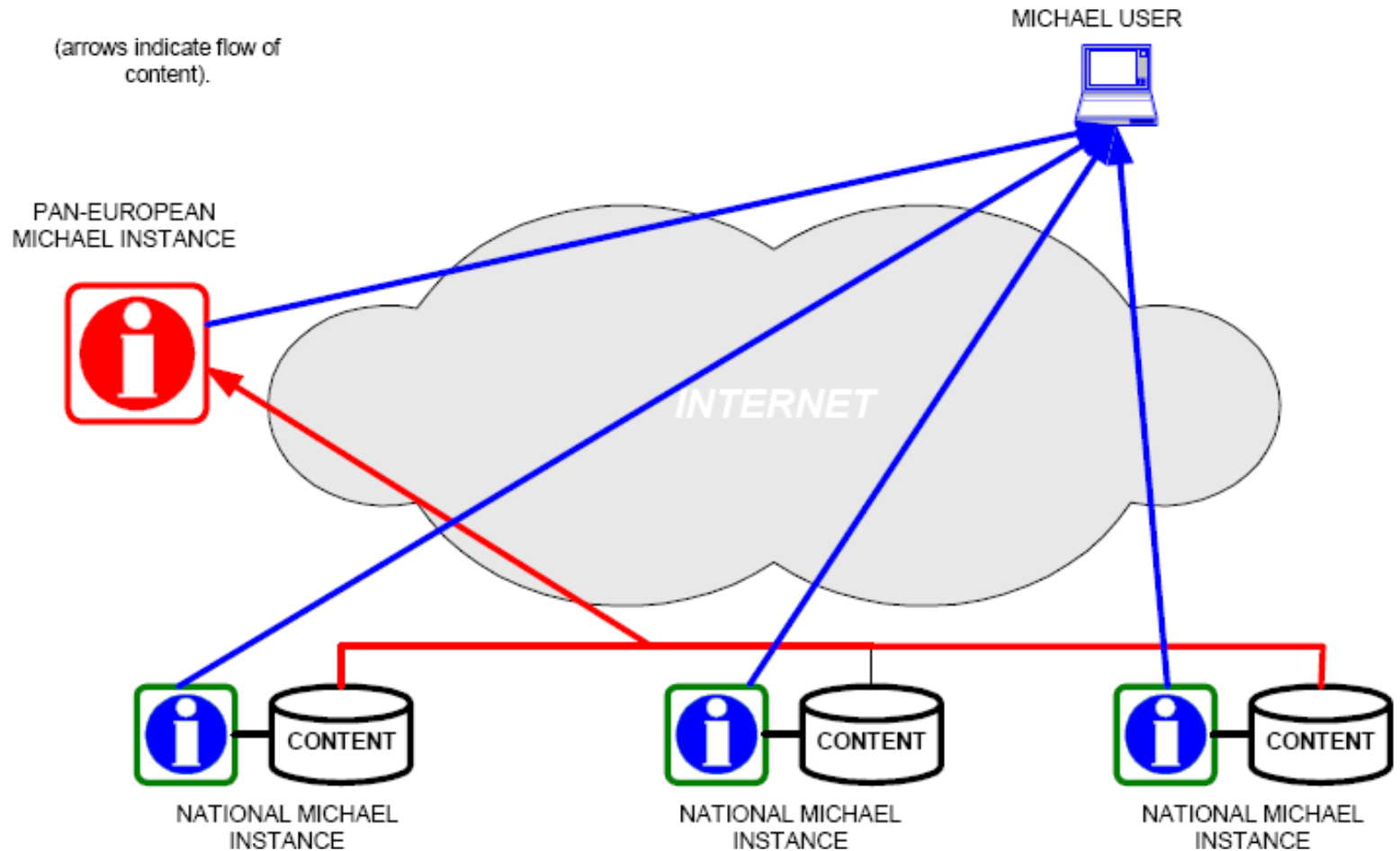
- **an open source software platform**
- **MINERVA recommendations and guidelines**
- **data model aligned to the Dublin Core metadata set and the emerging Dublin Core Collection Level Description.**
- **XML data base**
- **metadata harvesting through OAI-PMH**



Michael

Multilingual
Inventory
of Cultural Heritage
in Europe

A distributed architecture



- **Population of the national databases**
 - description of the collections
 - migration of the existing data
- **Creation of the national portals**
- **Creation of the European portal**
 - metadata harvesting from the national databases

The achievements so far

The European MICHAEL portal is on line at
<http://www.michael-culture.org>

The national systems are on line and constantly updated
and enriched with new data.

FR <http://www.michael-culture.fr> or
<http://www.numerique.culture.fr>

IT <http://michael-culture.it>

UK <http://www.michael-culture.org.uk>

The survey of the digital collections in the participating countries:

- **covers the whole territory**
(national and local cultural bodies)
- **includes all the CH sectors**
(archives, libraries, museums, audiovisual, archeology, built heritage, landscape...)
- **is integrated with the other national initiatives**
(culture portals, national, regional, digitisation programmes etc.)

Coordination

MiBAC – DG for the technological innovation and promotion

Cooperation with other ministries

Agreement with the Ministry of Education

Institution involved

- **More than 600 MiBAC cultural institutions (libraries, museums, archives, archaeological sites, preservation offices, central institutes)**
- **20 Italian Regions: thousands museums, libraries, archives**
- **Libraries and museums of the 77 Italian universities**

**Integration with the forthcoming
Italian Culture Portal (<http://www.culturaitalia.it>)**

1489 digital collections

761 institutions

758 services/products

830 physical collections

273 projects/programs

Coordination

Ministère de la culture et de la communication - Steering group for digitisation, with

- Working group with the DGs of the ministry (expertise and steering)
- Mission de la recherche et de la technologie (implementation of the data bases)

Cooperation with other ministries

- Ministère de l'Education nationale (Direction Générale de l'enseignement supérieur - sous-direction des bibliothèques et de l'information scientifique)

Institutions involved

- The ministerial working group works with all the branches of the ministry (archives, libraries (archives, libraries, architecture and heritage, museums, music, performing arts, theatre etc.)
- Institutions of all levels (national, regional, local)

Integration with <http://www.culture.fr> and the on-going project of unique access point to the data bases of the heritage

1115 digital collections
453 institutions
170 service-products

Coordination

MLA – Museums, Libraries, Archives Council

Institutions involved

- **English regions: MLA South West, MLA London, MLA South East, MLA East of England, MLA West Midlands, MLA East Midlands, MLA Yorkshire, MLA North West, MLA North East**
- **Wales: CYMAL**
- **Scotland: Scottish Museums Council**
- **National museums, English Heritage, National Archives**
- **Cultural institutions of all levels (national, regional, local)**

Linked initiatives

- **People's Network Discovery Service**
- **UK Cultural Information Services**
- **regional portals**

648 digital collections
499 services
314 projects

The other countries

**The 11 countries that joined the network with
MICHAELplus
are about to start the survey of the cultural
digital collections
according to the organisational model set up in
France, Italy, and UK.**

The AISBL “MICHAEL Culture” is under creation according to the Belgian law.

All the countries that are partners of MICHAEL are invited to join MICHAEL Culture in order to assure the sustainability of the service and the updating of the data in a long term perspective.

Benefits for the cultural institutions

The description of the digital collections is useful for:

- **reaching wider audiences at national and international level**
- **promoting the cultural institutions**
- **informing users about the collections that they own and promoting the access to them**
- **building a road-map of what's on in the field of the digitisation of the cultural heritage**

Describing the digital collections is useful for:

- **increasing the online profile of an institution**
 - the collection-description level is the most suitable level to reach the information since the most used search engines often don't reach the level of item-description in a data base.
- **Managing the collections**
 - The item-level descriptions are not replaceable, the **Collection Description** is a useful way of managing large groupings of objects, mainly with large numbers of very small items or large volumes of data.

Services for the users

MICHAEL gives the possibility to discover, access and browse the digital collections of the participating countries from a unique point of access.

- on a multilingual basis
- by subject, period, spatial coverage...
- by institution type or location
- through full text search
- etc.

- **Increasing the number of the cultural institutions**
- **Involvement of the missing EU countries**
- **Cooperation with non-EU countries**
- **Cooperation with other initiatives and projects: MINERVA eC, DELOS, Epoch, BRICKS, PrestoSpace, Multimatch**
- **Cooperation with CENL initiatives (Tel and EDLnet)**

Contributions to the European Digital Library

The European Digital Library aims to involve all the Cultural Heritage sectors and the largest number of institutions (national and local, large and small).

MICHAEL therefore can play a relevant part in building up the European Digital Library

Thanks for your attention
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The MICHAEL project web site
<http://www.michael-culture.eu>

The MICHAEL European portal
<http://www.michael-culture.org>