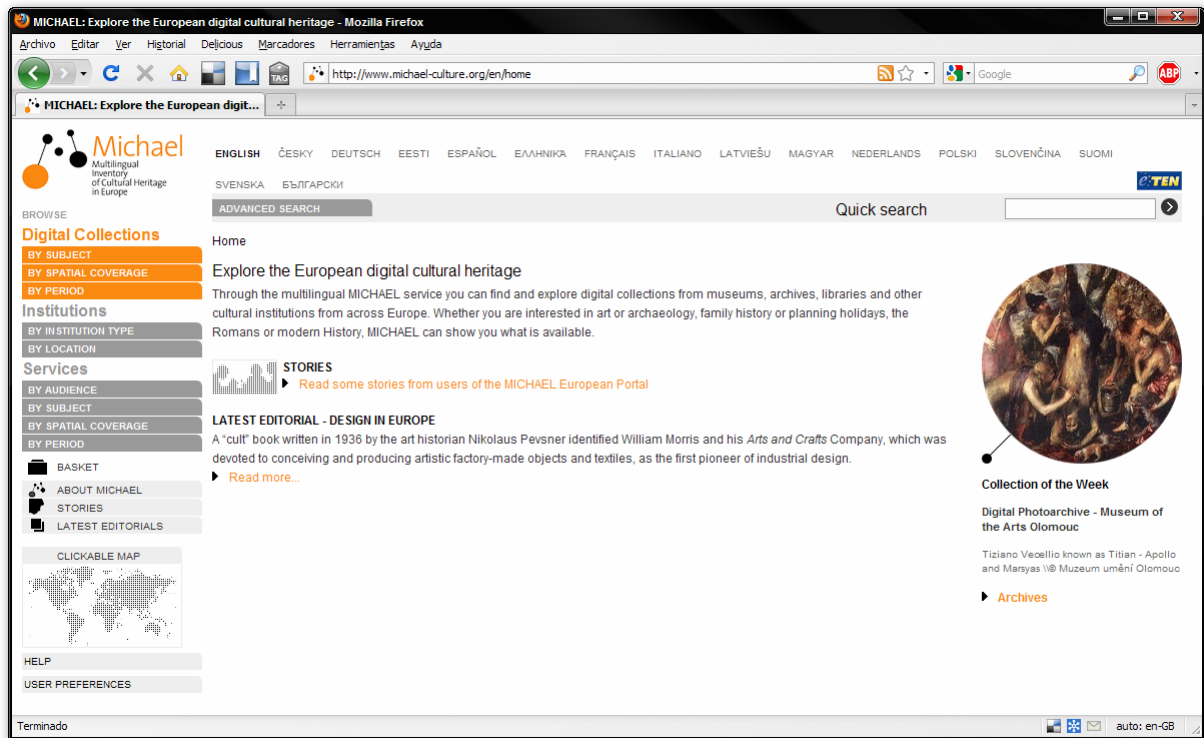


Case Study

MICHAEL Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe



Profile

Website's name / Domain	MICHAEL Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe / http://www.michael-culture.org
Country of origin	Multinational
Geographical scope	National EU
Language/s / tackling of language issues	Czech Dutch English Estonian Finnish French German Hungarian Italian Latvian Swedish Initially three languages were supported (English, French and Italian) but new languages are being added as each national inventory joins the service. By summer 2008 the service was already available, allowing users to choose their preferred language to search and browse the

	<p>contents of the MICHAEL database, and also the editorial contents of the website. Records are held in the database in their original language and (partially) in translation. Users are offered access to machine translation tools to enable them to translate record details into the language of their choice.</p> <p>There are plans to include in the MICHAEL European Service the national inventories for Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.</p>
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Website owner

Contact	<p>Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe Giuliana De Francesco defrancesco@beniculturali.it info@michael-culture.org</p>
Type of organisation	Non-profit organisation
Description of the owner organisation	MICHAEL aims to provide access to European digital collections of cultural heritage through this information service. The website provides a large database and the possibilities for users to submit experience reports.
Importance of the website within the organisation structure	The organisation is funded with the aim to provide a web service whose contents are provided by its members. The MICHAEL database is based on national inventories of digital resources that have been created by the project partners. Each national inventory includes descriptions of digital collections and the websites, CD-ROMs and other products and services that have been created by museums, libraries and archives.

Description of the website's mission and objectives including the main activities of the website and which domains and disciplines are addressed, as well as how the accomplishment of the mission is facilitated

The aim of MICHAEL is to provide access to European digital collections through this web-based information service and potentially to other services, for example for education, research or tourism.

The MICHAEL database is based on national inventories of digital resources that have been created by the project partners. Each national inventory includes descriptions of digital collections and the websites, CD-ROMs and other products and services that have been created by museums, libraries and archives. The descriptions are written especially for MICHAEL by people working in, or on behalf of the cultural institutions themselves. Details are harvested directly from the national inventories to become part of the MICHAEL database for the European services.

Website facilities

Kind of facilities	<p>-Information repositories (news, events, documents, downloads) -RSS -Other</p>
Member / non-member facilities	No member facilities

Importance within the website content	-	
Frequency of usage	Number of visitors (monthly):	The website has about 25,000 unique visitors every month
	Frequency of website updating by the website owner:	Updating in irregular intervals (at average larger than monthly)
Does the website show any results for working communication and debate on a European / cross-border level?	The website facilitates the sharing of digital cultural heritage collections from all the European countries which are members, 16 as of now.	

Evaluation of the website

Mission and objectives, accomplishment of mission	Attitude towards the European idea, incorporation of the European idea	The project aim is to enable cross border consultation of Europe's digitised cultural heritage.
	Cultural values	Dialogue – exchange – debate Intercultural dialogue and understanding
Presentation, navigation, structure	Easy navigation and well presented, innovative virtual map.	
Trustfulness	Although supported by the European Commission, there is no website owner detectable and no person of contact. Source contents on the database are based on national inventories and thus trustful and of a high quality.	
Main strength	Main strength is the large source database	
Main drawback	Main drawback is that there is no direct communication facility.	
Usage of communication facilities	There is no direct communication facility.	