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
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
- ...
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/](http://dl.psnc.pl/moodle/)

• Courses can be used by other institutions under the terms of [Creative Commons BY-SA-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/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
• 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 consists 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 include 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:
  – Links to over 80 resources which were used during the development of the course

• Slides from Veria workshop

• 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
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• Access IT mailing list
  – http://groups.google.com/group/access-it
Thank you for your attention!

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