

Citizen science workshops in virtual form: the experience in Sofia and Budapest

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citizen Heritage

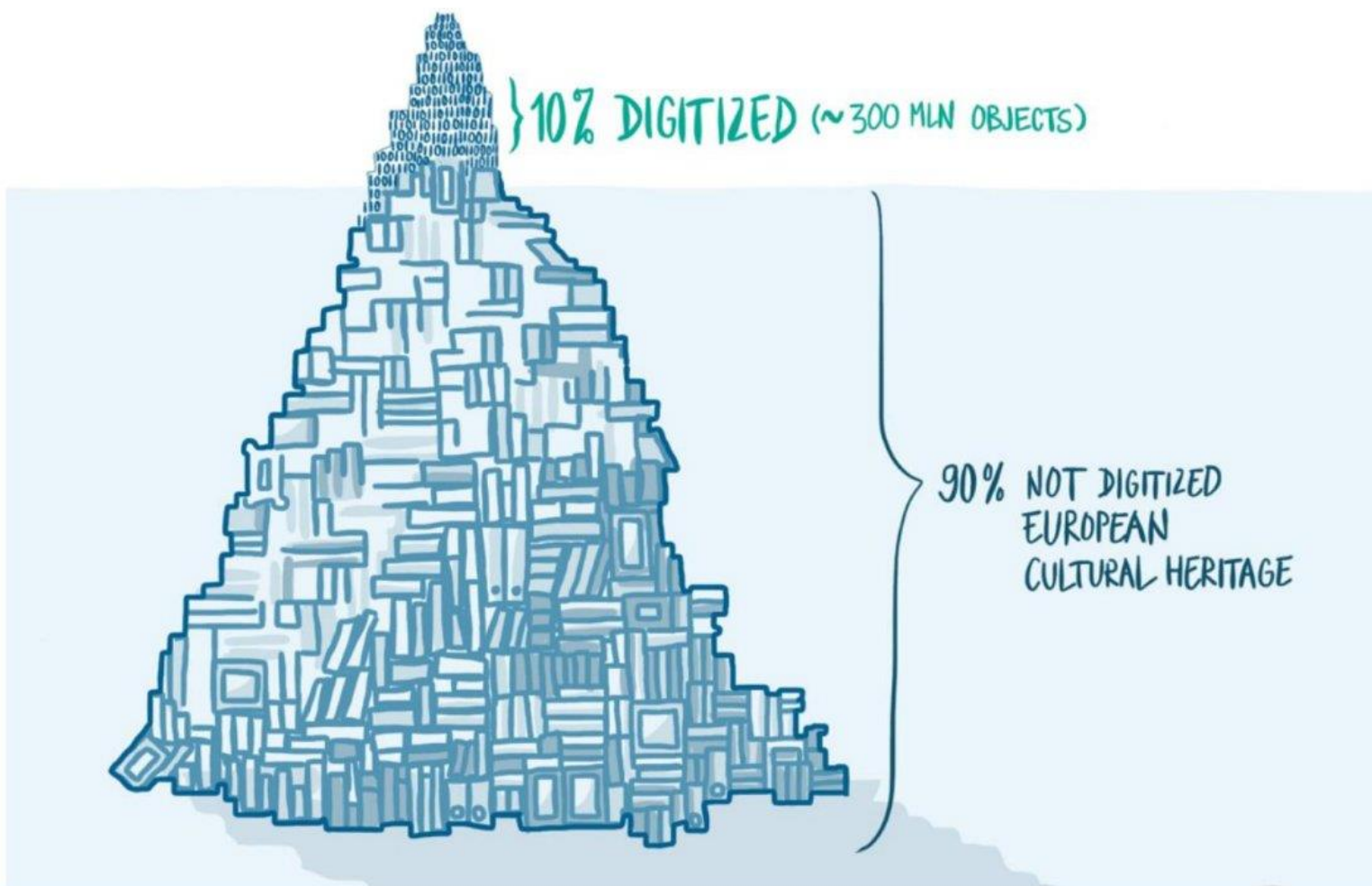


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- Intro: about digital cultural collections
- Why metadata matter?
- A picture paints a thousands words
- Engaging university students in Bulgaria and Hungary with photographic collections
- Lets' try this...

Image: photo by Sándor Bauer, CC-BY-SA Fortepan via Europeana



90% of our heritage has not yet been digitized. This digitally available 10% represents 300 million objects, only one third of which (34%) is currently available online, with barely 3% of that works suitable for real creative re-use. Visual: Elco van Staveneren, www.denkschets.nl, CC BY-SA.

It is estimated that only a minor part of European cultural heritage collections are digitized! Nevertheless, this amounts to tens of MILLIONS of cultural heritage files that Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs) have generated along time.

One third of this digitized material, curated with more or less accuracy, is available online on websites and portals, including Europeana.eu

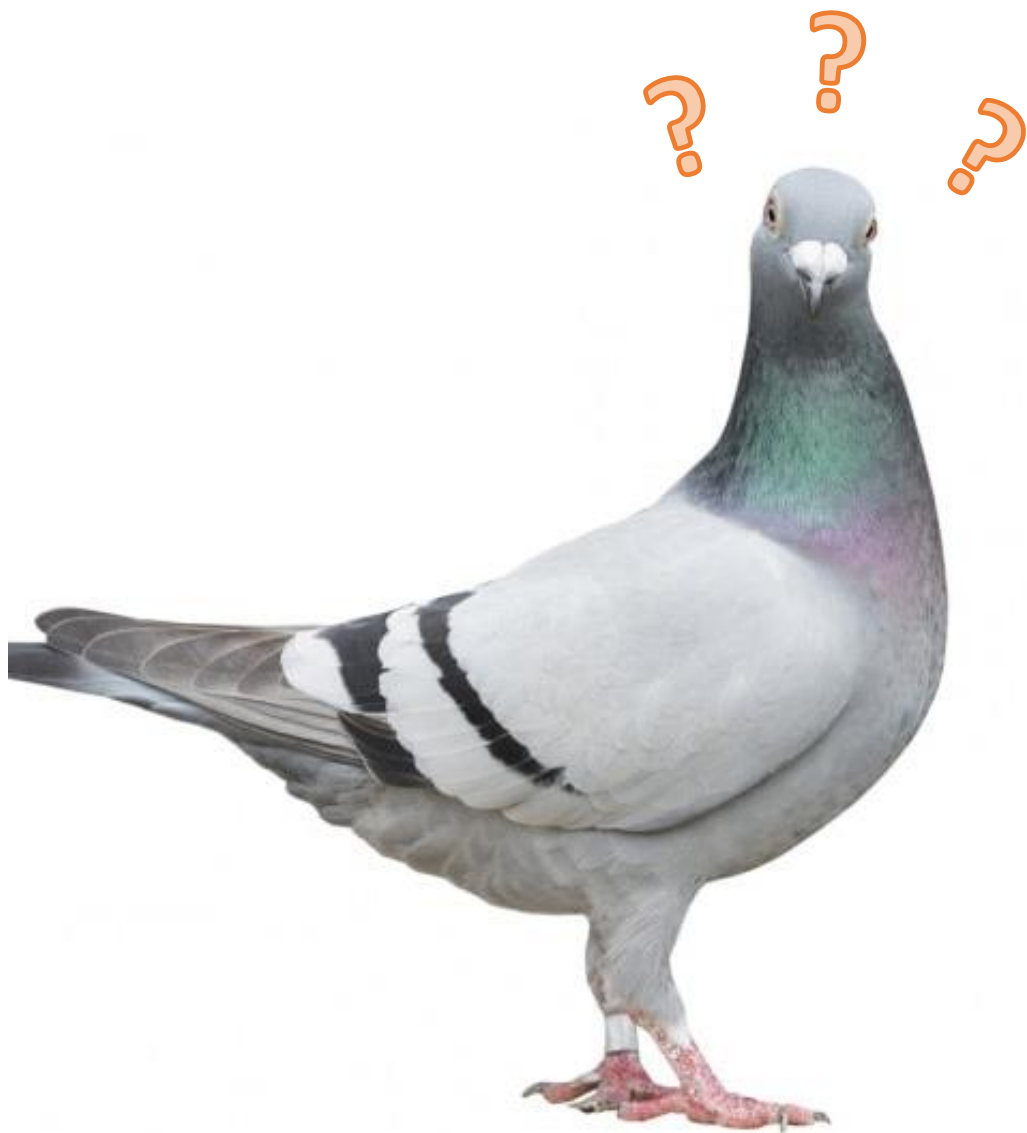
Why metadata matter?

Metadata are the information attached to a digital object.

This information is key as much as it is the description of the object in a museum's showcase.



Image by Slovene Ethnographic Museum, CC0



Black lacquered bamboo specimen from Ivan Skušek's collection of Chinese pigeon flutes. Slovene Ethnographic Museum, CC0.

Pigeon whistles or pigeon flutes are small devices fitted to pigeons that emit a noise as the bird flies through the air. They have been used in China, where they are known as geling or geshao, since at least the Qing dynasty (1644–1912) and also in Japan and Indonesia.



Image by United Archives, In Copyright

**Rich Descriptive Linked
Multilingual Correct
Structured Authoritative
Reliable Meaningful**

Metadata creation and enrichment are a matter of CURATION of digital cultural heritage.

But who is entitled to curation?

A picture paints a thousand words

Curation of digital cultural heritage is not only reserved to domain experts!

In facts, there are metadata properties which can be recognized by anyone, and thus anyone can participate to metadata enrichment if enabled with user-friendly tools.



Image by TopFoto, In Copyright

History in Pictures from Bulgaria



Image by NALIS Foundation, Public Domain

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SOFIA
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ST. KLIMENT
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EST. 1888

In this event, students of digital humanities successfully worked on metadata improvement, by annotating and enriching the beautiful digitized collection of **early photography depicting everyday life in Bulgaria**, published by NALIS Foundation in Europeana in 2015.

The result is over 5.000 new tags added to nearly 700 heritage photographs.

Facts & Fiction: Hungary in b/w photographs



Image by National Széchényi Library (OSZK) - CC BY-NC-ND

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In this event, students of film history at Media and Communication department of Pázmány Péter Catholic University worked on metadata improvement, by annotating the collections of OSZK the National Széchényi Library that are published in Europeana, comprising **early photography and film stills**.

The result is over 500 new tags added to over 100 heritage photographs.

Validation and aggregation in Europeana

The annotations by students went through a double round of validation:

- During the annotation sprint, participants could upvote or downvote tags added by the others.
- Afterwards, a validation round took place at project's levels and all the tags were reviewed once again, to detect possible invalid or wrong annotations.

These actions granted that the tags added in the metadata were reliable and correct.

The validated annotations were then included in the metadata of the two collections (NALIS and OSZK) and then published on Europeana, in the respective records, via the aggregation route of PHOTOCONSORTIUM, that makes use of the MINT mapping tool developed by NTUA.

What we understood:

To achieve results in a crowdsourcing metadata campaign, you need:

- An easy-to-use platform, possibly with a gaming/challenging element in it
- Compelling content to explore
- A structured system for metadata (controlled vocabularies)
- A validation procedure afterwards, so to grant accuracy of the metadata additions



Image by Promoter Digital Gallery - CC BY-NC-ND

LESSON LEARNT:
Crowdsourcing works

If you allow people to
easily offer their inputs
in cultural heritage
collections, the
response will come!



Image by TopFoto, In Copyright

Metadata Annotation exercise in Cyprus



Image by Arbejdernuseet – In Copyright

... Lets' try this!

What result are we going to achieve today?

Will we do better than the students of Sofia and Budapest??

Many thanks for your attention!

Citizen Heritage

Citizen Science Practices in Cultural Heritage:
towards a Sustainable Model in Higher Education

www.citizenheritage.eu

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