

**New**  
**Archives Portal Europe – Europeana**  
**content policy**

The Archives Portal Europe was established with two main goals: 1) to build one online access point to archival descriptions and digital objects from European archival institutions, and 2) to also act as an aggregator for Europeana for the European archives domain.

During the APENet (2009-2012) and APEx (2012-2015) projects the Archives Portal Europe team put a lot of effort in the interoperability between the Archives Portal Europe and Europeana systems and as a result of this the Archives Portal Europe's back-end – the Dashboard – has offered its users, the Institutions Managers from the participating content providers, from its first release in January 2011 onwards, the possibility to semi-automatically forward information on digital archival objects including links to these objects to Europeana. During the APENet project this was based on an automated apeEAD to ESE conversion and during the APEx project this ran on an automated apeEAD to EDM conversion.

However, despite the efforts of the Archives Portal Europe team, up till now there is still no regular flow of metadata from the Archives Portal Europe towards Europeana and this has two main reasons: 1) while funding the APENet and APEx projects the European Commission insisted on the Archives Portal Europe community to forward as much digital archival content to Europeana as possible, but given the amounts and the nature of the available digital archival content Europeana was very reluctant to take in everything, because it feared to be flooded with it, and 2) especially during the APEx project period it became clear that the Europeana system was technically not robust enough to take in the huge EDM datasets the Archives Portal Europe was providing, which often contained extra context information without links to digital objects that could only be dealt with via a smart hierarchical display of metadata and digital objects and that appeared to be too much of a challenge for the Europeana front-end.

Fortunately Europeana has recently recognised it has to focus more on quality than on quantity and has changed its policy accordingly and fortunately APEF is not depending on European Commission funding, so is not obliged to persuade every content provider to also forward content to Europeana anymore, nor to meet general targets when it comes to forwarding content to Europeana. So this is the perfect opportunity to set new rules and to finally get the Archives Portal Europe to Europeana aggregation going as a regular and reliable workflow.

The main principle for this will be to shift focus from quantity to quality and when defining the rules for that considering what kind of content we – Archives Portal Europe content providers willing to forward content to Europeana – are comfortable sharing with Europeana as well as what kind of content Europeana wants to receive from us, keeping the current technical limitations of Europeana's front- and back-end as well as their new content policies in mind.

When it comes to defining what kind of content we would like to forward to Europeana, a starting point could be the inventory of “treasures” from the archives domain which was added as Appendix A to the Description of Work of the APEx project and which accompanies this document.

From Europeana’s point of view it would be nice if we could align our assessment of what we would like to forward with the thematic channels Europeana’s front-end is focusing on the most, so the topics: 1914-1918, art, democracy, manuscripts, maps and drawings, literature, migration, music, poetry, photography.

Next we would have to think of the current technical limitations of the Europeana front- and back-end, which means we have to look for content which will lead to small EDM datasets, preferably with not too much hierarchy, at least not with too many levels without digital objects attached, and also with not too many digital objects attached in general.

Finally we would have to see to it that the content we select will fit in the categories of the Europeana Content Strategy<sup>1</sup> and Publishing Framework<sup>2</sup>, which means in practice:

- No restricted access to digital objects (no paid access),
- No watermarks in digital objects,
- Correct rights statements for digital objects (according to the new rights statements Europeana now fosters),
- Dedicated thumbnails, preferably with a size according to tier 2 of Europeana’s Publishing Framework, so 800+ pixels.

Needless to say that the Archives Portal Europe’s technical team is working on implementing functionality to support this new Archives Portal Europe–Europeana content policy as much as possible and the first tangible results of this will be the implementation of the new rights statements in the content profiles and the apeEAD to EDM conversion dialogue screen of the Dashboard<sup>3</sup> and forwarding information on Archives Portal Europe’s topics/themes (ie tag cloud information) to Europeana via the apeEAD to EDM conversion. When approved, this new Archives Portal Europe–Europeana content policy will not only be the basis for future Archives Portal Europe Europeana contributions for any Archives Portal Europe content provider willing to forward content to Europeana, but also for evaluation of the existing ones and the results and consequences of that will of course be communicated to the content providers involved.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://pro.europeana.eu/publication/content-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> <http://pro.europeana.eu/publication/publishing-framework>

<sup>3</sup> The new rights statements soon to be available will be:

- Public Domain Mark
- Creative Commons - CC0 Public Domain Dedication
- Creative Commons – Attribution
- Creative Commons - Attribution ShareAlike
- Creative Commons - Attribution Non-Commercial
- Creative Commons - Attribution Non-Commercial ShareAlike
- Creative Commons - Attribution No Derivatives
- Creative Commons - Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives
- Europeana rights statements - In Copyright
- Europeana rights statements - In Copyright EU Orphan Work
- Europeana rights statements - In Copyright Educational Use Permitted
- Europeana rights statements - No Copyright Other Known Legal Restrictions
- Europeana rights statements - No Copyright Non-Commercial Use Only
- Europeana rights statements - Copyright Not Evaluated