e-Culture

a newsletter on cultural content and digital heritage

ist information society technologies

Welcome to the second issue of our inhouse newsletter. You will see in this issue that we have successfully completed the evaluation of our second call and are in the middle of our third. A fourth call is planned in June for Action Lines III.1.5 and III.1.6 of the IST workprogramme 2000.

More generally in the last month we were happy to see that Culture2000 was accepted. This is a very important European Union programme and I would incite you all to read the background documentation.

Another important initiative is the signature of an agreement between us and the National Science Foundation (USA) for funding of projects of mutual interest.

We have received many positive comments concerning the style of this newsletter and the usefulness of its content. If you have any feedback, please let us know.

Bernard Smith
Head of Unit, Cultural Heritage Applications
DG Information Society
European Commission

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

International Digital Library Collaborative Research

The Cultural Heritage Applications Unit of the EC DG Information Society has signed an understanding on cooperation with the Digital Libraries Division of the National Science Foundation (USA) to cover cooperative activities in the digital libraries field. This cooperation will already be possible during the current call for proposals: AL III.1.4. Access to digital collections of cultural and scientific content.
http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/en/nsf.html
The National Science Foundation Digital Library initiative: http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/

Ideas Forum

In order to stimulate ideas and discussion among potential responders to the Calls related to the cultural heritage area an Ideas Forum has been set up specifically for the action lines in Digital Heritage and Cultural Content within Key Action III. The Forum contains a list of ideas and interests already received by us.
http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/en/fp5/intro.html

TEN-Telecom Call for Proposals - now open

Call for Proposals for projects of common interest in the field of trans-European telecommunication networks - Generic Services and Applications. One of the areas featured in the Call is: Access to Europe's cultural heritage. Some of the other areas are: Education and Training, Applications and services for SMEs and City and regional information networks. Call opened on 17 March 2000 and will close on 16 June 2000. Information at: http://www.ispo.cec.be/tentelecom.
TEN-Telecom has also published a call for experts evaluators.
http://156.54.253.12/tentelecom/en/call_for_evaluators.html

Lessons learned - "Access to Digital Collections of Cultural and Scientific Content"

Those preparing proposals for the Action Line that is open now (ALIII.1.4) would be well advised to look carefully at the type and nature of the projects selected for funding after the first call (http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/en/projects.html). It is not our intention to develop additional background material for the action line, however we can offer some important lessons learned from the first and second calls. Given the number of rejected proposals it is important to identify features that have not been successful to date, namely:

- Many proposals talked about access but were in fact focussing on routine digitisation processes.
  Remember ➔ proposals must have a clear research objective.
- Some proposals clearly targeted technology development of a specific nature or component, but did not firmly integrate that development within a specific well defined type of cultural content.
  Remember ➔ stress new alliances between technologists and heritage organisation, and be explicit concerning the actual cultural content being used.
- Many proposals were just for building web sites or portals.
  Remember ➔ this is a research programme and the first criteria is innovation.
- Some proposers clearly owned valuable cultural material but had little or no understanding of the technical and research issues.
  Remember ➔ focus on the research problem and describe carefully as well the cultural content in which the research will be performed.
- Some proposals provided precise statements of the problem, but were not able to describe a convincing research and development methodology.
  Remember ➔ we do research with a purpose and must see clearly what the results of the project might be.
- Some proposals were quite convincing on the problem and approach but failed to highlight clearly where the innovation was situated.
  Remember ➔ clearly describe the state-of-the-art, reference other works and explicitly describe where the innovative aspects are in the proposal.

Finally many proposers do not read, understand and apply what is written in the different documents: Fifth Framework Programme, IST Programme, Workprogramme 2000, and moreover the specific call documentation. Generally, final quality control of proposals is often poor with figures not adding up, sections missing or information repeated in several parts of the proposal.

You can find all the information related to the call for proposals for Action Line III.1.4 at:
http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/en/fp5/febcall.html

Success stories

The TAP **LIBERATOR** project (Libraries in European Regions - Access to Telematics and other resources) established four regional information services in Europe: Alentejo (Portugal), Aquitaine (France), the North of England (UK) and Vlaams Brabant (Belgium). Collectively they reach over 8 million citizens through over 300 public libraries. Supported by the Royal Danish Library School, the project has been achieved by public library partners sharing best practice and adapting service models to suit diverse cultural circumstances. More information at: http://thenortheast.com/liberator/

CECUP, the Central and Eastern European Copyright User Platform, aimed at helping to create awareness of the key issues around the copyright of electronic materials among librarians in Central and Eastern Europe. To achieve this, 10 workshops were organised with over 720 participants, a web page was maintained, discussions with rights owners took place and a state-of-the-art report on the copyright situation in C&EE (http://www.eblida.org/cecup/docs/frdocs.htm) was prepared. A very timely project, it ran during the period when most of these countries were revising their copyright laws and it succeeded in creating copyright working groups of librarians to further discuss the issue in most of the countries and to include librarians in the discussions on the new copyright laws with the law revisers in at least 5 of them. http://www.eblida.org/cecup/index.htm

Some of our new projects resulted from the 1ˢᵗ call dealing with virtualisation issues

TOURBOT - Interactive Museum Tele-presence Through Robotic Avatars

http://www.ics.forth.gr/tourbot

The project aims at the development of an interactive tour-guide robot able to provide individual access to museums' exhibits and cultural heritage over the Internet.

Contact: Panos Trahanias, Foundation for Research and Technology, Greece, e-mail: trahania@ics.forth.gr

ARCHEOGUIDE - Augmented Reality-based Cultural Heritage On-site Guide

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/projects/99-11306.htm

The project will provide access to information in cultural heritage sites in a compelling, user-friendly way through the development of a system based on advanced IT techniques including augmented reality, 3D- visualisation, mobile computing, and multi-modal interaction.

Contact: Nikolaos Ioannidis, INTRACOM S.A., Greece, e-mail: nioa@intranet.gr

RENAISSANCE - Virtual Renaissance Court

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/projects/99-12163.htm

The project aims at designing a new technology and methodology to create an innovative genre of video game by means of which players will learn about history. A 3D interface, featuring a completely rebuilt historical environment, will act as a portal to a virtual Internet community.

Contact: Leonardo Montecamozzo, Giunti Multimedia, Italy, e-mail: leonardo.gmm@interbusiness.it

Culture2000

CULTURE 2000 is an European Union financial support programme aimed at European cultural co-operation. Its objectives are the promotion of cultural dialogue, creativity and the trans-national distribution of culture, the promotion of cultural diversity and common cultural heritage, and improving public access to culture – amongst other things. Calls for Proposals are launched at the beginning of each year. The programme started in 2000 and will run until 2004 inclusive. The first call was launched on 8 April 2000.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html

Call announcement at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2000/c_101/c_10120000408en0017026.pdf

Creating a living on-line record of Europe's cultural diversity

With a view to obtaining comments and suggestions on the possibility of developing a new topic for R&D in the area of cultural heritage applications, the EC organised in Luxembourg on 14 March 2000 a brainstorming meeting on "Creating a living on-line record of Europe's cultural diversity". The meeting brought together experts from across Europe with experience in the provision of new services in and around the library, museum and archive institutions, particularly at local or regional level.

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/en/living-record.html

NEW PROJECT

In our last issue we forgot to mention one of our new projects:

BRAVA - Broadcast Restoration of Archives through Video Analysis

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/projects/99-11628.htm

The main objectives of the BRAVA project are to significantly enhance the efficiency of film and video-originated archive restoration process and to prepare the restored material for dissemination via multi-resolution digital video broadcasting standards. The efficiency of video programme restoration process will be enhanced through exploiting information obtained from a high-level video analysis tool to control directly an automated restoration system in real-time and by providing simple instructions in real-time which the user can understand and edit if necessary.

Contact: Jean-Hugues Chenot, Institut national de l'Audiovisuel, France, e-mail: brava_mgt@ina.fr

Calendar of Events

Workshop on "Content processing for mobile and domestic multimedia platforms"
EC DG-INFSO, Luxembourg, 11 April 2000
http://www.diffuse.org/iaf/wsml114.htm

Workshop on "Information Visualisation"
EC DG-INFSO, Luxembourg, 12 April 2000
http://www.diffuse.org/iaf/wsivinf.htm

Second Balaton Summit: East-West collaboration in the development of interactive media
EC & Open Society Institute, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 7-9 May 2000
http://www.osi.hu/ep/im2000/

WWW9 Conference: Culture Track - Cultural Heritage and ICT
Amsterdam, May 16th-18th 2000
www.www9.org

Libraries in the digital age (LIDA)
Interuniversity Centre, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 25-28 May, 2000
http://www.hr/iuc

International Seminar on Metadata
The Netherlands Archives School, The Hague, 8 June 2000
Information: mwinnink@knoware.nl

3rd International Digitisation Summer School
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, 3-8 July 2000
http://www.hatii.arts.gla.ac.uk/DigiSS00

EVA Scotland
Edinburgh, 26-29 July 2000
http://www.vasari.co.uk/eva/scotland/index.htm

International Summer School on the Digital Library: "The management of change" & "Electronic publishing"
Ticer, Amsterdam, 31 July - 3 August & 7-11 August 2000
http://www.ticer.nl

Fourth International Conference on Electronic Publishing
Kaliningrad (Russia), 17-19 August 2000
http://www.albertina.ru/elpub2000

66th IFLA General Conference: "Information for Co-operation: Creating the Global Library of the Future"
Jerusalem, 13-18 August 2000
http://ifla.inist.fr/IV/ifla66/66intro.htm

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Scientific, Industrial, and Cultural Heritage: a shared approach

Article by Lorcan Dempsey (UKOLN) that describes the common concerns of libraries, archival institutions and museums as they work together to address the issues the Fifth Framework Programme raises. Published in Ariadne (http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/) on December 1999.
http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue22/dempsey/

Exploit Interactive issue 5

Exploit Interactive n. 5 features information on projects from Telematics for Libraries and the broader community including the ELVIL, HERCULE, MALVINE and CANDLE projects. It also features an article on digital libraries by Neil Smith (Fretwell-Downing Informatics) and another on performance indicators for web sites by Brian Kelly (UKOLN).
http://www.exploit-lib.org/

Telematics for Libraries Impact study

The final report of the impact study of the Telematics for Libraries Programme under FP4 is now available. A total of 49 projects (including accompanying measures) were financially supported under this programme, receiving 29 Million Euro in total. This report provides an integrated presentation of results and related findings.
http://www.cordis.lu/libraries/en/gdlines.html

Convergence in the digital age

The proceedings of the seminar: *Convergence in the Challenges for Libraries, Museums and Archives*, that was organised by TNO and supported by the European Commission under the Telematics for Libraries Programme are now available on paper. Recognised experts presented the main issues around the convergence area which were then illustrated by presentation of projects.

Convergence in the digital age: challenges for libraries, museums and archives: proceedings of a seminar held in Amsterdam on 13-14 August 1998. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1999. ISBN: 92-828-8162-8. Price: EUR 22.
The electronic version of the proceedings can be found at:
http://www.cordis.lu/libraries/en/ifla/iflasem.html

EVA CLUSTER compendium

The EC funded EVA CLUSTER project has compiled *The Compendium of European Cultural Systems Research & Development Projects*. This aims to provide a useful resource for organisations and people interested in 'Culture & Technology'. It is particularly useful for those who are planning to carry out research and development under the Framework Programme or who are engaged in completing/ disseminating/exploiting the results of a Fourth Framework Project. www.vasari.co.uk

EBLIDA NEW SECRETARY

Teresa Hackett has been appointed the new secretary of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA). Previously, she worked for the British Council under which she was an expert for the EC DG Information Society. We welcome her in her new post. E-mail: eblida@nblc.nl

The Web sites Digicult moves to CORDIS

We have decided to move our web site to

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/

UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS !

Keep Your Contact Information Up To Date

Please submit any changes to your mailing address and/or email address by sending an email message to: digicult@cec.be

Become an Evaluator or Reviewer for Proposals and Projects

To be an evaluator or reviewer for the IST programme, you should submit your CV. Find all the information at:

http://www.cordis.lu/expert-candidature/

European Commission
DG Information Society
D-2 Cultural Heritage Applications
Rue Robert Stumper, 10
L-2557 Gasperich, Luxembourg
E-mail: digicult@cec.be

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/home.html

LEGAL NOTICE

OUR TEAM

Bernard Smith, Head of Unit
Bernard.Smith@cec.eu.int

Axel Szauer, Deputy Head of Unit
Axel.Szauer@cec.eu.int

Jan Hoorens, Principal Administrator
Jan.Hoorens@cec.eu.int

Pat Manson, Project Officer
Patricia.Manson@cec.eu.int

Ian Pigott, Project Officer
Ian.Pigott@cec.eu.int

Claude Poliart, Project Officer
Claude.Poliart@cec.eu.int

Mikaela Farr-David, administration on contracts and payments
Mikaela.Farr-David@cec.eu.int

Concha Fernández de la Puente, information and communication officer
concha.fpuente@cec.eu.int

Jean Goederich, exhibitions and projects
Jean.Goederich@cec.eu.int

Friso Visser, expert
Friso.Visser@cec.eu.int

Bernard Aubert, Archives
Bernard.Aubert@cec.eu.int

Rachid Bouglime, Secretary for information and communication
Rachid.Bouglime@cec.eu.int

Nathalie Carollo, Secretary to B. Smith
Nathalie.Carollo@cec.eu.int

Patricia Cocco, Secretary for cost statements
Patricia.Cocco@cec.eu.int

Virginie Feld, Secretary for cost statements
Virginie.Feld@cec.eu.int

Virginie Iallonardo, Secretary to project officers
Virginie.Iallonardo@cec.eu.int

Dominique Ombredane, Secretary for contracts and financial control
Dominique.Ombredane@cec.eu.int

Doris Saint-Remy, Secretary to Axel Szauer
Doris.Saint-Remy@cec.eu.int

FIND NOW THIS NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB AT:

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/newsletter.html