Introducing the CVCE digital toolbox: authoring tools to enable the reuse of historical objects

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Since its creation in 2002, the CVCE has been continuously developing and improving its multilingual ePublication model and research infrastructure in European integration studies. One component of the publication infrastructure is collections of publications (ePublications) describing themes and topics associated with the European integration process, as compiled by a researcher or team of researchers. The ePublications are themselves aggregations of diverse research objects (resources), including researcher-written contexts, historical documents, press articles, photographs, interactive diagrams and timelines as well as other multimedia material, each with a set of descriptive, publishable metadata and a unique and persistent identifier.

To add value to the existing ePublication platform and to meet the growing demand of users for new content, personalisation, collaboration and sharing, it is necessary to explore new approaches to develop useful research, teaching and learning tools. With the introduction of such tools we want to harness the productive power of external users in creating new content. We achieve this by opening up our data repository to enable the reuse of our unique resources to create new, aggregated publications. To date, the data repository of the CVCE gives access to more than 20,000 objects, both created by the CVCE as well as licensed from third parties. In particular, the rights of the third parties raise the additional challenge to ensure that newly created publications respect the intellectual property rights of the original owners. As the CVCE focuses on European Integration in a post world war II perspective, the majority of third party content is still copyrighted. It is with the creation of these digital tools that we hope to (1) enhance our collections of ePublications through the provision of user-curated content adding value to the European Research Infrastructure and (2) provide a platform for teachers and learners to engage with historical content within their curriculum.

In this demonstration we will present the digital toolbox www.cvce.eu/dtx a suite of authoring tools that enable users to select, organise, structure, annotate, author, share and publish different types of publications that reuse historical objects. The first part of the tool box was developed and released in Nov 2014. The *MyPublications* authoring tool facilitates users in the creation of ePublications that are personally curated collections of the many historical resources available on CVCE.eu alongside their own text, thoughts and ideas (Jones et al., 2015). The second tool which will be demonstrated, *MySearche*s is

a tool to organise and retrieve different searches made across the object repository which increases the findability of the resources. The third tool we will show in the demonstration (in prototype form) will be *MyQuiz*, using inspiration from the successful www.europaquiz.lu. This tool will provide the mechanism for creating multiple-choice quizzes reusing objects in a fun and engaging way.

During the demonstration session we will share our lessons learned with respect to both the development of these tools and our experiences in user acceptance and adoption. Furthermore, we wish to engage with the DH community to gather feedback on the tools themselves and to identify new or alternative use cases for the toolbox.

References

Jones, C.E., Lars, W., Genon, A., Reis, F., Allemand, F.,(2015) *Enabling personal authoring and narrative making: Sustainable resuse of digital objects for interactive teaching and learning tools*. Presentation: DH Benelux 2015, Antwerp, Belgium. [Online] http://dhbenelux.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/54.pdf