ACCESS TO CULTURAL HERITAGE DATA
A challenge for Digital Humanities

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ACCESS TO CULTURAL HERITAGE (CH) DATA

▪ What is Cultural Heritage data?
  ▪ Digitized resources (scanned artifacts)
  ▪ Attached metadata
  ▪ Annotations
  ▪ Further enrichments

▪ Access to high quality Cultural Heritage data and metadata: condition for reliable computational research

▪ Problem: lack of institutional connection between local GLAM Institutions (e.g. Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums), infrastructures and research
INVOLVED ACTORS

Researchers

Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs)

Data Centers (at large)
REAL LIFE SITUATIONS
(BASED ON TRUE STORIES)

Use case 1:

A historian browses an archive catalog and finds interesting digitized documents he/she would like to reuse (create a digital edition).
- Find the information about reuse and the relevant contact point
- Make a first request...
Two months later...
Dear Sir/Madam,

Please specify your request...

Best regards

Archive
Four months later...
Sign the contract and send it back ... Now it's possible to reuse the data !!!
REAL LIFE SITUATIONS
(BASED ON TRUE STORIES)

Use case 2:

A researcher wants to access and reuse a dataset produced within IPERION-CH
WHAT IS IPERION-CH?

- European research project IPERION-CH (Integrated Platform for the European Research Infrastructure ON Cultural Heritage)
  - Establishing a unique European research infrastructure for restoration and conservation of Cultural Heritage
  - 19 facilities with their CH laboratories

How can a researcher access and reuse a dataset produced within IPERION-CH?

Digital Humanities 2017, McGill University, Montréal, 2017/08/09
Be aware that the dataset exists

Find how to contact the CHI laboratory

No formalized procedures to access the dataset
Access procedures... on a case-by-case basis

- “With the permission of the data owner”
- “None”
- “On invitation”
- “To be decided if relevant”
- “Upon request”
- “Contact me during opening hours”
- “On demand”
- “Personal request”
- “By contacting the researcher who is responsible for the research”
And no clear reuse conditions

Be aware that the dataset exists

Find how to contact the CHI laboratory

No formalized procedures to access the dataset

No clear reuse conditions
LOST IN TRANSACTION...

Duplicate
Republish
Quote
Disseminate
DESIGNING A SOLUTION:

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE DATA REUSE CHARTER
FACILITATING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE INVOLVED ACTORS

- Several supra-national infrastructures and projects involved in the CH domain (members of the **Steering Committee**):
  
  - ARCHIVES PORTALEUROPE Foundation
  - CLARIN: Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure
  - DARIAH-EU: Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities
  - E-RIHS.fr: European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science
  - Europeana: think culture
  - IPERION CH
  - PARTHENOS: Pooling Activities, Resources and Tools for Heritage E-research Networking, Optimization and Synergies

- Developing a common online environment: the **Cultural Data Reuse Charter**
WHAT IS A CHARTER?

Definition: “A charter is the grant of authority or rights, stating that the granter formally recognizes the prerogative of the recipient to exercise the rights specified.” (Wikipedia)

Etymology: c. 1200, from Old French chartre (12c.) "charter, letter, document, covenant," from Latin chartula/cartula, literally "little paper," diminutive of charta/carta "paper, document" (The Online Etymology Dictionary)
MISSION STATEMENT

The Steering Committee is currently working with six core principles:

- Reciprocity
- Interoperability
- Citability
- Trustworthiness
- Stewardship
- Openness
**Example: RECIPROCITY**

**Principle:** Both Cultural Heritage Institutions and Researchers agree to share content and knowledge equally with each other, making use of data centres and research infrastructures.

**Commitment:** A Cultural Heritage Institution grants Researchers and/or Research teams full access to both their digital and non-digital assets, for use in accordance with the rights statement attributed to them. Researchers and the institutions hosting their research data agree to offer to the originating CHI any output or enrichment of the source material.
TOWARDS A SHARED WEB PLATFORM

- Still in the design phase
- Technical requirements should allow users to:
  - Abide by the Mission Statement
  - Retrieve information on licensing, citation, reuse of specific datasets or of complete collections
  - Contact the person responsible for specific datasets more easily
  - Publish information on data sets manually as well as automatically
PUTTING THE USER AT THE CORE

- Survey launched towards **researchers** to learn more about their:
  - Behaviours/Practices
  - Goals
  - Good and bad experiences

- Workshops with **CHIs and data centers**
  - Technical constraints (data formats, storage, ...)
  - Differences between countries’ legal systems
  - Keeping in mind the variety of institutions (size, collections types, ...)
ACCESSING A DATASET WITH THE CHARTER

A dataset is identified by metadata

Contact

Access procedure

Reuse conditions

Citation model
ACCESSING A DATASET WITH THE CHARTER

A researcher finds a dataset

Reference metadata: contact + reuse conditions

She/he signs the charter

She/he is authorized to reuse the dataset

No waste of time! Immediate answers!! 😊
THE CHARTER IN A NUTSHELL

- Offers a practical **implementation of the best practices** for the Cultural Heritage Research, integrating not only data, but also actors
- Developed as a **complement to other existing initiatives** with similar goals (FAIR data, PARTHENOS guidelines, Europeana Data Model, rightsstatement): strong synergies
- Benefits from the **work done by IPERION-CH and E-RIHS** in terms of building the community of Cultural Heritage Research
- Integrated in a **long-term vision of Open Science and Open Access**-based high quality research on high quality data (DARIAH, CLARIN)
- Potential to **improve CHI and scholars work** on CH data.
STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS

We need your feedback! Please answer our survey on the Mission Statement:

https://sondages.inria.fr/index.php/593568/lang-en
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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