

POZNAŃ SUPERCOMPUTING AND NETWORKING CENTER



Access IT e-Learning courses – overview
of an educational offering dedicated for
small memory institutions

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About PSNC

- Established in 1993
- Affiliated by the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Currently 5 divisions and over 200 employees
- High performance computing (HPC) center
- Center for security of computer networks and systems
- Poznań city network operator (POZMAN)
- Operator of the Polish Optical Internet -PIONIER network

About PSNC (2)

- Research and development center in:
 - Next generation networks
 - Grid systems and high performance computing
 - Portals and content management systems
 - PSNC Network Services Department
 - Digital Libraries Team
 - <http://dl.psnc.pl/>



Introduction

„The aim of the Access IT (<http://access-it.org>) project is to help small memory institutions to develop their digital libraries and connect them to Europeana”

- To achieve this we have developed two online courses:
 - “Digital repositories for small memory institutions”
 - “Cooperation with Europeana”

Agenda

- Basic assumptions behind the development of the e-Learning courses
- Some statistics about courses content
- Overview of “Digital repositories for small memory institutions” content
- Overview of “Cooperation with Europeana” content
- Online demo of eLearning platform
- Closing remarks

Basic assumptions

- For whom is this course?
 - Term “Small memory institutions” is very broad
 - The entry knowledge level may be different
 - Looking for the common denominator
- In February 2010 together with our partners we have prepared a three days workshop in Veria

Basic assumptions (2)

- During those three days we have delivered a series of lectures, covering issues related to:
 - Digitisation best practices
 - Metadata creation
 - Creation and maintenance of digital repositories
 - Metadata aggregation
 - Cooperation with Europeana and other services
 - ...

Basic assumptions (3)

- During and after the workshop we have obtained a rich feedback from participants
- This gave us a little bit more insight into informational needs of institutions in Turkey, Serbia and Greece
- On top of this we have formulated our basic assumptions

Basic assumptions (4)

- Course should be:
 - Practical – only necessary theory illustrated with practical examples
 - Non-technical - it is for librarians, not for programmers
- Simple recipes for complex problems?
 - Not always possible

Availability of the courses

- Reference instance of the e-Learning platform is available at: <http://dl.psnc.pl/moodle/>
- Courses can be used by other institutions under the terms of **Creative Commons BY-SA-NC** license
- Courses are based on Moodle software - renowned and free eLearning platform

How can I participate in the course?

- There will be a separate instance (copy) of e-Learning platform for Serbia, Greece and Turkey
 - Adaptation of courses content to local conditions
 - Gathering local community in one place
- Serbian instance already available at:
<http://e-ucionica.nb.rs/moodle/>

Some statistics

- 40 Moodle modules (lessons and articles)
- More than 200 questions in 12 quizzes
- Not only text but also images and audio-visual materials

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- It consists of 9 topics divided in 27 modules
- By the end of each topic there is a quiz
- Course participants should have basic knowledge about computers and Internet
- During the course you will learn how to:
 - Organise digitisation workflow
 - Digitise various cultural heritage objects
 - Describe objects in order to make them more accessible

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- During the course you will learn how to:
 - Prepare digital content for web delivery
 - Get access to digital library - is it necessary to create DL on you own?
 - Promote your objects in the Internet
 - Assure objects availability in long term
 - Evaluate usability and accessibility of digital library website
 - Cooperate with other portals i.e. Europeana

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
 - Perform graphical post-processing of the images
 - Scan and deliver large images over the network using Zoomify and Google Maps image cutter
 - Easily convert images using tools like Irfanview and GIMP
 - Capture text from images in order to get searchable representation of text

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
 - Create PDF and DjVu documents for web delivery of textual content
 - Prepare audio and video material for online presentation using tools like Audacity, VirtualDub
 - Convert audio files between various formats
 - Publish digital audio-visual content in digital library

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
 - Create and publish panorama images
 - Digitise and deliver image-based presentations of sculptures and other exhibits

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- In the course there practical how-to's showing ways to:
 - Publish digital objects using DSpace, Greenstone and dLibra
 - Evaluate usability and accessibility of the digital library website
 - Monitor usage of your digital library

Digital Repositories for small memory institutions

- Things which are not in the course:
 - How to install, configure and customize digital library software
- Too many technical problems potentially involved – too technical issue.
- In case of problems with this kind of things use Access It mailing list.

Cooperation with Europeana

- It is much shorter it consist of 3 topics divided into 13 modules
- By the end of each topic there is a quiz
- Course participants should have knowledge necessary to create and maintain a digital library
 - These includes some technical and information management skills.

Cooperation with Europeana

- During the course you will learn:
 - What is Europeana
 - Why and how it was built
 - Is it worth to cooperate with Europeana
 - What benefits Europeana offers to end-users
 - What is metadata aggregation and why it is so important
 - Basics of Europeana Semantic Elements

Cooperation with Europeana

- During the course you will learn:
 - How to normalize and convert your metadata to Europeana Semantic Elements
 - How to pass your resources to Europeana
- Course features also a few additional modules which gives more insight into:
 - Some more advanced issues related to metadata aggregation
 - Europeana related projects and political background

Cooperation with Europeana

- Things which are not in the course:
 - Setting up a metadata aggregator
- In case of problems with this kind of things take a look at list of aggregation software presented in **“What should I do when there is no aggregator near me?”**
- As far as we know this is quite unique initiative – no similar courses available.

Additional resources

- Access IT - resource database:
 - <http://dl.psnc.pl/moodle/mod/data/view.php?id=130>
 - Links to over 80 resources which were used during the development of the course
- Slides from Veria workshop
 - <http://dl.psnc.pl/biblioteka/publication/286>
- Access IT mailing list
 - <http://groups.google.com/group/access-it>
 - In case of any technical questions or feedback regarding course content



Online demo

Closing remarks

- Courses were reviewed by Polish experts and obtained good marks
- We are waiting for your feedback

Questions?

- Adam Dudczak
 - maneo@man.poznan.pl
- Access IT mailing list
 - <http://groups.google.com/group/access-it>

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Thank you for your
attention!

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