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The Digital Public Library of America - US Contributions to the World Library = Digitalna narodna biblioteka Amerike - podrška SAD-a Svetskoj digitalnoj biblioteci

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НБ КРУШЕВАЦ, 2013

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CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY

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While the Digital Public Library of America/DPLA is neither magical, unique nor technologically advanced, when compared with many other current digital knowledge initiatives or other private and governmental enterprises (scientific, research, manufacturing and communication), still the DPLA's promises for the future boldly evidence all of these robust "magical" powers and energies and even more. The development of an open access world digital library is the grand promise in this grand strategic goal of the DPLA and its global partners.

In February, 2011, an e-mail communication from Maura Marx, then Fellow, at the Harvard University Berkman Center for Internet and Society, invited US and other interested global knowledge scholars to participate in creating The Digital Public Library of America:

> The Berkman Center for Internet & Society recently announced that it will host a research and planning initiative for a "Digital Public Library of America." With funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Berkman will convene a large and diverse group of stakeholders in a planning program to define the scope, architecture, costs and administration for a proposed Digital Public Library of America.
> As part of this program, we've created a public discussion listserv and a project wiki to help bring together representatives from the educational community, public and research libraries, cultural organizations, state and local government, publishers, authors, and private industry to discuss legal, policy, and technical issues surrounding public access to comprehensive online resources. We hope to

> emerge with a concrete workplan and a governance structure that captures the consensus of representatives of the country's libraries, universities, archives, and museums for moving forward together with a shared vision.
> We very much hope that these tools will embody a consensus-based and peer-produced approach, and we encourage you to participate in developing these resources and conversations.
> DPLA Wiki: http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/dpla/Main_Page
> Public Discussion Listserv: https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/lists/subscribe/dpla-discussion

With substantial funding from private organizations and with thousands of knowledge scholars contributing substantial and valuable "in-kind" resources (expertise, technological infrastructures, human network capital, facilities and world-class ingenuity), the DPLA moved inexorably forward toward its 2013 launch – with only a minimum of US public funding resources invested. Over the next two years, after countless hours of collaborative efforts by thousands of partners, the Digital Public Library of America launched on April 15, 2013 - http://dp.la/ - and promised to the world to be a robust collaborative partner in fostering the creation and aggregation of, usable and open access to, the world's digital knowledge. The DPLA follows on the model of EUROPEANA and other more mature transnational enterprises in fostering the creation and dissemination of digital knowledge.

The DPLA builds upon earlier, related initiatives, most especially EUROPEANA - http://www.europeana.eu/ - and in October, 2012, announced the DPLA-EUROPEANA collaboration on digital knowledge, including the joint creation of a collection documenting, chronicling and explicating the immigration of Europeans to the US (http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/node/7159):

> Two major digital library networks have reached an agreement to collaborate in ways that will make a large part of the world's cultural heritage available to a large part of the world's population. The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which will provide access to digital collections from libraries, museums,

and archives in the United States, announced today that it will design its technical structure in a way to promote interoperability with that of Europeana, which has developed a similar system to link the major libraries, museums, and archives of Europe. Robert Darnton, a DPLA Steering Committee member and University Librarian at Harvard, said, "The association between the DPLA and Europeana means that users everywhere will eventually have access to the combined riches of the two systems at a single click. The aggregated databases will include many millions of books, pamphlets, newspapers, manuscripts, images, recordings, videos, and other materials in many formats."

Jill Cousins, Executive Director of Europeana, welcomed the agreement, saying that "Europeana was designed to be open and interoperable, and to be able to collaborate with the DPLA is a validation of that aim. By this combined effort on two continents, Europeana and the DPLA hope to promote the creation of a global network with partners from around the world."

Another outcome of this collaboration will be a virtual exhibition about the migration of Europeans to America. The DPLA and Europeana will demonstrate the potential of their combined collections by digitizing and making freely available material about the journey from the Old World to the New. This pilot project will include text and images about the experience of the uprooted as they abandoned their homes to seek a new life thousands of miles across a treacherous ocean. Letters, photographs, and official records open up unfamiliar views into the harsh world inhabited by Europeans from the shtetl communities of Russia to the peasant villages of Ireland. And equally vivid testimonies illustrate the culture shock and hard lot of the immigrants after their arrival. Everyone in the United States, including Amerindians, descends from immigrants, and nearly everyone in Europe has some connection with migration, either within Europe itself or across the ocean. All will be invited to stroll digitally through this rich exhibition.

A Statement of Common Principles: DPLA-Europeana - The Digital Public Library of America and Europeana share a common goal: to make the riches of libraries, museums, and archives available, free of charge, to everyone in the world. They will be guided in this mission by the following principles.

- They will make their systems and data interoperable to the greatest possible extent.
- They will promote open access to the greatest possible extent through joint existing and new policies concerning content, data, and metadata.
- They will collaborate regularly in developing specific aspects of their systems, beginning with:
    1. an interoperable data model
    2. a shared source code
    3. cooperative collection building.

…

About Europeana

Europeana brings together the digitized content of Europe's galleries, libraries,

> museums, archives and audiovisual collections. Currently Europeana gives integrated access to some 20 million books, films, paintings, museum objects and archival documents from some 1500 content providers. The content is drawn from every European member state and the interface is in 29 European languages. Europeana receives its main funding from the European Commission. More information can be found at http://www.europeana.eu/portal/.

In just two years (2011-2013), the DPLA has made exponential progress in providing to the world open access to the digital cultural and knowledge riches of the US and its constituent cultural, linguistic and ethnic citizenry http://dp.la/info/):

> The Digital Public Library of America brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. It strives to contain the full breadth of human expression, from the written word, to works of art and culture, to records of America's heritage, to the efforts and data of science. The DPLA aims to expand this crucial realm of openly available materials, and make those riches more easily discovered and more widely usable and used, through its three main elements:
>
> 1. **A *portal* that delivers students, teachers, scholars, and the public to incredible resources, wherever they may be in America.** Far more than a search engine, the portal provides innovative ways to search and scan through the united collection of millions of items, including by timeline, map, format, and topic.
>
> 2. **A *platform* that enables new and transformative uses of our digitized cultural heritage**. With an application programming interface (API) and maximally open data, the DPLA can be used by software developers, researchers, and others to create novel environments for learning, tools for discovery, and engaging apps.
>
> 3. **An advocate for a strong *public option* in the twenty-first century**. For most of American history, the ability to access materials for free through public libraries has been a central part of our culture, producing generations of avid readers and a knowledgeable, engaged citizenry. The DPLA works, along with like-minded organizations and individuals, to ensure that this critical, open intellectual landscape remains vibrant and broad in the face of increasingly restrictive digital options. The DPLA seeks to multiply openly accessible materials to strengthen the public option that libraries represent in their communities.
>
> The DPLA is OPEN-WEB, OPEN-ACCESS, OPEN-ACCESS-COMPLIANT,

and invites digital knowledge developers to participate and contribute via the DPLA platform and open API (http://dp.la/info/developers/):

> Make something awesome. In addition to serving as a content portal for students, teachers, scholars, and the public, the DPLA is also a powerful platform that enables new and transformative uses of our digitized cultural heritage. With an application programming interface (API) and maximally open data, the DPLA can be used by software developers, researchers, and others to create novel environments for learning, tools for discovery, and engaging apps.
>
> The DPLA built and maintains an open API to encourage the independent development of applications, tools, and resources that make use of data contained in the DPLA platform in new and innovative ways, from anywhere at anytime. We welcome contributions from interested developers who would like to build applications or tools using our API. For those who'd like to poke around, the code powering the DPLA portal is available on GitHub.
>
> App Library. Examples of awesome tools that have been built using the DPLA API are featured in our App Library (earlier efforts by the DPLA developer community can be seen in our lists of fall 2012 Appfest apps and summer 2011 Beta Sprint submissions). Have you made something cool? Want to show it off? If so, let us know at apps@dp.la or through our contact form.
>
> Tech Help. Not sure where to start? Our API Codex lays out the authoritative documentation for the DPLA API and resources you can use to make the most of it. Our Sample Code and Libraries page is your go-to for libraries, wrappers, and other code samples. Still have questions? Head to our tech discussion forum to chat with other developers.

The DPLA has provided the following précis (written by Maureen Sullivan, 2012 American Library Association President) for interested knowledge scholars and potential users:

> The Digital Public Library of America brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. It strives to contain the full breadth of human expression, from the written word, to works of art and culture, to records of America's heritage, to the efforts and data of science. The DPLA aims to expand this crucial realm of openly available materials, and make those riches more easily discovered and more widely usable and used, through its three main elements
> 1.A portal that delivers students, teachers, scholars, and the public to incredible resources, wherever they may be in America. Far more than a search engine, the portal provides innovative ways to search and scan through the united collection

of millions of items, including by timeline, map, format, and topic. The DPLA was named one of TIME Magazine's best websites of 2013.
2. A platform that enables new and transformative uses of our digitized cultural heritage. With an application programming interface (API) and maximally open data, the DPLA can be used by software developers, researchers, and others to create novel environments for learning, tools for discovery, and engaging apps.
3. An advocate for a strong public option in the twenty - first century. For most of American history, the ability to access materials for free through public libraries has been a central part of our culture, producing generations of avid readers and a knowledgeable, engaged citizenry. The DPLA works, along with like-minded organizations and individuals, to ensure that this critical, open intellectual landscape remains vibrant and broad in the face of increasingly restrictive digital options. The DPLA seeks to multiply openly accessible materials to strengthen the public option that libraries represent in their communities. I think it's one of the most exciting developments not just in libraries or the information ecosystem; I think it's one of the most exciting developments this country has seen.
Explore the DPLA - The DPLA offers a single point of access to millions of items — photographs, manuscripts, books, sounds, moving images, and more — from libraries, archives, and museums around the United States. Users can browse and search the DPLA's collections by timeline, map, format, and topic; save items to customized lists; and share their lists with others. Users can also explore digital exhibitions curated by the DPLA's content partners and staff. For libraries, museums, and archives, the DPLA offers institutions the opportunity to reach more users, increase access to their content, and collaborate in new ways.
For developers, the DPLA built and maintains an open API to encourage the independent development of applications, tools, and resources that make use of data contained in the DPLA platform in new and innovative ways, from anywhere at anytime. We welcome contributions from interested developers who would like to build applications or tools using our API signing up for our newsletter, digging into our API, adding your name to our list of supporters, and engaging in physical and virtual conversations.

While many international educators, scholars, knowledge-industry professionals and research patrons continue to think of a library and library resources as a primarily physical enterprise, providing traditional face-to-face services in a physical facility, providing access to physical (print, microform) knowledge resources, this dominance of the "physical library" over the "virtual/digital library" is changing and diminishing at an exponential rate. My international experiences (North America, Europe, the UK,

Scandinavia, the Pacific areas, East, South and Southeast Asia) have provided compelling evidence, that the dominance of the physical library over virtual/digital library will likely be reversed within the next decade (by 2023), so that anyone in the world with Web access will be much more likely to have usable access (access dynamically and responsively individualized to him/her) to usable information and knowledge 24/7, 365 days per year.

The Digital Public Library of American, EUROPEANA and similar digital-future-oriented initiatives share goals of providing to the world open access to valuable, useful digital knowledge and information in a maximally usable and accessible form, moving inexorably forward toward a truly global digital library.

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