

# THEMES, COLLECTIONS AND CONTENT



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EuropeanaPhotography's Work Package 2 was focused on the content of this project's contribution to Europeana: digitized photographic images, tracing the evolution of European society and the art of photography, from 1839 (first images by Niépce in France) to 1939 (start of WWII). The tasks constituting this work package were directed towards the selection of images to be delivered to Europeana's database. The process was coordinated by KU Leuven, but the actual selection was carried out by each of the content providers. They were guided by the following criteria: Masterpiece quality and impact; General interest and appeal; Complementarity with existing material in Europeana; Synergy with content from other providers. The work package entailed three distinct but related tasks:

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**Task 2.1 Collections and themes:** every content provider sketched a brief profile of his main collections and content themes, stating the number of items in each collection and describing a.o. subject matter, provenance, the historical or cultural importance and the intellectual property right regime of the material.

**Task 2.2 Content seminar:** next, a selection of collections/subcollections to be included in the project needed to be made, while the uniformity of themes throughout the collections, an agreement upon digitization standards and the harmonization of procedures and workflow models needed to be ensured as well.

To this end, a content seminar was organized in Leuven (Belgium) on 12-13 April 2012. With the profiles generated under task 2.1 as a starting point, the consortium explored each provider's collections, and jointly identified those eligible for digitization within the framework of EuropeanaPhotography. In the discussion and selection of these collections, not only the main criteria were taken into account but also additional considerations, such as the synergistic value of the images with respect to one another, to the project as a whole and to Europeana. A judiciously carried out selection would enable interesting virtual exhibitions and create virtual collections with a clear added value and superiority to what any single partner could ever offer. Other focal points of the debate were the definition of "masterpiece", IPR issues and the long term conservation/preservation of the physical objects.



Also at the seminar, the opportunity was seized to take important steps in the startup of other work packages: the review of local metadata schemas of each partner was done jointly by NTUA and KMKG in order to get a view on missing data that would have to be additionally provided. Furthermore, the ability of each source system to generate metadata in XML was noted. Finally, the digitization standards (resolution, format, color depth, etc.) that would be applied in WP3, were examined and agreed upon. The result of this seminar was - on the one hand - a list of elected collections and subcollections containing 430,000 images of supreme quality and importance, that has served as a guide for all other project activities; and on the other hand: an edition of conference proceedings, released as Deliverable D2.1. This technical document, containing reviews of metadata schemas, requirements for extra metadata fields, an assessment of the need for support to generate metadata in XML and digitization standards to be applied throughout the project, was finished in May 2012. In annex, a preliminary Content List was added. Although not requested in the project's Description of Work, it was decided to include this list as a common point of reference, aiming at a consistent and coherent collection. In this capacity, it was used by the Content Committee for monitoring the content provision and quality of images and metadata.

**Task 2.3 Detailed content list:** a revised and refined version of this list, specifying each item to be digitized or (if already digitized) contributed to EuropeanaPhotography, was the basis of Deliverable 2.2: the Consolidated Content List, finished in December 2012. This detailed list contains a description of all items that will – at the conclusion of the project – have been digitized, enriched mapped, made available to Europeana and – after ingestion by Europeana's database – to everyone interested in these unique photographic masterpieces.

With its three tasks and two deliverables finalized, this work package has been successfully completed. Currently, the Consolidated Content List is under editorial revision, with a view to publishing it as a catalogue that will accompany the EuropeanaPhotography exhibition, that will tour Europe in 2014-2015.



[www.europeana-photography.eu](http://www.europeana-photography.eu)  
[www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/europeana-photography/](http://www.digitalmeetsculture.net/heritage-showcases/europeana-photography/)

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