



## The European Film Gateway Public Report on Year 1 of the project

### The European Film Gateway – A Portal for Film Archives

Today, digitised collections of moving images and film-related material are growing fast, yet many of these materials are inaccessible because they are stored on local servers or physical storage media only.

Initiated by the Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (ACE) and the EDL Foundation, the European Film Gateway (EFG) project develops an online portal, which will provide unprecedented access to more than 700.000 digital objects. This unique collection will include feature and short films, images, posters, film set drawings, photos, sound material and text documents. The EFG consortium unites 20 partners in a ground-breaking alliance to deliver technology and content, among them 14 European film archives and cinémathèques.

EFG addresses a number of key issues for access to digital content, namely, technical and semantic interoperability, metadata standards as well as best practices for rights' clearance and IPR management of cinematographic works.

The Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF e.V. co-ordinates the project co-funded by the Community programme *eContentplus*. The EFG project started in September 2008 and will end in 2011. By mid-2010 a first version of the web portal will be accessible online. This report focuses on the project's first year.

### The European Film Gateway and Europeana

The European Film Gateway will be linked to Europeana, the cultural website governed by the EDL Foundation. When operational in 2010 Europeana will offer search capabilities through millions of digital items provided by Europe's museums and galleries, archives, libraries and audio-visual organisations. Some of these are world famous; others are as yet hidden treasures.

By contributing to Europeana, EFG will contribute to making Europe's diverse cultural heritage available to a wider public via a single access point. EFG



unlocks the richness of Europe's film archives for Europeana users and cinema lovers all over the world.

The EFG project numbers the EDL Foundation amongst its partners and participates actively in the discussions of the Europeana network. Association des Cinémathèques Européennes, a leading partner in the EFG project, serves as a member of the Executive Board of the EDL Foundation.

### **Expected Results by the project's end**

- A single access point to the digitised collections of Europe's film archives in prototype from Summer 2010
- Agreement on common interoperability standards for film archives and cinémathèques
- Best practices for rights' clearance and IPR management of cinematographic works
- Access to Europe's film heritage through Europeana.

### **Material Contributed by EFG**

The EFG content providers, mostly film archives and cinémathèques, will give access to parts of their digitised holdings including 65 individual collections.

The collections selected serve as examples of digitised content held in the film institutions. Concerning **media types**, moving images, images, audio material, text documents and print are included. **Document types** included are, among others, for moving images: feature films, documentaries, newsreels, trailers; for images: stills, set photographs, portraits, posters, set drawings; for audio material: interviews, oral history recordings; for text documents: scripts, correspondence, film censorship visa and rulings; for print: out-of-print books, film programmes and reviews.

### **Results in year 1**

EFG is a three year project tackling significant issues and its major results are scheduled for years two and three. Nonetheless it has so far produced a number of public results ["deliverables"] as anticipated in its plan. The work is divided up into sections called "workpackages."

Workpackage 1 worked in the background on the needs of users of the future EFG portal. One public result of the work is a fascinating essay by Thomas Ballhausen on the history and function of film archives which is published on the EFG site.

Workpackage 2 was active in the area of technical and semantic interoperability and access and began to address the issues arising from the fact that common interoperability standards have not yet spread widely in the film archival community. For public use it produced an assembly of best practice procedures and practices in the form of background documents called



[Guidelines and Standards](#) on the EFG website. The guidelines presented provide background information for film archives on how to implement harvesting-based interfaces in the archives' local databases.

Workpackage 2 also produced [[D 2.2\] Common interoperability schema for archival resources and filmographic descriptions](#). This work describes the common interoperability schema developed for EFG. It enables the consolidation of the data held in the various heterogeneous source databases of the EFG content providers in a common format. A first draft outline of the schema was established in March 2009. Subsequently it was refined in a series of meetings and telephone conferences. An advanced draft version was presented to the EFG partners during the WG 3 workshop carried out in Copenhagen from 11 to 13 May 2009. On the basis of the discussion held in Copenhagen the data model was finalised.

Workpackage 3 worked in the background on content enrichment and semantic interoperability and arranged a workshop in Copenhagen in May. After the workshop the main focus was on defining micro-vocabularies that can be applied in EFG.

Workpackage 4 began work on the specifications for the public European Film Gateway portal which should be publicly launched in the summer of 2010.

Workpackage 5 began its work on intellectual property rights, addressing issues arising from the fact that in many European countries, works of film are especially affected by copyright regulations rendering digital preservation and especially digital access a highly difficult and legally complex task. A "[Report on legal frameworks in European Film Gateway \(EFG\) consortium member states](#)" [D5.1.] was produced by the Nederlands Filmmuseum and is freely available. For the EFG web portal to eventually become an ever-growing space, adequate rights clearance procedures are needed. In order to formulate these procedures the Nederlands Filmmuseum developed two questionnaires to assess the legal frameworks of the consortium members. The aim of the first questionnaire, titled Film Clearing, was to clarify whether a film is protected under national law and who is regarded as a rights holder of a film. The second questionnaire was called Public Domain & Guidelines. The questions posed here had the main aim of determining which kinds of films are still protected by national legal frameworks in EFG consortium member states.

Workpackage 6 deals with dissemination and networking. Initially it is concerned with making the EFG project visible. In later years it also addresses dissemination in relation to the EFG portal. Its first year achievements are described more extensively below.

Workpackage 7 is tasked with addressing and solving issues relating to the sustainable governance and financing of the EFG portal as a continuing public service. An administrative board of ACE members competent to progress the issues has been established. Europeana WP1 is also addressing the problems of the financial sustainability of aggregators and the two projects will share their learning.



## Making the EFG project visible in its first year

In its first year the EFG project does not yet have a service to promote to the general public. That will come later when the EFG portal comes on stream. The main audiences envisaged for news of the project and its technical outcomes are professionals in the film archive and film library areas and professionals interested in digital libraries, particularly those active in the Europeana-related cultural domains of libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual archives. The primary dissemination tool is the EFG website with its regular news and newsletters, which has been available since September 2009.

The EFG project amplifies its message to the professional film archive world by using the ACE [Association des Cinémathèques Européennes] network for Europe and the FIAF [The International Federation of Film Archives] network for the rest of the world. Its News service which has attracted 690 subscribers also mainly targets this specific audience. In addition, EFG presents its plans and results at film archive conferences and events.

EFG works closely with Europeana to reach its target audience of professionals in the domains other than film - libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual archives. It coordinates its dissemination planning with that of Europeana and uses the Europeana news channels to reach across sectoral boundaries. It participates in or presents at major cross-sectoral events such as those organised by Europeana or the conference on the digitisation of cultural heritage on 27 and 28 November 2008 at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris as part of the French Presidency's programme. It also uses suitable media such as the online web magazine [Ariadne](#).

The EFG project is an important member of the Europeana group of projects and has as a main aim to spread news and understanding of its contributions to Europeana and relevant aspects of related projects to the professional film archive community. It does so through its News service, its Newsletter and presentations at appropriate sectoral events.

The EFG Newsletter, of which 2 issues were produced in the project's first year, aims to inform partners and professionals from the film heritage sector as well as the wider Europeana network about topics and events related to the EFG project. Coverage includes public outcomes of EFG, upcoming events as well as the latest developments concerning Europeana.

To support EFG partners' dissemination efforts a project fact sheet, a poster, a brochure template for translation and a standard powerpoint presentation were also made available.

An ambitious programme of networking events to disseminate the project's results and encourage take-up by relevant professionals is planned to roll out in the next two years.



## Partners

Association des Cinémathèques Européennes, *Frankfurt/Brussels* | Cinemateca Portuguesa, Museu do cinema, *Lisbon* | Cineteca del Comune di Bologna | CNR-ISTI, *Pisa* | Det Danske Filminstitut, *Copenhagen* | Deutsches Filminstitut - DIF e.V., *Frankfurt* | EDL Foundation, *The Hague* | Eremo srl, *Cupramontana* | FernUniversität Hagen | Filmarchiv Austria, *Vienna* | Istituto Luce, *Rome* | La Cinémathèque Française, *Paris* | Lichtspiel – Kinemathek Bern | Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybės Archyvas, *Vilnius* | Magyar Nemzeti Filmarchívum, *Budapest* | Národní Filmový Archiv, *Prague* | Nasjonalbiblioteket, *Oslo* | Nederlands Filmmuseum, *Amsterdam* | reelport GmbH, *Cologne* | Tainiothiki tis Ellados, *Athens* Contacts

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## Links

EFG: [www.europeanfilmgateway.eu](http://www.europeanfilmgateway.eu)

Europeana: [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu)

EDL Foundation: [http://dev.europeana.eu/edlnet/edl\\_foundation/purpose.php](http://dev.europeana.eu/edlnet/edl_foundation/purpose.php)

Association des Cinémathèques Européennes: [www.acefilm.de](http://www.acefilm.de)

filmarchives online: [www.filmarchives-online.eu](http://www.filmarchives-online.eu)

*Ariadne*: <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue58/eckes-segbert/>

