



MILE's Metadata Recommendations

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MILE's Recommendations

All of the project partners and participants have commended MILE for its creation of an innovative network that combines cultural heritage image stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. These stakeholders strongly recommend the continuation of MILE seminars and discussion groups since it is the only forum dedicated to digital images rather than other digital assets such as music, text or audiovisual material. This group can provide a much-needed best practice network for the development of cultural heritage image digitisation, IPR and multilingual access. This network or working group is a necessary link between public and private organisations, and it should focus on the following tasks:

Recommendation 1. Development of a relational structure between image metadata schema i.e. metadata crosswalks that can work both from a to b and from b to a.

Recommendation 2. European-wide educational workshops on metadata mapping.

Recommendation 3. Study into the efficacy of emerging methods of providing improved and richer access to digital images such as linked data.

Recommendation 4. User analysis of access to digital images. An empirical study into user search terms, methods of search for using single and multiple languages and user trust of image databases in returning the 'right' results is fundamental to the improvement of multilingual access to digital repositories. All evidence to date is anecdotal and supplied by individual institutions. MILE has made some headway in establishing methods of achieving a multilingual search interface but a much larger, empirical analysis is required. The results of such an analysis will provide essential in improving both access to individual institutions' digital images, as well as that of portals and repositories such as Europeana and the World Digital Library.

Recommendation 5. Extension of ARROW project to deal with orphan images as well as texts. Orphan works is a politically significant issue that is mostly confined to texts. The fact that the infamous Google book project settlement ignores orphan images except for children's book illustrations is a worrying omission. Given the public's increasing demand and consumption of images, and the increasing prevalence of technological devices to capture, store and post images on the Internet, it is imperative that orphan images are recognised and dealt with the same level of support as that of texts.

Recommendation 6. Aiding Member State Governments where necessary with amendments to copyright legislation to enable extended collective licensing models to license orphan and out of print works.

Recommendation 7. Development of regulations for the definition and transparent operating procedures of copyright collecting societies to avoid anti-competitive behaviour and improve rights holder and stakeholder trust.

Recommendation 8. Development and promotion of the WATCH file. Currently, WATCH is the only international, independent not-for-profit access point to inform users where to go to clear copyright for the use of an image or text. It needs to be updated, maintained and promoted all over the European Union so that users can be aware of at least one reliable source of information.



Recommendation 9. Development of proposal for action against piracy for submission to the EC and Member States' Governments. Given the recent dismissal of the French proposal of a 3-strike rule to prevent illegal downloading and file sharing, it is important that new methods of piracy prevention are developed. A very recent suggestion that arose from the MILE network was to follow the proposal offered by the Featured Artists' Coalition. This system is similar to the French 3-strike method managed by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) but the strikes would be amended so that rather than ISPs blocking infringers' access to the Internet entirely after they had ignored 2 prior warnings, their bandwidth would just be restricted so that file sharing and illegal downloading would be impractical but their basic access to the internet and email accounts would not be affected.