Semantic Integration of Cultural Heritage Multimedia Collections

Cultural heritage institutions and photographic libraries are rich in multimedia content resources, offering many challenges:

This information tends to be ‘locked away’ in internal legacy systems, each with its own metadata format that has been designed to deal with a specific collection or set of objects. The eCHASE project seeks to improve access to this distributed content using semantic web technologies.

We convert the metadata for each collection into RDF, using a variety of tools and techniques depending on the format and structure of the source data.

We map each metadata schema to the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model.

We map keywording and thesaurus schemes to the Simple Knowledge Organisation System ontology (SKOS).

We compose workflows in the Taverna system to process data, for example to normalise such place and date information.

The content from the different collections can then be accessed through a single web-based interface. We are investigating thematic views and localised content products to make content easier to find and use.