

# Monitoring digitisation of cultural materials in the European memory institutions

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Transformation as Stability: Audiovisual Archives in the Era of New Media,

25 September 2008, Tartu

**N**umeric Study - Statistical  
assessment of the digitisation of  
Europe's cultural heritage

**N**umeric 

# Outline

- Context
- Introduction of NUMERIC project
- Research under NUMERIC project
- Framework for collecting data on digitisation
- Conclusions



# Monitoring digitisation: needs & context

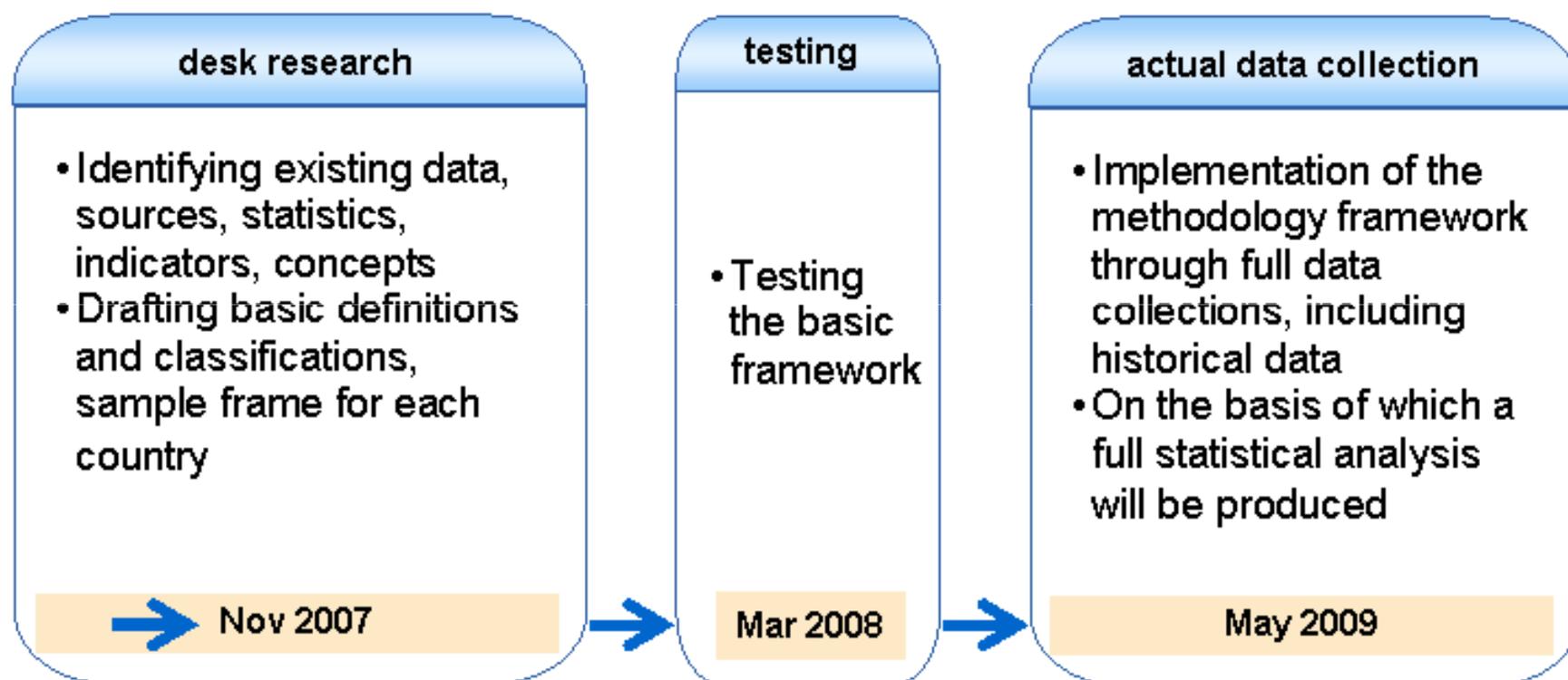
- Large-scale digitisation projects:
  - Political significance of digitisation
  - Large partnership networks
  - Significant national & international investments
- The European context:
  - i2010 Digital Libraries (2005)
  - Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation (2006)
  - Council Conclusions (2006)

# NUMERIC project

- NUMERIC (May 2007–May 2009)  
<http://www.numeric.ws/>
- Objectives:
- To define the empirical measures for digitisation activities
- To establish the current investment in digitisation and the progress being made by Europe's cultural institutions



# Implementation



# Desk research & testing

- Aim: to identify data sources, compile a first dataset, look at relevant methodologies and indicators, test assumptions
- Actions:
  - Evaluation of previous digitisation surveys
  - Consultation with stakeholders & pathfinder questionnaire
  - Establishing a foundation database



# Research of previous surveys: findings

- Survey should not be the only option to collect the data
- Institutions – provide a space for multipurpose institutions (type of collections)
- Reconcile top-down & bottom-up perspectives
- Necessity of simple uniform framework for accounting costs
- The need for standard digitisation output measures
- Ambiguous differentiation of digitisation objectives should be avoided
- Usage information is crucial



# Consultation with stakeholders & pathfinder questionnaire: results

- Consultation:
  - A link between investment in digitisation and benefits to users should be established
  - Hard facts informing policy decisions are crucial
- Pathfinder questionnaire:
  - Cost information: quantitative & qualitative data combined
  - Input/output measures: consider institution data collection practices
  - Goals: distinction between access/preservation has no statistical relevance

# Foundation database

http://www.numeric.ws/uploaded\_files/Numeric\_Foundation\_Dec07312008214519.xls - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.numeric.ws/uploaded\_files/Numeric\_Foundation\_Dec07312008214519.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Go To Favorites Help

http://www.numeric.ws/uploaded\_files/Numeric\_Foun...

B29

Nota bene: All data are **estimates**, based on primary source information.

↓ Scroll-Down to show more data ↓

Click on the blue box, and select country

EU27 = European Union = Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom.

Primary source:	France	France	EU27
	<i>(excludes school and some other libraries)</i>		
Numeric	Total Revenue Expenditure of these Domains in e Millions	1,734	12,319
Numeric	Total Staff FTE	21,861	220,664
Numeric	Total Number of "Relevant" Institutions	3,048	45,930
<b>Archives - Source ERICARTS</b>			
ERICARTS	Archives €	91,231,247	663,688,002
ERICARTS	Digitisation €	9,748,421	76,399,063
Numeric	Staff FTE	2,213	18,871
Numeric	Number of archives	90	766
Numeric	Length of archive holdings km	160	1,406
<b>Museums Data - Source EGMUS</b>			

Unknown Zone

Objective: to complement incomplete survey results by compiling information on the universe of cultural heritage institutions



# Survey design

- Collaboration with national representatives
- Development of relevant sample of institutions
- Questionnaire (generic & monuments):
  - Context
  - Standards
  - Activity
  - Projects
  - Comments



# Conclusions

- NUMERIC survey stage – data collection
- Future of monitoring digitisation – data collection by international organizations
- Importance of involvement of national institutions & governments



# Thank you for attention!

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