



# MINERVA:

how can the network assist local institutions?



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# EU Projects

- MLA currently partner in
  - MINERVA
    - networking on Ministries and their representatives
  - CALIMERA
    - supporting smaller institutions
  - BRICKS
    - research project – digital library for cultural sector
  - MICHAEL
    - cultural sector portal



# eEurope Action Plan 2002

- Objective 3D. eContent – “European digital content for global networks”
  - 56. Launch a programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote the linguistic diversity in the information society, including action to support exploitation of public sector information
  - 57. Create a co-ordination mechanism for digitisation programmes across Member States



# Lund Principles

- identified the importance of cultural and scientific heritage
- issues to be addressed
  - fragmented approach
  - digital preservation
  - IPR
  - lack of synergy between cultural and technology programmes
  - institutional commitment





# MINERVA

- Ministerial Network for Valorising Activities in Digitisation
  - led by Italy
  - now partnership of all 25 Member States
  - tackling the Lund Action Plan
  - supporting the National Representatives Group



Digitising Content Together





# MINERVA Project

- benchmarking
- interoperability
- quality frameworks
- identification of good practice
- inventories of projects
- strategic impact and enlargement



# Benchmarking



# Benchmarking

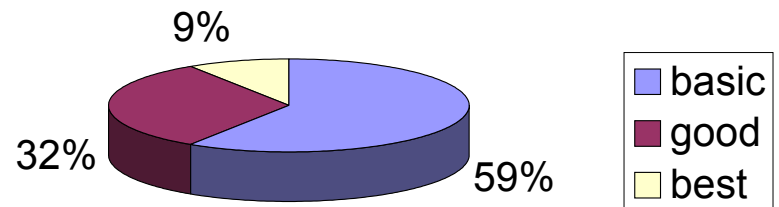
- self-assessment online questionnaire
- 24 questions
  - management
  - funding
  - technical / content issues
  - human resources
  - services / impact
  - priorities



## Digital Preservation

*Digital Preservation is ensured*

Only 9% of initiatives have digital preservation fully integrated into the digitisation process, and this tends to be where the academic sector is providing a nascent digital preservation service, often whilst awaiting the solution to a range of technical issues. This indicates the scale of the problem, and the urgent need for research in the area to enable the creation of digital preservation services.

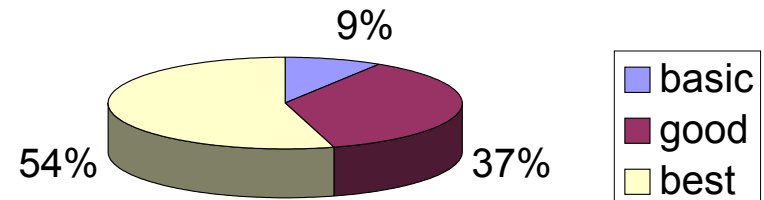




## Technical standards

*Technical and content standards or guidelines have been used to ensure interoperability*

Over half of all initiatives have mandated technical standards and guidelines. This is an impressive total, and demonstrates that there is a real need to bring together those mandated standards and guidelines as an agreed foundation for the creation of interoperable services.





# Interoperability



# Technical Guidelines

- developed from existing best practice
  - NOF-digitise programme, PULMAN, ERPANET and EMII-DCF Eu projects
- coherent set of guidelines being implemented by funding programmes in England, Greece, Italy, France, Netherlands, Israel and Sweden



# Example - images

- capture
  - photographic prints - TIFF format, 600 dpi, 24-bit colour
- web presentation
  - thumbnails – 72 dpi, 24-bit colour, 100 – 200 pixels for longest side
  - full-screen presentation – 150 dpi, 24-bit colour, maximum of 600 pixels
    - lower quality than required for print reproduction



**Image Type**

**Technical information**

**Typical uses**

**Licence conditions**

Thumbnail

- JPG
- 72 dpi
- 24-bit colour or 8-bit greyscale
- 120 pixels for the longest dimension

*educational:*  
inclusion in a montage

*commercial:*  
none

- Attribution
- Non-commercial,
- No derivative works



Low resolution

- JPG
- 150 dpi
- 24-bit colour or 8-bit greyscale
- maximum of 600 pixels for the longest dimension

*educational:*  
use in a presentation or essay

*commercial:*  
image selection and initial layout, potential for licencing for use on websites and in presentations

- Attribution
- Non-commercial
- No derivate works



High resolution

- TIFF
- 600 dpi
- 24-bit colour or 8-bit greyscale

*educational:*  
viewing details, archival copy

*commercial:*  
multimedia production, print reproduction, broadcasting

- Copyright





# Good Practices



# Good Practice Guidelines

- project planning and management
- selection of materials
- preparation and handling of originals
- capture
- digital preservation
- metadata
- publication
- IPR and copyright



# Quality



## A quality website must:

- be transparent, clearly stating the identity and purpose of the website, as well as the organisation responsible for its management
- select, digitise, author, present and validate content to create an effective website for users
- implement quality of service policy guidelines to ensure that the website is maintained and updated at an appropriate level
- be accessible to all users, irrespective of the technology they use or their disabilities, including navigation, content, and interactive elements
- be user-centred, taking into account the needs of users, ensuring relevance and ease of use through responding to evaluation and feedback
- be responsive, enabling users to contact the site and receive an appropriate reply. Where appropriate, encourage questions, information sharing and discussions with and between users.
- be aware of the importance of multi-linguality by providing a minimum level of access in more than one language
- be committed to being interoperable within cultural networks to enable users to easily locate the content and services that meet their needs
- be managed to respect legal issues such as IPR and privacy and clearly state the terms and conditions on which the website and its contents may be used
- adopt strategies and standards to ensure that the website and its content can be preserved for the long-term



**transparent • effective • maintained • accessible  
user-centred • responsive • multi-lingual  
interoperable • managed • preserved**



# Why does quality matter?

*“A pupil searching for information about the Reformation may select information found on a website with a .org or .gov suffix because it is likely to be more reliable”*

*KS3 National Strategy: ICT across the curriculum: History  
Department for Education and Skills, 2004*

- what about
  - .ac.uk .museum .edu .it .dk .pl ???
- people trust museums, libraries and archives
- how do we show people they can trust our sites?



# Inventories



[www.michael-culture.org](http://www.michael-culture.org)



The MICHAEL Project is funded under the  
European Commission eTEN Programme

# The Project



- inventory of digital projects
  - complement to existing projects
    - Cornucopia – physical collections
    - 24 Hour Museum – news and events
  - open source, open standards (OAI)
  - EU cultural heritage portal
  - based on methodology developed within MINERVA
- MLA with Culture Ministry of France and Italy
  - open to all other EU countries
- customisable for regions / themes
- building on existing investment by Member States 
  - eTen supports deployment of research results



# Strategic Impact and Enlargement



# EU National Representatives Group

- co-ordination of national digitisation policies
  - nominated by Culture Ministry
- meet every six months under the Presidency
- UK Presidency in July 2005
  - to be held in Bristol
- working on new Action Plan for Cultural Affairs Committee





# Outcomes

- good practice guide
- technical guidelines
- quality principles handbook
- inventory - MICHAEL
- strategic development



[www.minervaeurope.org](http://www.minervaeurope.org)