



Linked European Archives for Ethnomusicological Research

ethnoArc

Linked European Archives for Ethnomusicological Research

First Annual Report – Executive Summary

Objectives

ethnoArc wants to improve the accessibility and valorisation of European ethno-musicological archives. It attempts to do this by creating one common interface for distributed field collections from different sources, enabling access to resources for various application and research purposes. The system will be designed to conduct multi-archive searches and to analyse and compare retrieved data. The technical challenge is to define, devise and implement a system that allows the digital representation of rich and complex information originating from heterogeneously structured archives. ethnoArc's aims are thus in line with the efforts to create a European Digital Library.

Work performed during the first year

In preparatory steps, the Consortium members ascertained the state of the art in ethnomusicological archives, in particular with regard to the use of digital technology, and elaborated a metadata specification scheme that allows diverse scientific approaches and searches. They specified the essential characteristics of the „ethnoArc Factory“, the set of software tools to be designed and implemented in the course of the project. Taking these requirements into account, the IT contractor designed the database structure, developed and implemented the distributed archive and started building the query tool. The archives in the meantime prepared the conversion of their data into the new ethnoArc database (for those institutes that already had digitised content) or built up a proper digitisation and metadata entry chain where this was necessary.

First Results

The database management tools have been created; the prerequisites for the metadata mapping are fulfilled, and the initial data migration has been performed. The multi-archive search tool presently undergoes internal tests and refinements. In a short while, the system will be ready for evaluation by independent external researchers. The ethnoArc concept was presented at various conferences and other occasions. An informative leaflet was drawn up and produced to attract specialists and to raise public awareness about the project.

Dissemination and Exploitation Plan

ethnoArc members will use various opportunities and channels to demonstrate the system's functionality and usefulness in searching and comparing complex data from very differently structured archives, both for archives and archives' users. The ethnoArc consortium will assist them by providing appropriate written guidance and other support. The consortium will also identify possibilities to ensure the sustainability of the ethnoArc results. The „ethnoArc Factory“

tools will be available not only on the Internet and publicized in written form; the system will also be presented at a dissemination workshop in Bucharest, 11/12 July 2008.

Participants, contacts

The ethnoArc consortium consists of seven partners:

- Wissenschaftskolleg – Institute for Advanced Study – Berlin (Coordinator)
- FOKUS Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems, Berlin
- Institute for Ethnography and Folklore "Constantin Brăiloiu", Bucharest
- Archives Internationales de Musique Populaire, Genève
- Museum of Ethnology – Department of Ethnomusicology/Phonogram Archive, Berlin
- Institute for Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
- New Europe College – Fundația Noua Europă, Bucharest

Start of the project: 1 September 2006; duration: 24 months.

Project website: www.ethnoarc.org

Coordinator contact: Dr Katharina Biegger, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin,
ethnoarc@ethnoarc.org

