EuropeanaConnect

Franco Crivellari, Graziano Deambrosis, Giorgio Maria Di Nunzio,
Marco Dussin, and Nicola Ferro

Department of Information Engineering – University of Padua, Italy
`{crive, deambros, dinunzio, dussinma, ferro}@dei.unipd.it`

Abstract. EuropeanaConnect delivers core components which are essential for the realisation of the European Digital Library (Europeana) as a truly interoperable, multilingual and user-oriented service for all European citizens.

1 Introduction and Motivation

EuropeanaConnect[1] solves key operational issues related to the implementation and functioning of Europeana. Furthermore, stakeholders, including users, will continue to be involved in creation of the operational Europeana and informed how they can contribute and access content in building and maintaining the operational service.

EuropeanaConnect delivers highly scalable, crucial infrastructure components which will enable Europeana to integrate, manage, make interoperable, persist and make available via innovative access channels a vast amount of digital content from libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual collections from across Europe. In addition EuropeanaConnect integrates key added-value services into Europeana which significantly enhance its usability and functionality.

EuropeanaConnect is a best practice network, under the eContentPlus program (contract n. ECP-2008-DILI-528001), which lasts from may 2009 to October 2011 and involves more than 30 partners around Europe among research institutions, content providers, and industrial stakeholders.

2 Contribution by Italian Research Community

While the need for multilingual access to multinational and multicultural information systems is undoubted, few truly operational systems exist and can serve as examples. Several projects have done extensive studies on user needs and requirements for features for information system access, but few have paid specific attention to multilingual issues.

EuropeanaConnect implements the solutions which are needed to provide true multilingual access to the content of Europeana. All content in Europeana

---

[1] `http://europeanaconnect.eu/`

is described and accessible through its metadata descriptions, which are standardised, but generally not multilingual. EuropeanaConnect will build translation modules that will process queries and surrogate descriptions (object data) and produce a suitable multilingual representation for the user. This will allow Europeana information and objects to be searched and presented independent of the language of both the searcher and the object descriptions. In other words EuropeanaConnect will enable users to find relevant content in Europeana even if it is not described in their native or preferred language.

The development of multilingual functionalities has been accompanied by user studies and surveys [1] which investigated expectations and needs of the users with respect to multilinguality and query translation features, as well as their capabilities and experience in this settings.

The development and deployment process receive constant feedback through user testing and evaluation. To this end, the developed components have been thoroughly evaluated by using the standard Ad-hoc TEL collections 2008 and 2009 [2,3], developed by the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum, and exploiting the DIRECT system for managing the experimental results [4], as made available by the PROMISE[2] network of excellence [5].

References

1. Agosti, M., Crivellari, F., Deambrosis, G., Ferro, N., Gäde, M., Petras, V., Stiller, J.: Deliverable D2.1.1 – Report on User Preferences for Multilingual Access in Europeana. EuropeanaConnect, EU eContentPlus, Contract N. ECP-2008-DILI-528001. http://www.europeanaconnect.eu/ (2009)
2. Agirre, E., Di Nunzio, G.M., Ferro, N., Mandl, T., Peters, C.: CLEF 2008: Ad Hoc Track Overview. In Peters, C., Deselaers, T., Ferro, N., Gonzalo, J., Jones, G.J.F., Kurimo, M., Mandl, T., Peñas, A., eds.: Evaluating Systems for Multilingual and Multimodal Information Access: Ninth Workshop of the Cross–Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF 2008). Revised Selected Papers, Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) 5706, Springer, Heidelberg, Germany (2009) 15–37
3. Ferro, N., Peters, C.: CLEF 2009 Ad Hoc Track Overview: TEL & Persian Tasks. In Peters, C., Di Nunzio, G.M., Kurimo, M., Mandl, T., Mostefa, D., Peñas, A., Roda, G., eds.: Multilingual Information Access Evaluation Vol. I Text Retrieval Experiments – Tenth Workshop of the Cross–Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF 2009). Revised Selected Papers, Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) 6241, Springer, Heidelberg, Germany (2010) 13–35
4. Agosti, M., Ferro, N.: Towards an Evaluation Infrastructure for DL Performance Evaluation. In Tsakonas, G., Papatheodorou, C., eds.: Evaluation of Digital Libraries: An insight into useful applications and methods, Chandos Publishing, Oxford, UK (2009) 93–120
5. Ferro, N.: PROMISE: Advancing the Evaluation of Multilingual and Multimedia Information Systems. ERCIM News **84** (2011) 49

---

[2] http://www.promise-noe.eu/