

DCH-RP

Summary

Digital Cultural Heritage (DCH) is producing a large amount of digital content that need to be safely stored, permanently accessed and easily re-used by the humanities researchers. The vision for the next two decades is to implement a federated infrastructure dedicated to support the application of open science in the arts and the humanities. Preservation is the first priority. National digitization programmes in Europe and internationally address the issue of the preservation in a separate manner, while a shared implementation of common e-infrastructure layers could be beneficial and cost effective.

DCH-RP is a coordination action to develop and validate a Roadmap for the implementation of a preservation federated e-infrastructure for DCH. Such infrastructure will exploit the facilities offered by the research infrastructures, namely by NREN, Grid Initiatives and the newer data infrastructures. It builds upon the knowledge generated by DC-NET ERA-NET and INDICATE. DCH-RP does not deal with digitisation and will not perform a technical development itself, which is instead a matter for national and regional programmes. DCH-RP will produce a Roadmap to be executed within future implementation projects. It will explore: how to harmonise data preservation policies in the DCH sector at European and international level; how to progress with the dialogue among DCH institutions, e-Infrastructures, research and private organisations; governance, maintenance and sustainability models.

Objectives

The main objective to be achieved by DCH-RP is to design a sound Roadmap for the implementation of an e-Infrastructure for preservation of DCH content, as part of a more general vision towards and Open Science Infrastructure for DCH in 2020. This will be a federation of existing infrastructures: national infrastructures (NRENs, NGIs), joint European activities/initiatives (e.g. EGI), European data infrastructures (e.g. EUDAT and SCIDIP-ES), research infrastructures (e.g. DARIAH, CLARIN, DASISH), by also involving, if and where possible, the commercial sector (e.g. commercially available cloud services). It will include the definition of the underlying service architecture, the applications, standardisation, processes and interoperability as well as the access, governance and maintenance policies. It will also investigate how the Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) approach can contribute to the design and will have a special focus on Authentication and Authorisation issues.

DCH-RP will disseminate the results of the project to the wider cultural heritage and e-Infrastructure communities beyond the consortium, and to other regions outside the EU, in order to enable them to benefit from the research of the consortium and from the work of the project. Among others, the digitalmeetsculture.net platform will be employed for this purpose.

Six proof of concept will be organised where cultural institutions and e-infrastructure providers will experiment the actual use of grid and clouds to store cultural digital resources. They will be based on the use of the e-Culture Science Gateway (eCSG) which is an evolution of the results produced by the INDICATE project.

Sustainability of the infrastructure will be planned by investigating approaches and models from other similar initiatives in order to derive concrete solutions to be applied. This will also be pursued also by cooperation with the private sector, especially the publishers.

Action plan

The project consists of five work-packages:

- WP1 – Project Management
- WP2 – Dissemination and sustainability
- WP3 – Preservation Roadmap
- WP4 – Case Studies and Best Practice
- WP5 – Proofs of concept

Coordination activities

The first benefit of DCH-RP coordination activity deals with reinforcing the dialogue between the arts and humanities sector and the ICT infrastructure (e-Infrastructure) providers.

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DCH-RP

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Collaboration with other EC

funded projects:
EPIKH
CHAIN REDS
LINKED HERITAGE

This dialogue will enable the DCH community to accelerate using the open science concept of e-Infrastructures which is producing such enormous advantages to the other scientific domains. On the other side, this dialogue will enable the e-Infrastructure providers to open up a new ‘market’ for their services, with potentially new opportunities of funding for the maintenance and the growth of their infrastructure. Further, the ICT infrastructure developed for research and education are expected to be less expensive in comparison with the private offers.

In this light, DCH will be accelerated in its digital agenda because of the push that it can gain by the e-Infrastructures that are already almost ‘ready to be used’. Furthermore, by the adoption of the e-Infrastructure paradigm, DCH will remain ‘attached’ to the other research sectors, valorising commonalities and re-using available solutions already developed for/by other public domains.

User communities

The DCH-RP Preservation Infrastructure is targeted towards a multidisciplinary virtual research community composed by ICT research centres and cultural institutions who will be enabled to improve their scientific collaboration, innovation capacities and port-folio of services through empowered functions (e.g. access, search-ability, storage, usability, visualisation, preservation).

International aspects

DCH-RP is conceived as a coordination with international scope.

A specific task is dedicated to the establishment of international cooperation and implementation of common activities. This includes supporting the identification and synergy between projects related to the use of e-Infrastructures in the DCH sector, focusing in particular on the long term preservation issues, and promoting the development, integration and exploitation of the e-Infrastructures identified in the DCH-RP Roadmap also in extra- European regions which share the same interest to such topics.



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1. Stool, National Museum, Accra, Ghana
2. Botero's horse, Assisi, Italy
3. Water tank, El Jadida, Morocco
4. Ancient Painting, Tang Dynasty, National Museum, Beijing, China

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