



APEF Newsletter

The Archives Portal Europe Foundation
monthly newsletter

Dear APEF friends

The [Archives Portal Europe Foundation](#) Newsletter is back, with all the archival news that's fit to print month by month!

One important piece of news is that [Archives Portal Europe](#) has now a [blog](#), where you can find all the information you read in the newsletter: events, call for papers, debates, featured documents, new acquisitions, exhibitions, and more.

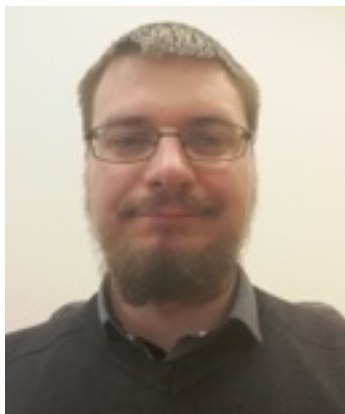
This month we talk about **Google & Search Engines**, new Content Providers for **APE**, what happened at the DLM Forum, and much more!

The APEF Newsletter brings you all the news on the Archives Portal Europe Foundation and its network - plus interesting stories from the world of European archives.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter, please contact (info@archivesportaleuropefoundation.eu)

FROM APEF

NEW COUNTRY MANAGER FOR LITHUANIA



Darius Bujokas, from the **Lietuvos vyriausiojo archyvaro tarnyba** (Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania), is the new Country Manager for Lithuania – here is his introductory message:

Hello everyone,

My name is Darius Bujokas. I am the new country manager of Lithuania (some of you met me in country manager meeting in Madrid in May). I work in the Office of Chief Archivist of Lithuania This institution is not an archive and we do not

preserve documents (this is the line I usually write when responding to requests from clients on Facebook and e-mail 😊). Our Office is coordinating Lithuanian archival system, preparing legal acts on document management, representing Lithuanian archives in various international institutions etc. I hold a master degree in History from Vilnius university. I am working in the Office since 2014, before that I worked in the Museum of Energy and Technology in Vilnius for 2 years. At the Office I am responsible for Exhibitions and other educational events, that is organized by Lithuanian archives, public relations, process of digitization and I am also one of the few people that administrate the webpage and accounts on the social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)) of our Office.



NEW CONTENT PROVIDERS

We are happy to announce that two new content provider agreements have been signed, and they will make our librarian and university friends flutter: first, thanks to the **Archives Nationales de France**, French National Archives, the fonds of the **Bibliothèque Nationale de France**, French National Library (BNF), are now available on Archives Portal Europe. The BNF holds archives that go back to the 17th Century – after the Revolution, it was the successor of the Royal Library, which originated in the 14th century, and is one of the most ancient cultural institutions in France. The royal collections were particularly enriched by the legal deposit created by King Francis I in 1537, and the library is now booming thanks to an active acquisition policy, as well as donations from very important private collections. The archives of the Royal Library testify the continued development of this institution. Amongst the catalogues now available there are :

- the general functioning of the establishment, including the activity reports ;
- the works agency of the National Library with more than 6000 plans ;
- several special collections (such as Coins, medal & antiquities, maps & plans);
- the visitors' registrars, opened in 1868 and 1922 and the archives of the reader card service ;

- memories of the exhibitions and of specific activities of the library.
The full list of finding aids available in APE is [here](#)

The second Content Provider Agreement was signed by the [Universitätsarchiv Rostock](#), archives of the University of Rostock Universität Rostock, founded in 1419, the third-oldest university in Germany.

Both Content Providers are already available on [Archives Portal Europe](#) – dig in!

#INDUSTRIALHERITAGE, #BUILDINGPEACE & #EUROPEANELECTIONS

Our online exhibitions **#IndustrialHeritage** and **#BuildingPeace** continue to reconstruct the European industrialisation process through images, and the history of the Paris Peace Conference which put an end to World War I – but in many ways paved the way to World War II.

As a May bonus, we dugged into Archives Portal Europe to find interesting material on the history of the European Parliamentary elections – for example, that the first speech of the first elected Parliamentary session was somehow related to Brexit.... **#EuropeanElections**

To find more, just follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and through our hashtags!



NEW FEATURED DOCUMENT

A new **Featured Document** from **Germany** is available on Archives Portal Europe, as part of our **#BuildingPeace** online exhibitions. "The conditions of peace" show a series of documents prepared by the German delegation during the Paris Peace Conference - German reparations after World War I were the core point of the negotiations, and the focus of the power struggle between France and Germany. While the peace conference following "the war to end all wars" (in the words of British



commentator H.G. Wells) was supposed to establish perpetual peace in Europe, the reparations imposed to Germany were aimed at destroying and humiliate the enemy. The most important economist of the 20th Century, John Maynard Keynes, quit his role as delegate of the British Treasury, and called the treaty a Carthaginian peace that would economically destroy Germany. Click [here](#) to find out more.

FRANCE ARCHIVES CODING ON GITHUB

[France Archives](#), the online portal of French archives, has made its codes publicly available on **GitHub** at these links:

<https://github.com/culturecommunication/francearchives-cubicweb-edition>

<https://github.com/culturecommunication/francearchives-cubicweb>

France Archives is the national portal of public French archives, and a main aggregator for [Archives Portal Europe](#)



SEARCH ENGINES: WHICH IS THE BEST?

By Franco Niccolucci



Franco Niccolucci is the director of the VAST-LAB research laboratory at PIN in Prato, Italy, and the coordinator of ARIADNE, a research infrastructure on archaeological data integration. His main research interests concern knowledge organization of archaeological documentation and the communication of cultural heritage.

A typical Yankee attitude is to rank everything, sometimes mixing apples with pears. A recent discussion on the EUROPEANA-TECH list gave me the same feeling: is Google a better search engine than Europeana? Put like this, it makes little sense: a generalist search engine like Google is always better and always worse than a specialist one. Everybody will agree that if one is looking for a hotel or for a flight, there are dedicated search engines that work much better than Google, although the latter also tries to cover these niches. So, it is obvious that as regards culture Europeana is an easy winner. The difference between the two is that Europeana is constructed, Google is obtained. Behind Europeana there is human effort, behind Google there is artificial intelligence. Europeana breaks the crust of Internet offer, Google just surfs it. Europeana assigns meaning with its semantic approach, Google infers it from literals. And, last but not least, Google is for everybody, Europeana is for some, possibly for many but not for all. Hotel search engines address tourists and flight search engines address travellers; both do their job well because their target is well defined, and the tool design is user-centred. In the cultural domain, there are similar dedicated search engines that satisfy the needs of well-defined communities. I happen to be the coordinator of one of these, ARIADNE (www.ariadne-infrastructure.eu) on digital archaeology, dedicated to professional archaeologists and tailored to their research needs. Apparently, researchers are happy with it and statistics show that one-third of European archaeologists used it in its first year of existence (2017): not too bad for a discipline where the digital component is just instrumental for discovery. ARIADNE is targeted on research and on heritage management; it is possibly too advanced for the curious citizen but may be suitable for students or for educated amateurs. It offers semantic search facilities on a catalogue of 2,000,000 items, with plans to double or triple the content in the near future.

I know that there are similar systems for other culture-related

disciplines. An alliance of all these cultural data aggregators, including of course Europeana, might offer users new great opportunities. It is possible, although not straightforward, because the semantics on which aggregations are based are compatible, but special attention will need to be paid to the design of the user interface.

Back to the original competition among search engines, in my opinion the real question is: can you trust what you find? In principle, the content of Europeana, ARIADNE and the like are guaranteed by the reputable institutions that provided it; Google's, by definition, is not. Closing this note with a light-hearted example, searching for "Ancient aliens" gave more than 45 million hits on Google. On the contrary, for both Europeana and ARIADNE, the search interface gave some results – all evidently unrelated to such fake pseudo-theory – only when the search term is written without "", enabling a separate search on each word, i.e. "ancient" and "aliens". But, as expected, no hits come out on either catalogue when the user makes clear that the search term is formed by the two words together by encompassing them in "", i.e. "ancient aliens". In conclusion, it is quality (and not quantity) that counts: when searching on Google, caveat emptor.

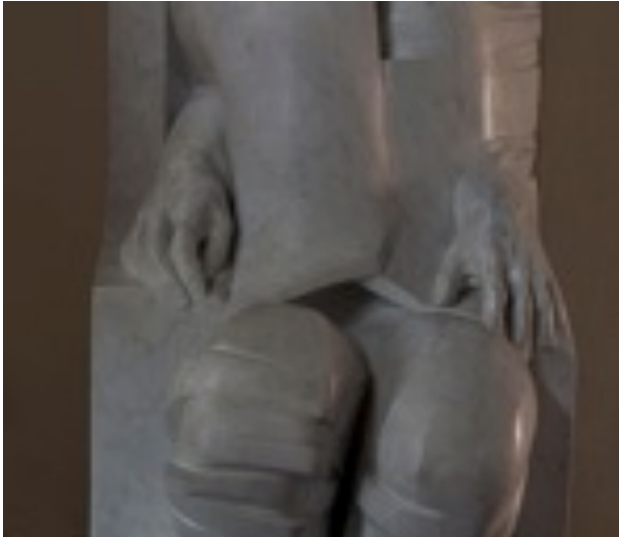
COMING UP

OPEN CALLS FOR PAPERS

**"ICDH 2019: International Conference on Digital Heritage" –
deadline 13 June
London, United Kingdom**

[The International Conference on Digital Heritage](#) aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Digital Heritage. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Digital Heritage.

Prospective authors are encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Digital Heritage are cordially invited for presentation at the conference by the **13th June**

WHAT A HISTORY! CONTEMPORARY ART, URBAN HIKING, AND ARCHIVES***Carrara (Italy), until the 21st June 2019***

Art exhibitions, laboratories for children, walks around the town and archival discoveries in the city of Carrara throughout June, with the aim to narrate and (re)discover the historical railways of the famous Carrara marble – full programme (in Italian) [here](#)



International
Image
Interoperability
Framework

IIIF 2019***University of Göttingen (Germany), 24-28 June 2019***

The 2019 International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) Conference will be held in the week of the 24th to 28th of June in Göttingen, hosted by the University of Göttingen / Göttingen State and University Library. The Conference is intended for a wide range of participants and interested parties, including digital image repository managers, content curators, software developers, scholars, and administrators at libraries, museums, cultural heritage institutions, software firms, and other organizations working with digital images and audio/visual materials. All event proceedings will be in English – full programme & registration [here](#)

**ARCHIVES * RECORDS**
Austin, Texas (USA), 31 July -06 August 2019

The annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists will take place in Austin, Texas. Registration available [here](#)

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE IN EUROPEANA

Amersfoort (The Netherlands), 28 June 2019



Archaeologists and building historians have been investigating sites and remains in Europe for more than 200 years. Digital collections now in Europeana reveal hidden histories from both cities and countryside often telling stories of communities who are not otherwise commemorated. The content illustrates how the practice of

archaeology changed – particularly between the first half of the 20th century and now. Heritage is not only about conserving the past but also shaping the future. Monuments and historic buildings bring economic, educational and community benefits – drawing tourists, educating students and offering citizens opportunities to use cutting edge technologies such as 3D and GIS. Archaeology can also raise awareness of current issues such as climate change.

Full programme and registration available [here](#)

IN THE LOOP

HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY GOES ONLINE

[The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library](#) (HMML) at Saint John's University announces new component to vHMML, its online resource for manuscript studies. vHMML Museum went live on May 1 and allows anyone to freely search and interact with prints, drawings, pottery, photographs and slides from HMML's collections. Works from HMML's collections of Western, Middle Eastern, African, and East Asian art and artifacts are also included. Users can search the collections by object type, name, title, century, language, and culture.

