1 What is Kosmopolis?

1.1 Project description

“Kosmopolis” is a digital collection of twenty (20) Greek periodicals from the mid-19th up to the beginning of the 20th century. “Kosmopolis” is being implemented by the Library and Information Service, University of Patras (UoP) under the project title “Digitalization and presentation of the periodicals in the Greek language”. The project partners are the Department of Literature (DoL), UoP and the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archives (both known as ELIA), Athens.

The basic objectives of “Kosmopolis” are to:

- to extend the public and scientific community across to rare and valuable material,
- to enrich the digital content in Greek language,
- to contribute to the preservation efforts of historical and valuable content,
- to create and promote new research challenges in Greek literature history through the scientific processing of the digital content and
- to create and to develop new digitization practices in the Greek informational landscape, through methodological and standardized processing of the digital content.

1.2 Collection description

The collection consists of more than 85,000 pages. The first issue of the collection was published in 1854 (Ioni Anthologia). The last issue was published in 1931 (Nea Zoi). All periodicals focus on humanities and specifically on literature, sociology, philosophy and literature. Apart from these (3) periodicals are available, a sum of more than 9,000 pages. A considerable number of others are under processing. A complete and detailed list of the periodicals is presented in Table 1.

The content is mainly textual, but as in any periodicals the texts are accompanied by pictures, photographs and other forms of images. The periodicals have two different kinds of folding, which are rare and hard to be translated, because their full set is dispersed in public and private libraries in different areas in Greece. Researchers will encounter problems of travelling time and costs, while when they finally locate the material they are cannot reproduce it for further studying. ELIA is holding complete series of these periodicals, being one of the most distinguished agents for the preservation of Greek literature and press.

Good physical state for convenient digitization. “Kosmopolis” aims to be a long-term project. It is planned in a flexible form in order to extend its further development while the formal temporal limitations. A serious concern of the developing team is the transition to html format, through optical character recognition. Thus it was decided to select journals in good physical condition that would be easily and quickly digitized, in order to minimize the scanning time and that would support a high contrast scanning for a later OCR transition stage.

The prominent role they play in the Greek periodical literature of the 19th century. Apart from their historical and cultural value, all twenty periodicals are of vital importance for research and educational purposes in Greek literature. “Kosmopolis” aims to be the publishing vehicle of an underestimated, yet important, part of the Greek literature and periodical in Greece. “Kosmopolis” compares the different backgrounds and attempts to resolve the needs of each periodical, such as the preserve the cultural heritage that it is expressed through ELIA, the research and educational needs of Greek Literature. Under such considerations, it is considered of utmost importance the digitalization and quality digital collections to the interested user community for LIS.

2 Periodical selection criteria

As in several other digitization projects, “Kosmopolis” was governed by a methodological approach concerning the selection of the periodicals that should be digitized. The criterion for the selection was shared between the ELIA and the DoL teams. The criteria applied were the following:

- Good physical state for convenient digitization.
- “Kosmopolis” aims to be a long-term project. It is planned in a flexible form in order to extend its further development while the formal temporal limitations.
- A serious concern of the developing team is the transition to html format, through optical character recognition. Thus it was decided to select journals in good physical condition that would be easily and quickly digitized, in order to minimize the scanning time and that would support a high contrast scanning for a later OCR transition stage.
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3 Cooperation framework

The DoL team is separating the stored images and place them in their relative directory, which is structured by periodical title, volume and issue. The next step is the cataloguing of the material in raw format (txt). Each periodical is assigned to a simple .txt template, according to the metadata that are required.

The metadata are imported in the SQL database with the support of an application, “Kosmopolis Editor”. The issue with the addition of a short set of metadata, namely article title name and page number.

The data in the SQL database can be edited with the help of another application, “Kosmopolis Editor”.

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3.1. Administration tools

The viewing area is presenting each page of the article. Above the browsing interface, there is an option to view the preview of all issues available for browsing. The user can return to the previous level, depending on the way that he retrieved the article. If retrieved by searching, the user may return to the results webpage and if retrieved by browsing he can return to the table of contents of the issue. The user can request a magnified version of the image and returns it in a 1:1 proportion copy. Finally, the user can request a PDF version of the full article for storing and printing purposes.

Final remarks

Kosmopolis“ is an OAI compliant collection and you access it through the URL http://telephaessa.lis.upatras.gr. At the current version doesn’t support bilingual web interaction, but an English version of the web interface is going to be implemented in the near future.

Acknowledgements

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