



## What is DEN?

The DEN Foundation (Digitaal Erfgoed Nederland / Digital Heritage Netherlands) is the Dutch knowledge centre for digital heritage.

## What does DEN do?

DEN supports archives, museums and other heritage institutions to improve their digital strategies and services. The sharing of knowledge of and experiences with ICT is a core mission of DEN. Furthermore, DEN encourages the institutions to invest in open technology, to implement ICT-standards and to make use of other tools that contribute to sustainable information services.

*DEN is sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science.*

## Did you know that DEN...

- ... maintains a quality assurance system on digital heritage to promote relevant ICT standards and to share information on basic and best practices?
- ... monitors the achievements of the Dutch heritage institutions and encourages them to participate in innovative projects?
- ... organises expert meetings, workshops and conferences to support cross-sectoral co-operation?
- ... is an active partner in national and international heritage and research communities?
- ... is a member of the core committee for the technical development of Europeana, and a core member of the ENUMERATE project?

## Who works at DEN?

- Marco de Niet - director
- Sjoerd Bakker - project officer
- Robert Gillesse - senior advisor
- Janneke Grooten - communication officer
- Wietske van den Heuvel - editor knowledge base
- Ralph Kits - communication officer
- Monika Lechner - advisor
- Gerhard Jan Nauta - researcher
- Arianne Neijenhuis - office manager
- Else Laura Rademaker - communication consultant
- Marco Streefkerk - senior advisor
- Jeanine Tieleman - advisor





## DEN knowledge base

DEN publishes relevant information (in Dutch) about standardisation and best practices regarding the digitisation of cultural heritage. The information is collected in a freely accessible, interconnected online knowledge base and focuses on four main subjects.

1) The overview of **ICT standards and guidelines** provides up to date information about ICT standards used by Dutch heritage institutions, including links to important documentation, relevant institutions, and projects that make use of certain guidelines.

[www.den.nl/standaarden](http://www.den.nl/standaarden)

2) Information about best practices and better practices by Dutch cultural heritage institutions is published in our **project inventory**. It is linked to our database with standards and guidelines in order to show the implementation of ICT standards in running projects. The project database is also used as a tool to monitor the development of a Dutch national Digital Heritage Collection. [www.den.nl/projecten](http://www.den.nl/projecten)

3) The **inventory of cultural heritage institutions** contains profiles with information about digitisation activities, involvement in projects, the implementation of standards and guidelines, and examples of digitisation plans. [www.den.nl/instellingen](http://www.den.nl/instellingen)

## Conferences

Since 2004, DEN has organised national conferences on the latest developments in digital heritage. Through a partnership with the Dutch Sector Institute for Cultural Heritage, these conferences have led to the new bi-annual international conference **Digital Strategies for Heritage (DISH)**. DISH was held for the first time in December 2009. This year the second DISH conference takes place on 6 - 9 December 2012. [www.DISH2012.nl](http://www.DISH2012.nl)

## News, calendar and blog

On the DEN website you'll find a constant flow of news items and events that are relevant to the field of digital heritage. The website also offers personal opinions, tips and interesting discoveries in DEN's weblog.

[www.den.nl/nieuws](http://www.den.nl/nieuws)

[www.den.nl/agenda](http://www.den.nl/agenda)

[www.den.nl/blog](http://www.den.nl/blog)

## THE BASICS ('DE BASIS')

**THE BASICS** define a set of minimal requirements for digitisation activities within the context of the national infrastructure for digital heritage.



Application of THE BASICS guarantees quality, interoperability, sustainability and efficiency during the entire digitisation life cycle.

[www.den.nl/debasis](http://www.den.nl/debasis)

Currently, THE BASICS provides guidelines for the following topics:

- findability of digital data
- digital preservation
- creation of digital objects
- description of digital objects
- presentation of digital objects

4) The **subject files** provide information about a wide variety of subjects such as copyright, digital preservation, business models, green computing, semantic web and web statistics.

[www.den.nl/thema](http://www.den.nl/thema)

## Research and monitoring

Monitoring and validation are essential to assess the quality of digitisation activities. DEN commissions various types of research on the digitisation of cultural heritage. On the DEN website various reports can be found, e.g. on the size of current digital collections in the Netherlands, costs of digitisation, the use of ICT in museums, the use of online vocabularies and trends in web services.

## International activities

DEN is involved in various international activities and seeks co-operation with institutions with a similar mission.