

CULTIVATE: CO-OPERATION OF ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS UNDER THE FP5

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Klaus Reinhardt is the co-ordinator of the EU funded accompanying measures EXPLOIT and CULTIVATE. He was the secretary of the National Focal Point Germany under the Telematics for Libraries Programme and member of the EU working party Education and Training, Libraries, Research in the Telematics Applications Programme. He is now also the secretary of the German node in CULTIVATE and member of the new EU National Expert Group for key action III of the IST Programme (Interactive Publishing; Digital Content and Cultural Heritage; Education and Training; Human Language Technologies; Information Access, Filtering, Analysis and Handling).

CULTIVATE – A New Network for Digital Cultural Heritage in Europe

Introduction

Under the 3rd and 4th Framework Programme, a network of National Focal Points (NFPs) was established in all EU Member States and most of the associated states for the Telematics for Libraries Programme. In the now started 5th Framework Programme the structure has changed. The “old” Telematics Programme is part of the Information Society Technology Programme (IST). And there is no longer a “libraries area”. The only place you can find the word “libraries” (together with archives and museums) in the IST Programme is in Key Action III: Multimedia Content and Tools, sub area Digital Heritage and Cultural Content.

CULTIVATE is the answer for the need of a newly structured network supporting the co-operation of archives, libraries and museums under the 5th Framework Programme. It is a pan-European network for the Digital Heritage Community including IT staff, information professionals, researchers, managers, policy makers, galleries, non-profit making organisations etc. This network is planned to have two parts: one for the western part of Europe and one for the 10 accession countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The western part of CULTIVATE started in February 2000 with a duration of 36 months. The eastern part is expected following at the beginning of next year. Both activities were planned together and will work in a close co-operation.

Objectives

CULTIVATE established to date a European Digital Cultural Heritage Network consisting of 15 partners based in 12 European countries. Additionally there are included National Nodes in Denmark, Netherlands, Iceland and Israel as associated partners. Russia is planning to become another associated partner. This network will continue the successful and fruitful work done by the National

Focal Points for the Telematics for Libraries Programme under the 3rd and 4th Framework Programme and will expand it to all memory institutions, namely archives, museums and galleries.

The network intends

- to raise the awareness of the IST Programme for the development and the use of cultural heritage applications in all memory institutions in Europe.
- to enhance the quantity and quality of submitted proposals under the IST Programme by various means like electronic information services, information days and individual advice for proposers and intends
- to link European institutions with national administrative bodies and professional organisations and institutions in order to bring European activities and directives faster to the citizens and vice versa.

All activities will either be done altogether or be shared fairly between all participating partners and countries.

Consortium

Details of the consortium members are given in the following table.

Participant name	Participant short name	Country	Status*
Ehem. Deutsches Bibliotheksinstiut	EDBI	DE	C
The Library Council	CL	IE	P
Institute for Learning and Teaching Research Technology, University of Bristol (third partner assistance to CL)	ILRT	UK	A
Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries	Resource	UK	P
University of Bath / UK Office for Library and Information Networking	UKOLN	UK	P
Cultural Service Centre Austria	CSC Austria	AT	P
Riksbibliotektjenesten	RBT	NO	P
Biblioteca Nacional	BN	ES	P
Osservatorio dei programmi internazionali per le biblioteche	OPIB	IT	P
Fundo de Fomento Cultural / Conselho Superior de Bibliotecas	FFC	PT	P
Kungl.biblioteket	KB	SE	P
University of Helsinki / Helsinki University Library	HUL	FI	P
Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs	OSTC	BE	P
Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs	MINERA	GR	P
Subdireccion General de los Archivos Estatales	SGAE	ES	P
Subdireccion General de los Museos Estatales	SGME	ES	P

*C = Co-ordinator, P = Principal contractor, A = Assistant contractor

Description of work

The national digital cultural heritage networks with representatives from all relevant memory institutions and organisations (in particular from archives, libraries and museums) in each participating country are established and in working condition. These national networks, in which one of the co-operating institutions is acting as the National Node, and their presence in the World-Wide-Web are interlinked by a common gateway. The dissemination of information is supported by an electronic information service at European level and by the production of sector specific information material in printed and electronic form. To reflect the state-of-the art of cultural heritage applications in Europe as well as to present and to discuss the results achieved CULTIVATE Interactive as an electronic web based magazine is online. Activities linking European cultural heritage policy and directives to administrative and professional bodies at national level will bridge the gap between the thematic work on European and on national level. All National Nodes are responsible for (EU non-charged) sector specific informations days and consultancy tasks for (potential) proposers. A close co-operation with National Nodes of Western European countries not participating in the CULTIVATE-EU consortium and institutions of the 10 CEE accession countries is an essential part of the measure.

Working structure

A truly European dimension of the accompanying measure is guaranteed by the working structure. EDBI, Berlin, (German Libraries Institute Berlin) already co-ordinator of the accompanying measure EXPLOIT under the Telematics for Libraries Programme will be the co-ordinating partner and the National Node for Germany. All the other partners (excluding UKOLN, UK Office for Library and Information Networking) are National Nodes for Cultural Heritage Applications in their countries and each will act as the center of the related national network: They will also be active in a well-shared European co-operation. Some of the National Nodes are also leading partners for tasks of European dimension.

The information work will be done mainly in six tasks:

(1) CULTIVATE Web Site

Establishment and operation of a WWW server at European level by CL (The Library Council), Ireland, and IRLT (The Institute for Learning and Research Technology, University of Bristol), UK, which will provide links to all national web pages.

One of the most important functions of CULTIVATE is to disseminate information through the CULTIVATE web site. The main objectives of the web site are to promote the cultural heritage activities of the Information Society Technologies Programme, (IST) and to disseminate project results. The web site provides a searchable main site with the additional functionality of cross searching the National Node web sites and the CULTIVATE magazine, Cultivate Interactive.

The content of the CULTIVATE web site includes:

- Information on the project, partners, aims, objectives and activities
- Links to the National Node web sites
- Links to the CULTIVATE services:
 - CULTIVATE E-list
 - CULTIVATE Interactive
 - CULTIVATE Database
- Monthly News Update
- Information on the IST Programme
- Information on Calls for Proposals in the digital heritage and cultural content area
- Information on project results
- Details on organisations, associations and governmental institutions in the museums, archives and libraries sectors at national, European and international level and
- Links to related sites.

The CULTIVATE web site was launched on July 3rd, 2000.
 Its address is: <<http://www.cultivate-eu.org/>>

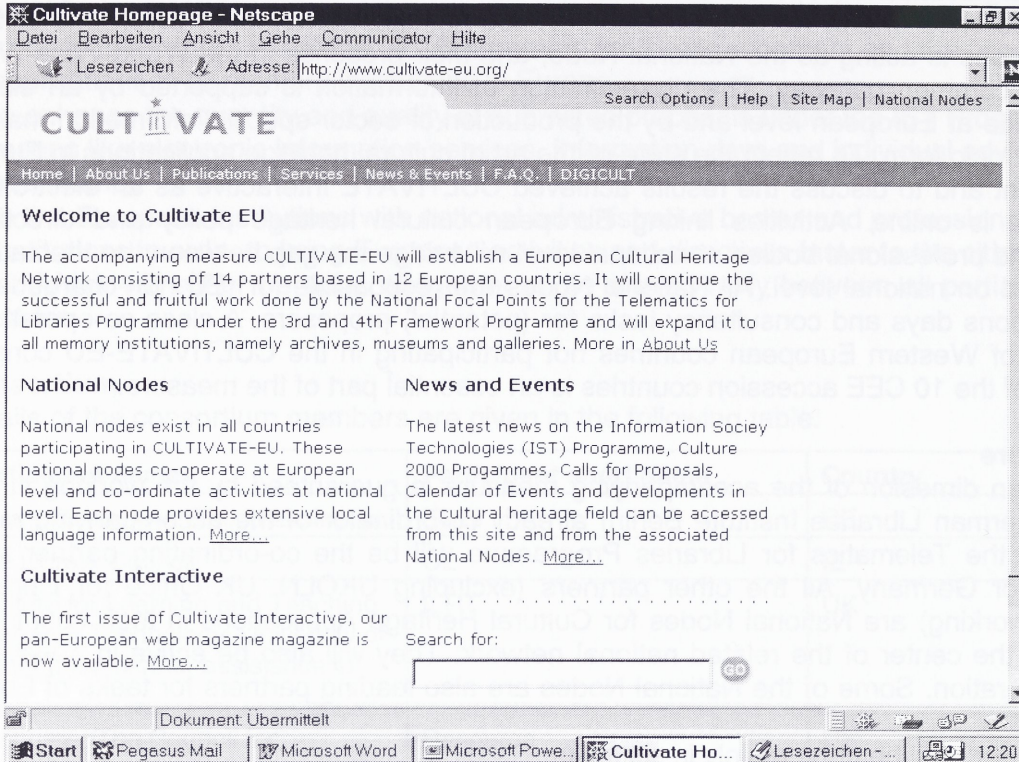


Figure 1: CULTIVATE Web Site

(2) CULTIVATE E-list

An electronic information service and discussion list at European level is provided by Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, UK. Cultivate-list is the e-list for anyone in interested in digital heritage in the IST Programme. An open list for discussion and information sharing, cultivate-list topics include:

- Announcements of Calls for Proposals
- Events
- Partner finding
- News and updates on IST projects
- Discussion, opinions, news and views.

To join cultivate-list, send an email to:

majordomo@ukoln.ac.uk

with this text in the body of the message:

subscribe cultivate-list *your email address*

Cultivate-list messages are archived at: <http://lists.ukoln.ac.uk/cultivate-list/>

Cultivate-list is administered by the UK National Node, with technical support from UKOLN at the University of Bath. For further information contact Rosalind Johnson for the UK node:

e-mail: rjohnson@willshere.freemove.co.uk

(3) CULTIVATE Interactive

An electronic magazine, produced by UKOLN (University of Bath, UK Office for Library and Information Networking), UK, provides a forum for dissemination and discussion of project results

and topics of more general interest for others working in the area of cultural heritage applications. UKOLN already runs the E-Journal ARIADNE as well as the web-magazine EXPLOIT Interactive.

Cultivate Interactive is a new pan-European web magazine that forms part of the CULTIVATE network activities. It aims to provide a forum for users to find out more about the Digital Heritage and Cultural Content (DIGICULT) area of the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme, about other EC and non-EC programmes in that area and also about the results of projects. Articles will address the challenges facing the projects and allow the reader to provide feedback or partake in discussions on related issues. Cultivate Interactive provides a valuable opportunity for DIGICULT project holders to disseminate information about their work.

Articles aren't limited to project holders or partners though. Contributions are particularly welcome from users of the deliverables of DIGICULT projects. There are also contributions on topics of interest to the cultural heritage industry, including conference announcements, reports on conferences and other events invited. Cultivate Interactive has a wide focus and is aimed at the European cultural heritage community including IT staff, information professionals, researchers, managers, policy makers, libraries, museums, archives, galleries, non-profit making organisations etc.

Cultivate Interactive is published every three months and contains **Feature Articles** on DIGICULT projects and other key areas, **Regular Columns** such as 'Behind the web site', 'National Nodes' and 'Web watch'. It also includes a **News & Events** section containing European news and job postings.

If you are interested in writing for Cultivate Interactive you should contact the editor, Marieke Napier, using email address <m.napier@ukoln.ac.uk> or <cultivate-editor@ukoln.ac.uk>.

Cultivate Interactive is available at:

<<http://www.cultivate-int.org/>>

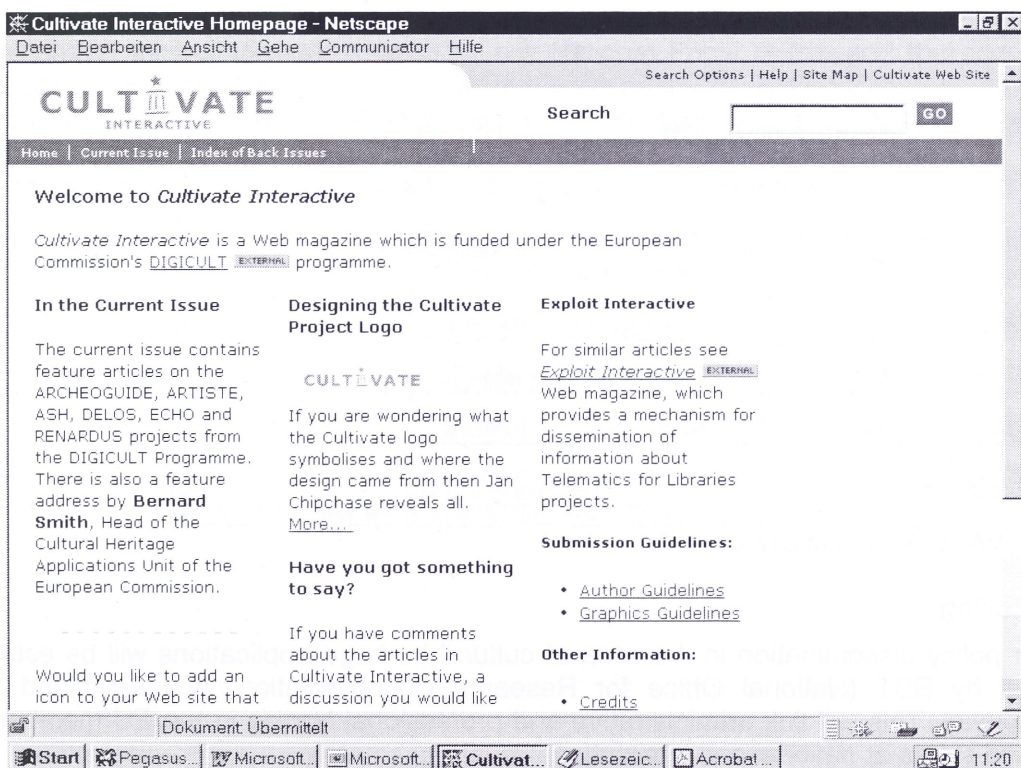


Figure 2: CULTIVATE Interactive

(4) CULTIVATE Document Server

CSC (Cultural Service Center) Austria have a very strong information technology competence and will therefore be responsible for the development and agreement of standardisation issues for the common electronic information services.

The production of information material from the European Community and national organizations either in printed or electronic form will be supported by an **XML database** which enables the **management of metadata** related to the documents. The information on the documents is inserted according to the 15 fields of the **Dublin Core** metadata description.

The data is then exported in XML and a unified production process - through **XSL-stylesheets** - for printed and electronic documents supports the production of standard pieces of information to be used for dissemination by all the nodes and by all the other information dissemination services at European level. For **public search** purposes this standardized information means a fast and easy retrieval of documents located on the internet or any local server.

The Cultivate Document Server will be hosted by Cultural Service Center Austria, Graz. It will either be accessible from the Cultivate International Homepage (Documents) or from the national homepages. The direct gateway is:

<<http://www.cscaustria.at/cultivate/docmgmt/>>

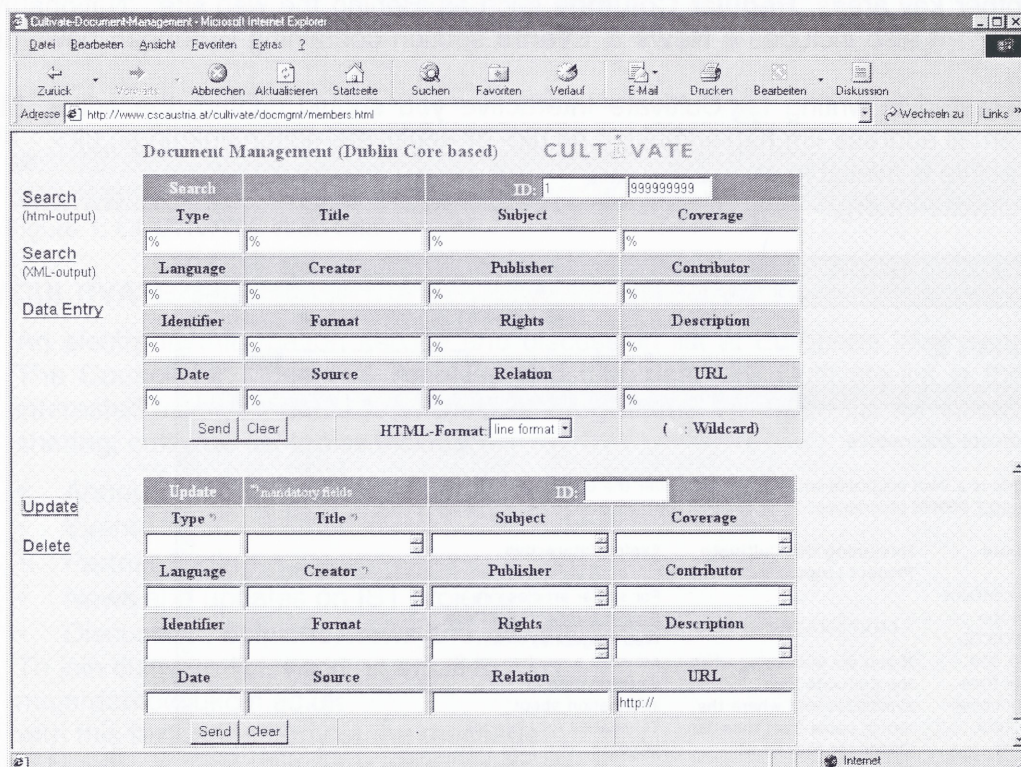


Figure 3: CULTIVATE Document Server

(5) Policy Monitoring

A system for policy dissemination in the area of cultural heritage applications will be established and operated by RBT (National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries), Norway. This will link administrative and professional bodies in the EU member states and associated states at national and international level.

The aim is to conduct a survey asking for central bodies in archives, libraries and museums in all the participating countries, and at European and international level. The outcome will be a guide to governmental institutions, as well as national, European and international organisations and associations. This should be used for dissemination of information about possibilities and results in the IST-Programme and act as a help to find relevant contact points (or partners) in other European countries.

All the partners are involved in this task at national level. RBT is the lead contractor.

(6) National Nodes

Each country participating in the CULTIVATE network at European level has a National Node as head and co-ordinator of their national network in the archives, libraries and museums sector.

The National Nodes aim to

- co-operate at European level and
- co-ordinate activities at national level.

Each National Node

- runs a national e-list for information dissemination
- provides a national Web server with a very similar address:
<<http://www.nat.cultivate-eu.org>>
e.g. <<http://www.uk.cultivate-eu.org>>
- organises information days at least once a year
- organises training seminars
- provides individual consultancy services

Conclusion

CULTIVATE follows the way started by the National Focal Points and the accompanying measure EXPLOIT under the Telematics for Libraries Programme. The National Nodes offer a wide range of support for proposers in the IST Programme area of digital heritage and cultural content. Additionally there are several services provided at European level. The activities at national and European level are interconnected and feed different needs of people interested in the area.