



# DC-NET

## Memory institutions and their requirements for research e-infrastructure

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# General requirements for research e-infrastructure

## Balanced digital infrastructure

- Closer links should be established with content providers and large user communities (by NREN)

## Access to everything

- Improve online access to the holdings and collections of the cultural heritage institutions in Europe in order to enable online access to a critical mass of digital content

## Multi-lingual and Multi-national collaboration

- Combine national cultural heritage research initiatives to European-wide scale.

## Delivering the best

- Provide access to the highest quality multimedia materials online
- Searching beyond text - enable users to use images, sounds, shapes and other aspects of items as search criteria







## Back ground

- Research and education networks are very important part of the Internet
- According to the EARNEST study (2007) the development of research and education networking and services has had increasing importance in recent years for the work of researchers in Europe. Use of network-related tools and services for research is more and more common.
- The rapid development of mass digitisation at memory institutions during the last few years has led to an increase of digitised material with the potential to be available on the Internet.
- There is a lack of technological “take offs”. Not much has happened since the digitisation and online access became an focus area years ago; bandwidth, storage and search power are still constraints.



## The situation in Sweden for memory institutions

### Enhanced focus on digitisation

- Building mass-digitisation facilities
- Tentative time plan decided by the Board of Ministers
- Internet based portals like Europeana
- Digitisation: one of the high-scored political issues in the cultural heritage domain (Europe-wide)
- A national strategy for digitisation, on-line access and digital preservation is on its way.



# Looking into the state-of-the-art

- A national questionnaire on digital infrastructures for Cultural Heritage institutions in Sweden, conducted by the Swedish national working group in DC-NET.
- Libraries will be included in a second step.



# Identified national bottle-necks

- Most basic digital services are part of the normal digital infrastructure of the Cultural Heritage institutions (Internet connection, data storage/back up, conference services, security services, support, e-mail, Wikis, web pages). The services that fewest institutions has access to is Wikis (only 3% of the institutions), followed by conference services (approximately 30 %).





- The additional services that institutions have at their disposal are for example databases and records management systems. All the Cultural Heritage institutions that responded to the questionnaire are connected to Internet. 20 % of them do not have any Internet support.





- Concerning digital infrastructure providers, the majority of institutions responded that their digital infrastructure is provided by private actors but some institutions also have connection through the municipality and regional councils.
- The speed at which the Cultural heritage institutions are connected to the internet varies from 0,25Mb/s to 100 Mb/s.



More than half of the institutions answers that the digital infrastructure that they have today do not fulfils their needs. Data storage is often mentioned amongst comments about what is missing. Other comments are:

- infrastructure that enables providing access to image databases and records,
- management of the images, joint digital working places, resources, support, and user-friendliness.



- Approximately 69 % of the institutions that responded collaborate in different ways with other cultural heritage institutions (one or several).



- The majority of the institutions (83,3 %) provide access to some of their holdings and collections on the Internet.



- The results of the Swedish survey can also be compared with the results of the "Home work"-survey that WP3 conducted amongst the partners in DC-NET.



# Preliminar Summary:Memory institutions requirements

- In general, it appears that there is a lack of balance between the capacity of the digital e-infrastructure provided by NRENs and the actual capacity for connection to the Internet available at various cultural heritage institutions. Some institutions are using an NREN or another high capacity alternative, other have not that opportunity. As a result there are differences in their possibilities to provide access to their holdings and collections on the Internet.



- There is also an unbalance in the capacity for providing content and the capacity to use the same content. The infrastructure for using the content is often provided by NREN, and has normally a capacity that is significantly better than the cultural heritage institutions capacity to provide access to the same information.





- In a situation where cultural heritage institutions are strongly dependent on the capacity of the digital infrastructure (i.e. Internet) to be able to provide access for a broader audience to their holdings and collections, institutions with limited funding are in danger to be marginalised if there are no national strategies on e-infrastructure at hand.



- Among users/researcher, there seems to be different levels of awareness of services already available by digital infrastructure providers (NREN) and content providing cultural heritage institutions.
- A strategy/plan taking in accounts both national and European/international perspectives is urgently needed



# Thank you for your attention!

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