All and Each: The Dynamics of Scale in Digital Heritage Cultures

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It was important that the solution chosen by Europeana should reuse existing standards and be flexible enough in its approach to interoperability to allow their coexistence with custom ones from across the sector. Because Europeana wants to reuse and be reused, a web-based open technology was ideal to make it simple to connect data together and share it.

-Isaac, Clayphan, Haslhofer 2012
Fig. 17. Europeana aggregation—complex case with two providers for the object
It is my view that, up to this point, the process of putting collections online has militated against the idea of collective memory [...] In putting things online, we have written curatorship out of the process and in trying to automate storytelling, we have lost contact with the stories that accrete around the objects. From my experience working with digital projects, we are in the process of making an important transition [...] ‘the next challenge is not mass-digitisation or mass-preservation, but mass-curation of the sheer volume of cultural content’. Most of the next generation of digital cultural channels are focussing much less on aggregating large bodies of undifferentiated content and much more on creating highly targeted niche experiences structured around cultural themes.

-Nick Poole, chair of the Europeana Network from 2010-2014
Thank You

Philosophers have only interpreted the world
the point is to curate it.

Merci

Trevor Owens, 2016