

# Participation of small cultural heritage institutions in the digital world

Ulf Preuss: Faculty of Information Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Potsdam Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse 4, 14467 Potsdam, Germany, ulf.preuss@fh-potsdam.de

**Abstract:** *Considering the complexity of the concept of digitization, an approach of a 'stand-alone' project is bound to fail in the long run, since projects as such are not designed to provide long-term solutions. Since long-term accessibility is one of the prime goals of digital presentation, a couple of components are needed. These components are selection of content, creation of catalog-datasets, creation of digital representations of the original content, compilation of said parts for a presentation platform and the preservation of the digital information and objects with all its challenges.*

*In the German state of Brandenburg, there is a workgroup which focus lies on the digital presentation of the cultural heritage of all areas, such as archives, museums and libraries. A 2009 study by this group showed all the challenges, especially for the many smaller institutions. In 2012 the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam provided a concept study on how to enable institutions to make a contribution to the German Digital Library. Many smaller institutions lack the financial and organizational capacity to provide all the means necessary. Without a cooperative approach, those many small institutions would fall behind.*

*The only feasible approach is that of a network of regional partner institutions who offer their knowledge and infrastructure to the ones in need. We also learned that a coordination office is needed to handle the organizational functions for this network.*

*In late 2012, such an office was established at the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam.*

**Keywords:** cultural heritage, cooperation, digital presentation

WWW  
e.g. German Digital Library  
and/or Europeana

ARCHIVES LIBRARIES MONUMENTS

CULTURAL HERITAGE  
BRANDENBURG

RESEARCH MEMORIALS MUSEUM

NETWORK FOR THE DIGITAL PRESENTATION

WORKGROUP  
DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY AND CONCEPTS

CULTURAL SECTIONS  
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

COORDINATION OFFICE BRANDENBURG-DIGITAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK, ADVICE FOR PROJECTS AND ORGANISING WORKSHOPS

(LARGER) CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS  
PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ORGANISATIONAL BACKGROUND FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS



# PARTICIPATION OF SMALL CULTURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

**Participation of small cultural heritage institutions in the digital world**  
Preuss, Ulf: University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, Germany  
Faculty of Information Sciences  
Mailing : University of Applied Sciences Potsdam  
Information Sciences  
Ulf Preuss  
Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse 4  
14467 Potsdam  
Germany  
E-Mail : ulf.preuss@fh-potsdam.de  
Abstract:  
*Considering the complexity of the concept of digitization, an approach of a 'stand-alone' project is bound to fail in the long run, since projects as such are not designed to provide long-term solutions. Since long-term accessibility is one of the prime goals of digital presentation, a couple of components are needed. These components are selection of content, creation of catalog-datasets, creation of digital representations of the original content, compilation of said parts for a presentation platform and the preservation of the digital information and objects with all its challenges. In the German state of Brandenburg, there is a workgroup which focus lies on the digital presentation of the cultural heritage of all areas, such as archives, museums and libraries. A 2009 study by this group showed all the challenges, especially for the many smaller institutions. In 2012 the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam provided a concept study on how to enable institutions to make a contribution to the German Digital Library. Many smaller institutions lack the financial and organizational capacity to provide all the means necessary. Without a cooperative approach, those many small institutions would fall behind. The only feasible approach is that of a network of regional partner institutions who offer their knowledge and infrastructure to the ones in need. We also learned that a coordination office is needed to handle the organizational functions for this network. In late 2012, such an office was established at the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam.*  
Keywords: cultural heritage, cooperation, digital presentation