

MultiMatch

Multilingual/Multimedia Access To Cultural Heritage

international projects

MultiMatch plans to develop a multilingual search engine designed specifically for the access, organisation and personalised presentation of cultural heritage information.

Objectives

Cultural heritage (CH) content is everywhere on the web, in traditional environments such as libraries, museums, galleries and audiovisual archives, but also in popular magazines and newspapers, in multiple languages and multiple media. The aim of MultiMatch is to enable users to explore and interact with online accessible cultural heritage content, across media types and language boundaries.

System

The MultiMatch search engine will be able to:

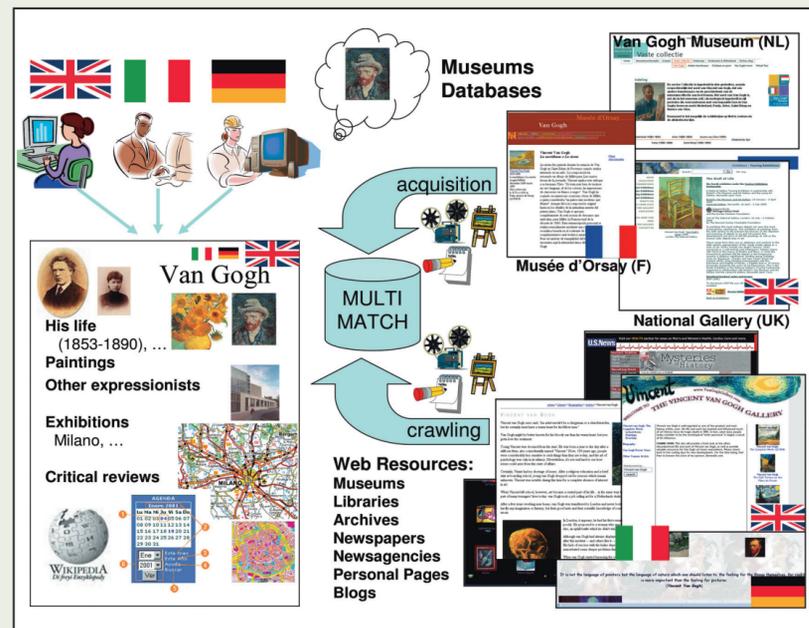
- crawl the Internet to identify websites with CH information, locating and retrieving relevant texts, images and videos, regardless of the languages used to write the query and/or describe the results;
- similarly acquire relevant material via an in-depth crawling of selected CH institutions;
- automatically classify the results, on the basis of a document's content, its metadata, its context, and the occurrence of relevant CH concepts;
- extract relevant information which will then be used to create cross-links between related material, such as the biography of an artist, exhibitions of his/her work, critical analyses, etc.;
- organise and further analyse the material crawled to serve focused queries generated from information needs formulated by the user;
- interact with the user to obtain a more specific definition of initial information requirements;
- present results in an integrated, user-friendly manner, allowing users to access and exploit the information retrieved regardless of language barriers.

The project aims at developing a system prototype that can be demonstrated in at least four languages: Dutch, English, Italian and Spanish, and extendible to others.

User Group

A strong user group of CH institutions is being formed for the purposes of system assessment and field trials. MultiMatch intends to work towards the development of standards for interoperability and metadata in the CH domain. The first User-oriented workshop will be held Spring, 2007, in Florence.

Join the User Group, contact:
minelli@alinari.it



Overview of the MultiMatch integrated system

Consortium

The consortium comprises eleven partners, representing the relevant research, industrial and application communities.

Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione, Italy
University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
Dublin City University, Ireland
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
University of Geneva, Switzerland
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain
Fratelli Alinari Istituzioni Edizioni Artistiche, Italy
Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, The Netherlands
OCLC PICA, United Kingdom
Wind Telecomunicazioni S.p.A., Italy
Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes - University of Alicante, Spain

IST-2005-2.5.10 Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources

Project start date: 1st May 2006, Duration: 30 Months;

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www.multimatch.org