

# MIDAS –

Moving Image Database for  
Access and Re-Use of  
European Film Collections



MEDIA Plus  
pilot project



*Cinema Experts Group  
Sub-group archives  
Brussels, 9 June 2008*

Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V.  
Georg Eckes



- Pilot project funded by the MEDIA Plus programme
- Initiated by ACE in 2005
- Project started in January 2006
- Simplify often time-consuming and difficult process of locating film material in European archives
- Making accessible parts of archival catalogues from diverse film institutions via a single web portal
- [filmarchives-online.eu](http://filmarchives-online.eu)
- Live since February 2007

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## **Rationale for archives**

- Generate more requests for licenses, promote under-used content
- Reduce archives' efforts at answering vague user requests
- Promote collections abroad through international & multi-lingual platform

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## **MIDAS I: 5 initial partners**

- Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V. (co-ordinator)
- British Film Institute
- Czech Film Archive (Narodní Filmový Archiv)
- Cineteca di Bologna
- DEFA Foundation

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## **MIDAS II&III: 13 new partners**

- Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique (Brussels)
- Cineteca del Friuli (Gemona)
- Deutsche Kinemathek (Berlin)
- Fondazione Cineteca Italiana (Milan)
- IWF Knowledge and Media (Göttingen)
- LICHTSPIEL-Kinemathek Bern
- Hungarian Film Archive (Budapest)
- Nederlands Filmmuseum (Amsterdam)
- Norsk filminstitutt (Oslo)
- Slovenska Kinoteka (Ljubljana)
- Greek Film Archive (Athens)
- Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv (Berlin)
- Lithuanian Central State Archive (Vilnius)

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## **[www.filmarchives-online.eu](http://www.filmarchives-online.eu)**

- Website currently available in **7** languages
- Focus on non-fiction material: documentary and educational film, newsreels, travelogues, commercial advertising, scientific, industrial, experimental, sports etc.
- Research tool specifically aimed at professional users interested in re-using material

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## **www.filmarchives-online.eu**

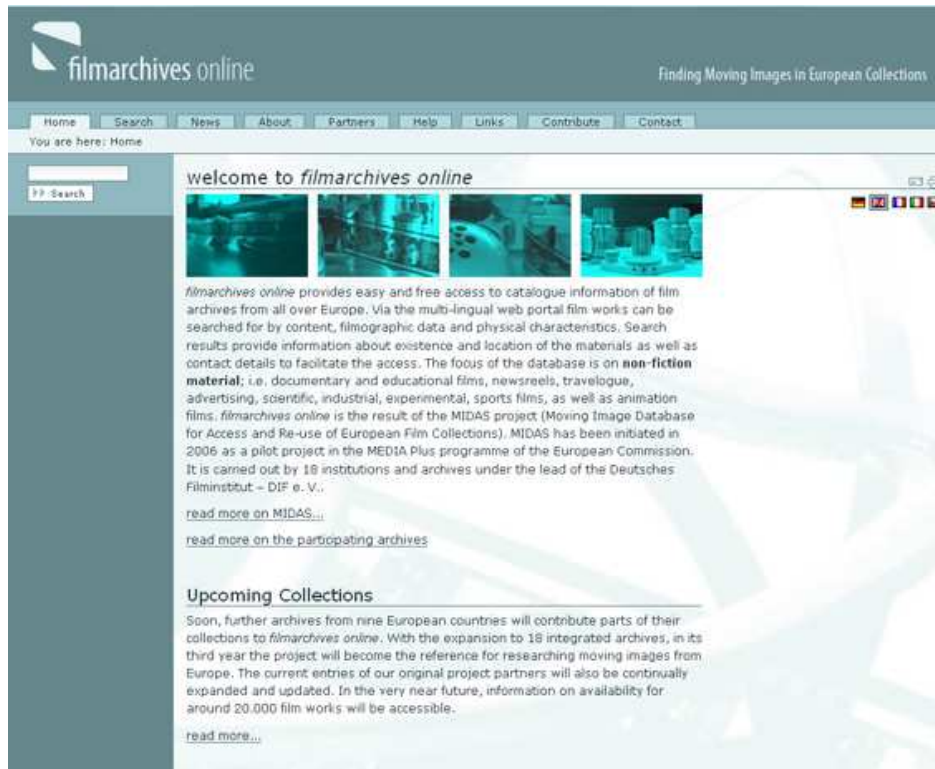
- Catalogues from 9 archives integrated by now, next two weeks: 3 more
- Remaining 6 to come until end of 2008
- 10.000 film works with 16.000 copies in common catalogue (May 2008)
- 10.000 content descriptions (4.800 in English)
- Contact information about where to retrieve print (no attempt made at data warehousing)

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## **www.filmarchives-online.eu: usage**

- March 2007 – March 2008: 45.000 visits
- July 2007 – March 2008: ca. 100.000 queries submitted to database
- Currently ca. 6.000 visits per month
- Requests for film/footage re-use by broadcasters after filmarchives online research

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## Search catalogues

- Search titles, content descriptions, persons, keywords, places, production companies
- Refine search by physical characteristics (format, sound, colour, carrier material, etc)
- Search results provide information about location of the materials and – if available – copyright information.
- *filmarchives online* provides contact information to facilitate access to holding organisations

Screenshot: Advanced Search Screen

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Screenshot: Search results list

Title	Country	Year of origin	Copies
Ein Haus für Kinder	German Democratic Republic	1980	1
La casa a 4 dimensioni	Italy	1977	1
Do You Know of That Little House by the Lake?	Czech Republic	1929	1
The House of Lost Happiness	Czech Republic	1927	1
Piparkakkutalo	Finland	2006	3
La casa di zi' 'Ndonie	Italy	1984	1
Die Kinder vom Oberlinhaus		1991	1
Unter Denkmalschutz. Lebensbeschreibungen aus einem Frankfurter Bürgerhaus	Germany	1974/1975	1
Reihenhaus Typ 1927	Germany	19-?	1
Männer reden über Dallmayr	Germany	196-	1

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### Screenshot: Detailed Search Result Screen

**Details** ← Back to Search Results

Ludovisi [Original Title] 🇮🇹 🇩🇪 🇬🇧

Country of Origin: **Italy**  
 Year of origin: **1963**  
 Genre: **Documentary**  
 Locations of shooting: **Viterbo (Lazio, Italia)**

**Credits**  
 REGIA\_C: **Casadio, Aglauco**  
 Production company: **Corona Cinematografica**  
 Fotografia: **Vulpiani, Mario**  
 Musica: **Brugnolini, Sandro**

Content: **ita** **eng**

The painter Felice Ludovisi lives and works in an old estate in the province of Viterbo; he is one of the masters of the Italian school of expressionism. In this documentary his personality is examined through a collection of his paintings of landscapes, figures and seasons, all captured in the wild world that suited him so well.

**CCB**

**Version 1**

Language:	<b>ita</b>	Sound:	<b>Sound film</b>
Colour:	<b>Colour</b>	Aspect:	<b>1:1,37</b>
Format:	<b>35 mm</b>	Duration:	<b>10 min</b>
Original Length:	<b>275</b>		

» Complete Film	
Length	275
Copy Type	Positive
Base	Acetate
Copyright Information	Cineteca di Bologna

 **Request Copy**

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## MIDAS: Experiences

- Integrating various catalogues with heterogenous data structures is NOT trivial
- A truly consolidated filmographic database can only be achieved with (a) minimum standards for data structure and semantics and (b) extensive – and expensive – intellectual work by cataloguers
- Project's future: Difficult decision between research tool and marketing/sales facility; both commercial and non-commercial archives in consortium

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## Outlook

By the end of 2008 filmarchives online will feature:

- At least 18 different catalogues
- Information on around 23.000 film works
- Search for films that can be licensed
- Upload and display of screenshots
- Structured XML export **from** MIDAS and transformation utilities into other common formats (MARC, Dublin Core)

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## Contributing to filmarchives online

- MIDAS is open to new contributors
- Hurry up: MEDIA funding only until January
- Requirements for contributors:
  - films at least available for loan or local viewing
  - Emphasis on content that can be licensed: Rights should be owned by archive or archive should be in a position to clear exploitation rights quickly
  - Focus on non-fiction, respectively suitable for re-use by the media industry
  - Availability of a contact person for requests
  - Content descriptions translated into English

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**Thank you**



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