

Paths

Personalised access to cultural heritage spaces



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Kick off meeting

The Kick off meeting of the PATHS project was held on the 10th-11th January, 2011 in Sheffield

PATHS Project Newsletter

Issue 1: May 2011

Welcome to the PATHS project

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first Newsletter from the PATHS project.

PATHS is a 3-year project that started on the 1st January 2011 and is co-funded by the European Commission's FP7 Programme, ICT-2009.4.1: Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation. It is coordinated by University of Sheffield (UK) with MDR Partners (UK) and other 4 partners from 4 European countries.

The project is creating a system to act as an interactive personalised tour guide through digital library collections. By developing technologies and services based on natural language processing techniques, PATHS aims to offer users a way of navigating which is based around the metaphor of a path. The path will be capable of adapting to different user profiles, of offering suggestions about interesting items to look at and of assisting users in their interpretations, knowledge discovery and exploration.

The project Newsletter, which will be published three times a year, intends to keep you updated on the ongoing activities of the PATHS project and provide information on Cultural Heritage domains and related events. Your Feedback is very welcome. We would also like to encourage your active involvement in this community and invite you to follow discussions about the project in Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

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User requirements collection: Workpackage 1

This work package focuses on User Requirements and Functional Specifications and is lead by i-sieve Technologies Ltd. Work began at the beginning of the project with the aim of bringing users into the research cycle and collect input on their requirements. We have been collecting information on how PATHS could help users to meet their needs, how they might like PATHS to work and how they see such systems being developed in the future.



Colleagues at the University of Sheffield have designed a survey to collect feedback from end users of digital libraries. A series of interviews are being carried out by the University of Sheffield and Alinari 24 ORE and other partners with a number of users and aim to exploring the concept of paths. In the first stage of the survey interviews have been conducted with expert users belonging to three main domain groups: Heritage, Professional and Education. An online questionnaire has also been distributed to gather the opinions and feedback from a wider target audience.

The survey is being conducted to collect information on user profiles and the information seeking behaviour of cultural heritage users. Once the survey has been completed, user requirements will be analysed and used in the process of defining the functional specifications for the first PATHS prototype system and develop user scenarios to input to the research and development work.

Work has also started on the monitoring of the State-of-the-art in this field. For example, a comparison of the many online cultural heritage Web sites and content curation services is well advanced. In addition, a semi-automated analysis of user sentiments towards Cultural Heritage Resources has been established. This allows the project to routinely monitor online discussions of CH resources and find out what people really think. The first reports on this work are due in a couple of months' time.



Technical developments: Workpackage 2

Work package 2, lead by Universidad del Pais Vasco, is focussing on processing and enriching metadata collected from Cultural Heritage sources for use in the PATHS system. Content is currently being collected and formatted it to allow convenient processing (in a multi-layered network) and then augmented with additional information to enrich the user's experience. This additional information will include links between items in the collection and also to external sources like Wikipedia or other relevant collections.

The multi-layered network of data which is being produced will form the basis for the paths used to navigate the collection and provide a collection of content for use in field trials of the system, it will also define the standards for content format and descriptive metadata.

Metadata is being made available by Europeana and Alinari 24 ORE for use in the PATHS project. So far, a substantial amount of data has been collected including data from the Culture Grid and Scran collections from the UK (947712 record), and the Hispana and Cervantes Virtual Library collections from Spain (1254411 records). Once collected the metadata is represented in a internal data in order to facilitate background processing. Content analysis has started including the extraction of relevant metadata and processing of the textual information in the data collection.

The data processing is being carried out by Universidad del Pais Vasco with the help of University of Sheffield. The representation of the multi-layered graphs is being designed by the University of Sheffield and Universidad del Pais Vasco. These graphs will be the basis for linking the items in the collection and the construction of paths. Other work which is underway includes linking items in the collection to external collections, such as Wikipedia or educational resources and identifying vocabularies useful for ontology extension both with the aim of adding information to enrich user

experiences.



PATCH 2011, February 2011 CA, USA

PATHS was presented at the [3rd International Workshop on Personalized Access To Cultural Heritage](#) held in conjunction with IUI 2011 (International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces) Palo Alto -Stanford University, CA, USA on February 13th, 2011.

This workshop focused on the specific challenges for personalization in the cultural heritage setting from the point of view of user interaction and visitor experience. It investigated how the user interface - the contact point of visitors and systems - can become more intelligent by means of personalization. The workshop attracted presentations of novel ideas for addressing these challenges and the current state of the art in this field. In this context Paula Goodale (University of Sheffield) presented the PATHS project and our ideas on Personalised Access to Cultural Heritage Collections using Pathways.

University of Glasgow, March 2011, UK

The PATHS project was presented to members of the Information Retrieval group and people from library and information science on March 14th, 2011 by Paul Clough(University of Sheffield). The talk [Providing Personalized Access To Cultural Heritage Information](#) was attended by around 30 people. Participants, mainly from the library and information science people, showed a lot of interest in the project.

EVA 2011, April 2011, Florence, Italy



The PATHS project was presented on May 4th 2011 during [EVA 2011](#) “Electronic Imaging & the Visual Arts” which took place in Florence (Italy)at the Workshop:” Photographic Archives-A Workshop to listen, learn, practice and test some of the latest and most innovative Research Projects”. PATHS was introduced by Andrea de Polo and Francesca Tavanti (Alinari 24 ORE) and participants were invited to be involved in a pro-active way by filling in the Survey on User requirements. Users’ contacts were collected and participants will be invited to become involved in further project activities and will be kept informed about PATHS developments and events.

RMIT University, May 2011, Melbourne, Australia

PATHS Publications The PATHS project was presented to an academic audience, the Information Storage and Retrieval group within the School of Computer Science & IT at [RMIT University](#). The talk “The Paths project: Personalised access to Cultural Heritage Spaces” was presented by Mark Stevenson (University of Sheffield) at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Melbourne, Australian May 19th, 2011

PATHS Publications

PATHS activities address scientific and domain circles and include publishing the project research results in international journals and Workshops proceedings. During the first months of the project members from the PATHS Consortium produced the following PATHS related publications:

- The Workshop paper *Personalizing [Access to Cultural Heritage Collections using Pathways](#)*, jointly authored by Paul Clough, Nigel Ford and Mark Stevenson to be published in PATCH 2011
- The Workshop paper *PATHS: [Personalised Access to Cultural Heritage Spaces](#)*, to be presented by Eneko Agirre, Oier Lopez de Lacalle, University of the Basque Country

Upcoming events

- Europeana Council of Content Providers and Aggregators (CCPA) meeting which is running in parallel with [OpenCulture 2011](#) (7-8 June 2011, Birmingham, UK). MDR partners will attend.
- European Conference on Information Retrieval, 1-5 April 2012, Barcelona, Spain ([ECIR](#)).
- Annual ACM SIGIR Conference, 19-23 July 2012, Portland, USA ([SIGIR](#)).
- ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management 2012([CIKM](#)).

University of Sheffield is planning to propose papers to ECIR 2012, SIGIR 2012, CIKM 2012





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