

Europeana

Our cultural heritage at the click of a mouse



Europeana, Europe's multimedia online library allows Internet users to access more than two million books, maps, recordings, photographs, archival documents, paintings and films from national libraries and cultural institutions of the EU's 27 Member States. Europeana opens up new ways of exploring Europe's heritage by giving free and fast access to Europe's greatest collections and masterpieces in a single virtual library through a web portal available in all EU languages. Europeana can be accessed at [Europeana - Connecting Cultural Heritage](#)

What is Europeana?

Europeana is Europe's online multimedia library. It makes it possible to search and browse the digitised collections of Europe's libraries, archives and museums all at once. This means users can explore themes without searching for and visiting multiple sites and resources.

How was it made possible?

Over 1,000 cultural organisations from across Europe have provided materials for Europeana. Europe's museums, including the Louvre in Paris and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, have supplied digitised paintings and objects from their collections. State archives have made important national documents available. National libraries all over Europe have contributed printed and manuscript material, including digitised copies of the great books that brought new ideas into the world.

What is the Commission's role?

The digital libraries initiative is a flagship project of the Commission's overall strategy to boost the digital economy. The Commission has stimulated the work of the cultural institutions to set up Europeana.

It contributes by funding projects that helps to bring Europe's cultural heritage online and preserve it for future generations. The Commission also works together with the Member States in order to strengthen their digitisation policies and has brought cultural institutions, rightholders and technology firms together to find a way forward to bring copyrighted material into Europeana.

What's next?

The content accessible through Europeana will grow over the coming years. In 2010 the number of objects searchable through the site will reach more than 10 million objects. Private content holders will also be encouraged to contribute. Multilingual functions and Web 2.0 features will be strengthened in the coming years

It is essential that Member States step up their financial and organisational efforts to make the digitisation of their cultural heritage happen. Common solutions must be found for copyright issues and for strategies to be put in place to assure digital preservation of Europe's heritage.

To foster Europeana's development in 2009-2010 around € 69 million will be available for research on digital libraries through the EU's research programme. In the same period the Information society part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme will allocate around € 50 million to improve access to Europe's cultural and scientific heritage.



Further information:

Europeana:

[Europeana - Connecting Cultural Heritage](#)

European Information Society Portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/

European Commission - Information Society and Media DG:

[Information Society and Media DG: Shaping Europe's Digital Future | Europa](#)

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