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UNITA' DI RICERCA

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Research program

TRAME - Technologies and network environments for the memory of XXI century

University Co-ordinator

Università degli Studi di URBINO "Carlo BO" - Studi per la tutela dei beni archivistici e librari - PESARO(PU)

Research Unit Leader

Maria GUERCIO

Description

The research unit, directed by prof. Maria Guercio, is constituted by experts of cultural processes/communication and archivists and will work in strict cooperation with the Foundations included as partners of the project. Specifically, the unit is responsible for the management of both the sub-projects included in the main research directed by prof. Ricciardi., the sub-project a) and the sub-project c2) dedicated to the analysis of the innovative experience at European level for the creation and management of the documentary memory and the evaluation and development of methods and application finalized to their preservation within the digital environment. Particularly:

Sub-project a) Analysis and evaluation of the European best practices for the creation and management of the cultural memory in the digital network

The sub-project a), coordinated by the research unit of the University of Urbino "Carlo Bo", will utilize the expertise and works in progress of the other two research units according to the work phases outlined below. The object of this project is the identification and in-depth understanding at a European level of the most interesting and innovative experiences in on-line memory management and its integration with new forms of cultural production, developed by public and private institutions and cultural foundations which preserve and manage documentary memory as base knowledge useful for the comprehension of trends and the production of new environments.

Programmi, progetti e risultati

- Le politiche di ricerca
- Gli attori della Ricerca
- I luoghi della Ricerca
- Le frontiere della Conoscenza
- Innovazione e Imprese
- Innovazione e territorio
- Contesto internazionale
- Valorizzazione del Capitale Umano

Stampa e Comunicazione

ERA direct



Description of the Program and Tasks of Sub-Project A)

The research, conducted by a team of mediologists and archivists from the University of Urbino with the support of its partner foundations, is articulated in the following manner:

- a) Data collection. Through the web, bulletins, reviews, direct contacts, and active foundation networks and European projects the team will identify European cultural institutions which have accumulated significant experience in the use of on-line memory;
- b) Organization of material and preparation of a preliminary report (after 12 months) for comparison with other research units. The team will define a typology of foundations and cultural institutions in relation to research themes, submitting all data to statistical processing and analysis. The following factors must be accounted for:
 - the nature of the judicial, financial, and legislative regime (grant making, non profit, bank financing etc),
 - the method of finance,
 - nationality, linguistic area, and orientation of expertise,
 - the relationship with the state and markets,
 - the ability to interact (network) with other foundations, institutions, and cultural bodies (i.e. universities),
 - international or merely local projection,
 - political or religious orientations.

The analysis will then focus on services offered, web-site architecture, other forms of communication, the ability to communicate products and services, the nature and relevance of archives, archival methods, and availability on-line. Other areas for analysis will be identified during the course of the research. The geographic distribution of typological models will, in turn, also be the object of study.

c) In-depth analysis of the best practices. On the basis of discussion with other research units (sub-project B), the team will proceed with a comparison of those experiences judged to be most interesting, innovative, and representative. Beyond precise description, analysis, and evaluation of real and virtual environments, the comparison phase will introduce themes of the economic utility of memory, including tourism and new professions. At the same time the team will compare the European and Italian situations, and the European and American situations (the United States characterized by a strong tendency toward private associations as well as a persistent advantage in ability to innovate in the area of web services). As well the team will carry out an analysis of on-line experiences between institutions and foundations, and interaction with the experiences of virtual libraries that swarm the web. Partial reports will be published on the project's general web site.

d) Preparation for the final report. This will be produced in time for the conference with institutions and foundations that will conclude the research.

Sub-Project C2. Long-term preservation of digital documentary memory

The project aims to continue the activity developed within the previous COFIN programme 2000-2001 (directed by Maria Guercio) on the permanent preservation of electronic records. According to that project the research initiatives and results met have been focused on the analysis of functional archival and juridical requirements necessary to guarantee the reliability of the documentary production and heritage in the digital environment. Anyway, the continuation aims to consider various new phases of the research, particularly by organising – in agreement with important European and international institutions which play an innovative role as preservers of digital memories – activities related to the verification, test and monitoring of the implementation capacity for the principles, standards, methods and policies as well as models developed at national and international level with specific attention focused on the possibility of creating a concrete system of trusted and reliable digital repositories dedicated to the preservation function.

As a consequence the present programme will develop under the direction of prof. Maria Guercio and with the cooperation of archivists and experts in the area of digital resources and the support of the project partners the following activities:

- a) the analysis of the state of art related to the principles and the methods for the preservation of digital resources, in part already investigated, but unluckily not examined with enough details, mainly with reference to the problems strictly related to the records environment and the framework and the typologies of the metadata

required in this function and the tools for their early but enhanced treatment;
b) the development of a rigorous comparison with the principles, the policies, the models and standard elaborated and discussed at the international level, mainly in those countries which have known a rapid development in the ICT application (InterPARES 2 for the period 2002-2007, ERPANET and DELOS projects funded by the EU);
c) the definition of detailed guidelines as far as it concerns the formats management for the digital preservation, their impact on methods and strategies till now identified and the elaboration of models adequate to the preservation of digital resources within trusted digital repositories,
d) the identification of rules and models for the definition and management of metadata schemas finalized to the preservation of the documentary digital resources;
e) the evaluation of the feasibility of these models and related architectures in agreement with the institutions – relevant at national and international level – which have accepted to play as testbed (Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Consorzio BAICR, Liber Liber)

The activities a) and b) will be carried out through the preparation of a detailed report, while the outputs c) and d) will be made available and discussed with the partners here foreseen, but also generally disseminated to the open interested community at national and international level, both through the organization of and the participation to workshops and conferences, and in the course of educational and training activities defined by the University of Urbino in cooperation of the other related research units.
Contribution to the other sunprojects

The research unit will also participate – according to the rules and procedures defined by each directors – to the activities included

- in the sub-project b), directed by prof. L. Frezza (Università di Salerno), whose aim is the comparison and the convergence between various disciplinary approaches (mediology, archival science, information science, and I.A.) and the different experience related to the cultural production (foundations and associations involved as project partners), with the main purpose of building hypothesis and general models for managing and reconstructing the cultural memory of a networked society;
-and in the sub-project c1), directed by prof. Mario Ricciardi (Politecnico di Torino), with specific reference to the organizational and technological aspects of the digital persistency e to the definition of tools and mechanisms for the automatic extraction of digital objects descriptive metadata.