

CENL and the European Digital Library - EDL

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What do we have now?



Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)

- Independent federation of directors of the European national libraries
- 47 libraries from 45 member states of the Council of Europe
- Founded in 1987
- Foundation after Dutch law since 1999
- INGO (International Non Governmental Organization) since 2006
- Since 2004: a growing number of members of CENL use, support and develop TEL (The European Library)



TEL - The European Library

- Offering uniform access to the digital and non digital resources of national libraries in Europe
- Presenting integrated results and digital objects
- A model for a technical platform and the organisational network of cooperation for national heritage organisations
- Organised and operated by the TEL-Office (at the Royal Library of the Netherlands in The Hague)
- Will have 31 full members in the year 2007

The European Library

The screenshot shows the homepage of The European Library. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for SEARCH, BROWSE, LIBRARIES, TREASURES, and ABOUT US. Below this is a search bar with the text "Enter a title, an author, ..." and a "SEARCH" button. To the right, there is a "TREASURE HIGHLIGHT" section featuring a thumbnail of a manuscript page titled "Apostle" from the National Library of Russia (Moscow). Below the thumbnail are links for "View treasure" and "More treasures". A language dropdown menu is open, showing options for various languages including English (eng), Deutsch (ger), Français (fre), Hrvatski (hrv), Italiano (ita), Nederlands (dut), Português (por), Slovenščina (slv), Srpski (scc), and Suomi (fin).

<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org>



The Commission's vision

21 February 2007
Berlin



European Digital Library - History

- December 2004: Google will digitise 15 million books of “the Google Five” libraries until 2010
- Immediately after: Jean-Noël Jeanneney, President of the French National Library, starts his European counter-initiative
- April 2005: the French President writes to the President of the European Council and to the President of the European Commission. The letter is also signed by the Heads of State of Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Poland



European Digital Library - History (cont.)

- October 2005: Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media announces in her Communication an i2010 flagship initiative on digital libraries referring to CENL and TEL
- Immediately after: CENL welcomes with enthusiasm the Communication i2010. CENL shares the vision of a European Digital Library and offers TEL as the starting point for building the European Digital Library



European Digital Library – History (cont. 2)

- In early 2006: The High Level Expert Group as well as its subgroups (e.g. Subgroup on Copyright) start their work
- In August 2006: Recommendation of the Commission to the Member States
- 13 November 2006: Council Conclusions on the Digitisation and Online Accessibility of Cultural Material, and Digital Preservation



Time Schedule of the European Commission and CENL for The European Library

2006

Cooperation of all national libraries throughout the EU within the framework of CENL and TEL

2008

Multi-lingual access to minimum 2 million works
not only in libraries but also in archives

2010

Access to minimum 6 million digital works
also in museums, and via publishers,
Not only based on text but also sound, pictures, films, multimedia
Not only cultural heritage but also scientific information



What's in a name?



Why European Digital Library?

- Because size is an important factor of success within the web
- Why „European“ and not „global“?
 - Because Europe is a political reality with a cultural identity
 - Because there is a European political will to succeed
 - Because there is a common legal and also financial framework that supports the creation of a large, fast, reliable, independent, public, multilingual, multimedia sustainable service



Why European *Digital Library*?

- Because only in the framework of a digital library the immediate availability of cultural heritage material and of scientific information for everybody anywhere is possible
 - By digitisation of copyright-free works
 - By cooperation with the copyright-holders for digitisation of works within copyright
 - By cooperation with copyright-owners of born digital works: linking EDL-metadata to their electronic full text services
 - By improving the interoperability of digital surrogates of works: digital catalogues, digital indexes, digital abstracts, etc.



Why European Digital *Library*?

- Libraries and archives are museums!
 - A museum is “a non-profit making, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, and open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of people and their environment.” (ICOM statutes)
- Libraries and museums are archives!
 - At least when dealing with cultural heritage organisations
- Why then European Digital Library?
 - Because of pragmatism? Because the standardisation and the level of networking are more advanced?
 - In the end, we all do the same: we collect, organise, describe, archive and make available to the users works from our collective European heritage

What is CENL doing to create the EDL?



TEL-EU-Projects

- End of 2006: EDL Project started
- Early 2007: Successful completion of TEL-ME-MOR
- In 2007: 2 more project proposals within the framework of eContentplus :
 - TEL-Net (Thematic Network)
 - EDL + (Project)
- Also in 2007: Preparation for the 3. Call within the framework of FP7



Requirements for the European Digital Library

- Content from libraries, archives, and museums
- Digitisation: selection and funding
- Online-access to the „Black Hole“ of the 20th and 21st century via Public Private Partnership for
 - Digitisation
 - Accessibility of works within copyright
 - Technical innovations
- Multilinguality
- Digital long-term preservation and archiving
- Technical interoperability
- Semantic interoperability

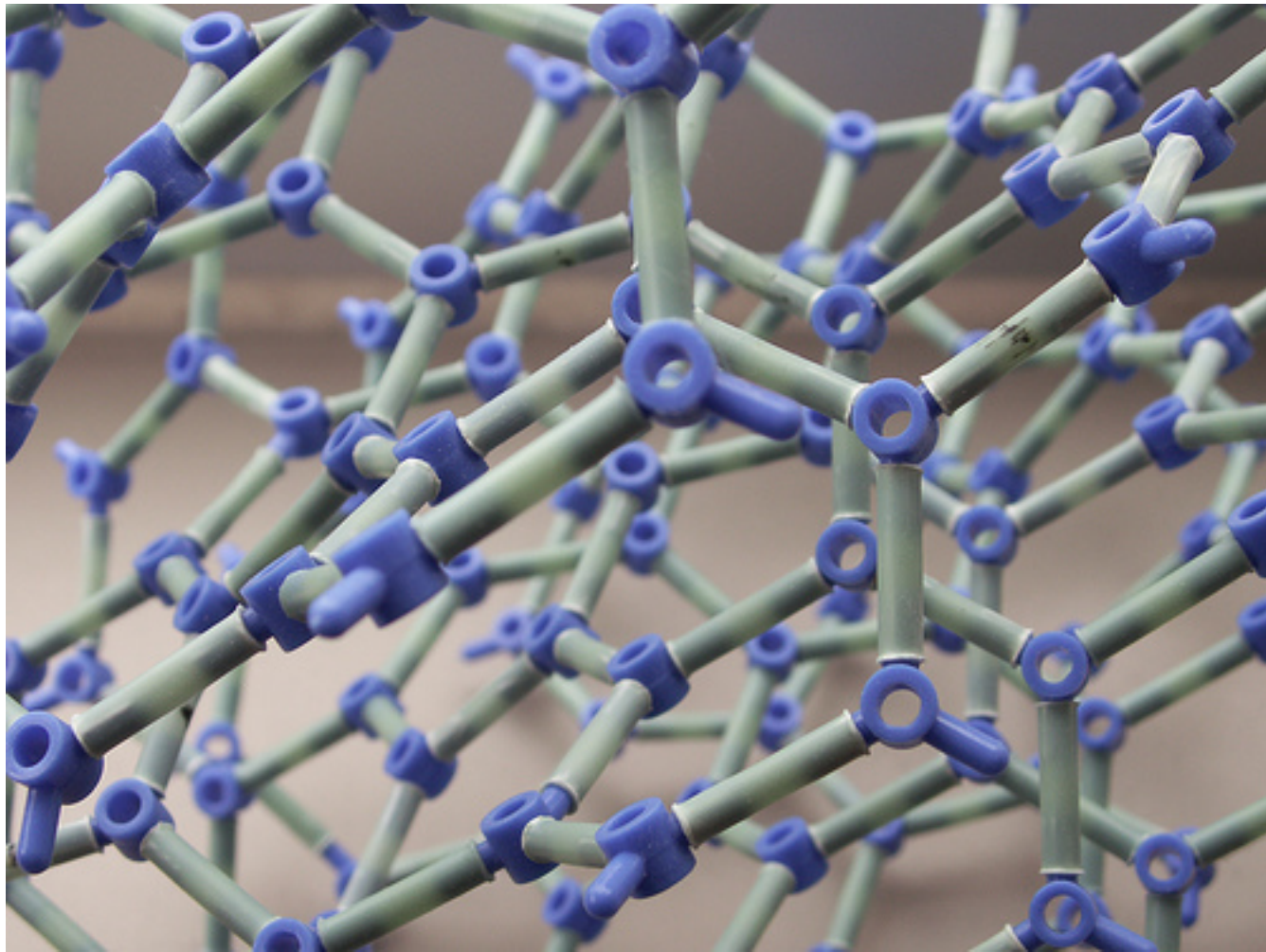


Open Questions

- Regarding the architecture and organisation of the European network:
 - How many nodes? How many levels ...?
 - Based on countries?
 - Based on communities?
 - One European agency?
 - A loose network?
- How can we involve European non EU countries?
- How can we include initiatives from outside Europe?
- How will we fund the network after the end of project funding?



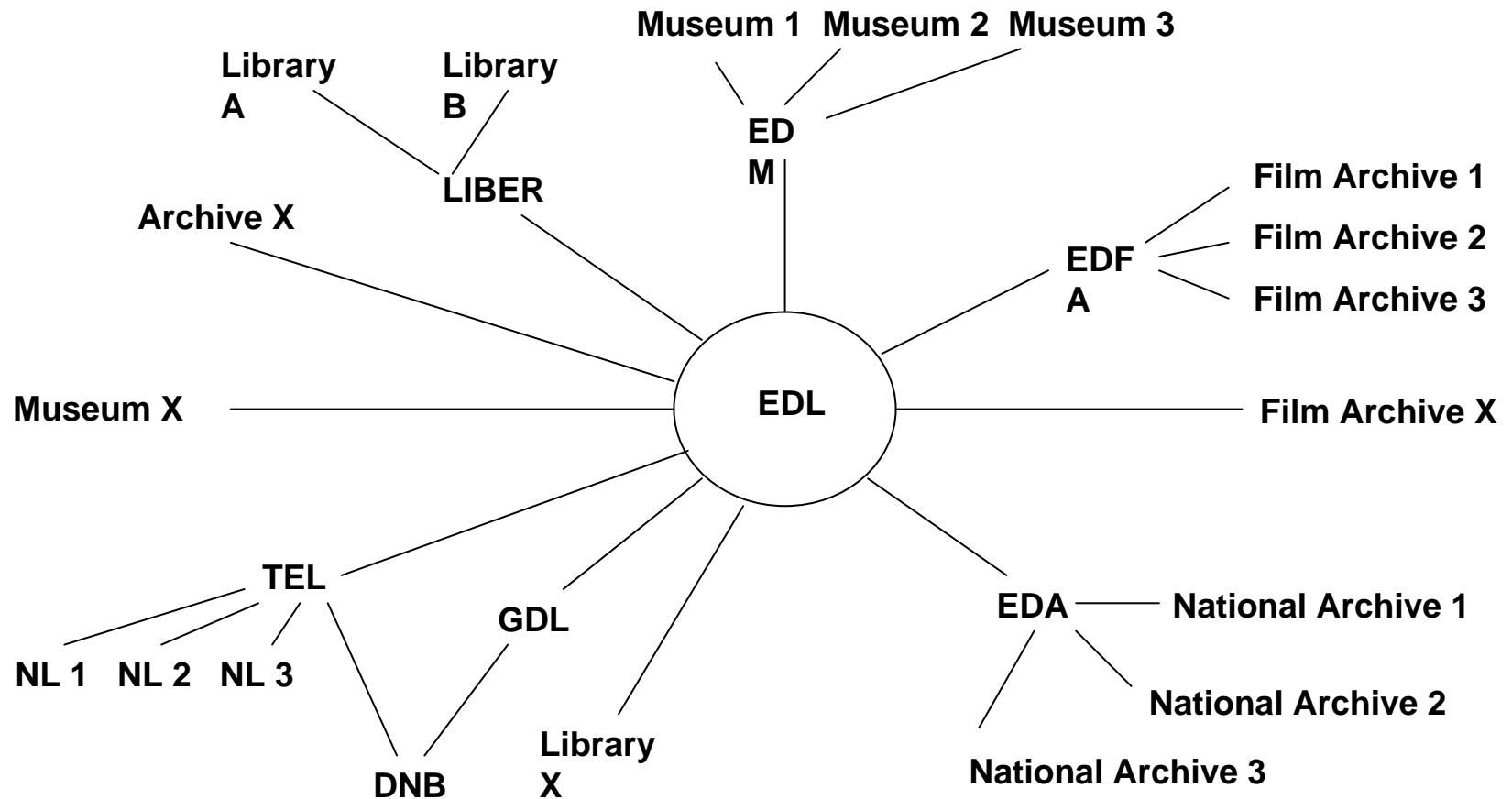
A structure for EDL?



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A structure for EDL?





Thank you!

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