

DIGICULT - A MUSEUM NETWORK OF THE FEDERAL STATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, GERMANY

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PROJECT

DigiCult Museums Schleswig-Holstein is an interdisciplinary project, located in the most northern State of the Federal Republic of Germany. Funded by the European Union, the aim of the project is two-fold: to digitize collections of selected museums and make these collections available to the public at large. Paramount objectives of the project are the long-term preservation of cultural assets by the use of new technologies and the promotion of easy access to these cultural assets, particularly, to meet the demand of education, research and tourism. The latter objective is in accordance with the aim of the European Union to democratise knowledge resources. All work on digitization of the collections is managed by the participating museums, whilst data are published at the State's central museum portal (www.museen-sh.de).

FACTS

Digicult I: Period 1 June 2003 until 30 May 2006, pilot project, 9 museums involved, supported by the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein in terms of subsidies of the European fund for regional development (EFRE), Responsible body: City of Flensburg, establishment of a center of expertise and advice at the Flensburg municipal museum (Museumsberg Flensburg) July 2006 until October 2007: Responsible body: the Schleswig-Holstein Museum Association, relocation of the center of expertise and advice at Christian-Albrecht University Kiel, financing: Schleswig-Holstein State Chancellory

Digicult II: starting 1 November 2007

Development of new tools and standards for knowledge management

duration: 3 years, financing: European fund for regional development

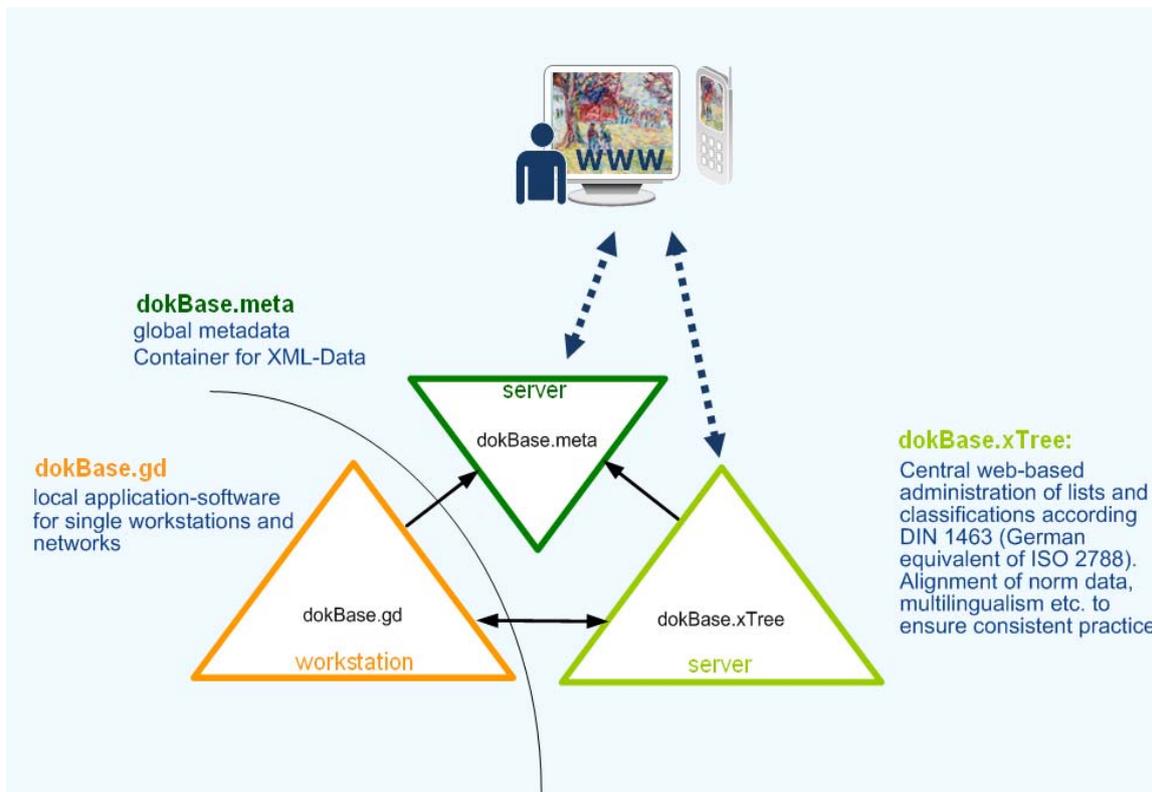
Meanwhile 46 museums participating

SOFTWARE

DokBase - Three Modules

The concept of DokBase, the so-called software construction, is based on three modules:

- DokBase.gd: Data Entry
Each of the participating museums is provided a data entry form adapted to the genre of its collection. The application-software for the local data production is adapted for single workstations and networks
- DokBase.xTree: Classification
Central web-based vocabulary administration according DIN 1463 (ISO 2788), providing distributed editorial development of lists, thesauri and classifications
- Dokbase.meta: Publikation
the central database of global metadata combining items of all museums participating in the DigiCult-network .



Technical Configuration: Dokbase – 3 Modules

In the course of developing the DokBase software we decided to work predominantly with a controlled vocabulary. This vocabulary matches documentation standards common to libraries and museums. The use of controlled vocabulary and the guidelines set out in national and international technical standards permit us to integrate our digital collections with higher ranking portals, such as the BAM Portal, GBV and Prometheus. Since May 2008, 26 collections based on DigiCult have been registered in the Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage MICHAEL (www.michael-portal.de). DigiCult Museums SH is also participating in the development of the German Digital Library (DDB) as part of the European Digital Library (EUROPEANA) and has been recommended to become member of the Competence Network DDB, that is supposed to start in 2010. Meanwhile, the first 10.000 data sets have been transferred to EUROPEANA.

Since 2006, DigiCult Museums SH has got involved with creating a national portal for museum vocabulary (www.museumsvokabular.de). Furthermore, the project is participating in the development of standardized formats for data exchange at national und international level (museumdat, museumvok).

From May 2003 to June 2006, the project has been financed with support of EU regional development provided to the State of Schleswig-Holstein. In November 2007, a new EU project started (based on the Schleswig-Holstein Future Program) to operate three years. It is focusing on the development of new tools for knowledge management. The embedding of new technologies (AJAX, HTTP, XML, WSDL, SOAP) shall allow the future use of multimedia-based presentations and innovative retrieval strategies.

PARTNERS / COOPERATION

In addition to local partners like the Schleswig-Holstein Museum Association, the Christian-Albrecht University Kiel and the University of Applied Sciences Kiel, the project cooperated from the very beginning with external partners such as the Working Group Documentation of the German Museums Association, the Institute for Museum Research (IfM), the Zuse-Institute Berlin (ZIB), the Common Library Network GBV, the MusIS Project, BSZ Konstanz, the shared image database Prometheus and the BAM Project (Libraries, Archives, Museums).

Cooperation are intended with Bildarchiv Foto Marburg, SPK Picture Archive and the Museums of the Republic of Latvia.

Meanwhile, the Digicult Network Museen SH has been expanded in cooperation with the Saarland Museum Association and the Cultural Office of the City of Hamburg.

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