

hope

Heritage of the
People's Europe

Newsletter 2 – May 2012

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1.) May Day, Labour Day, International Workers' Day – the 1st of May in the collections of the HOPE partners

May 1st is celebrated throughout the world as workers' day, as Labour Day, and it is a bank holiday in most European countries. In 1889 the founding congress of the Second International, the worldwide amalgamation of all socialist and social-democratic organisations, called for May 1st to commemorate the victims of the Haymarket demonstration and "the struggle of the workers' movement". Tribute was paid to this "day of protest and commemoration" in the form of mass strikes and mass demonstrations throughout the world for the

The HOPE Partners:



Koninklijke Nederlandse
Academie van Wetenschappen -
Internationaal Instituut voor
Sociale Geschiedenis,
Netherlands



Amsab-Instituut voor
Sociale Geschiedenis, Belgium



Confederazione Generale
Italiana del Lavoro, Italy



Bibliothek der
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung / Archiv
der sozialen Demokratie,
Germany



Fundação Mário
Soares, Portugal



Schweizerisches
Sozialarchiv, Switzerland



Työväen Arkisto, Finland



Verein für Geschichte
der Arbeiterbewegung, Austria



Nyílt Társadalom
Archívum / Közép Európai
Egyetem, Hungary



Centre d'Histoire Sociale
du XXe Siècle, Université Paris I
Panthéon-Sorbonne / Centre
national de la recherche
scientifique, France



Génériques, France



Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche - Istituto di Scienza e
Tecnologie dell'Informazione,
Italy



Stichting European
Digital Library - Europeana
Foundation, Netherlands

first time on May 1st, 1890. Four years before this, on May 1st, 1886, a demonstration for more pay and better working conditions took place at the Haymarket in Chicago. It was above all the aim of American workers to achieve an eight-hour working day. Strikes and fighting with the police broke out all over Chicago in the ensuing days. More than 200 workers were injured in battles between the police and workers, which has gone down in the annals of U. S. history as the Haymarket Affair; the number of fatalities was officially seven policemen and an estimated three times this number of demonstrating workers.

The struggle of the workers' movement for better working conditions and pay since the end of the 19th century is commemorated on May Day. Demonstrations have also taken place since then in Germany everywhere that trade unions are organised.

The *Archiv der sozialen Demokratie der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (AdsD)* is the central archive for sources of all types on the history of the German workers' movement, the organisations which have developed out of it such as political parties and trade unions and the persons working in them. The source material of the AdsD is of crucial importance to research on social history in general and the more recent history of the Federal Republic of Germany in particular.

The AdsD carries on the tradition of the former Party Archive of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, whose roots range back to the

beginnings of the German workers' movement and Social Democracy. As a result of historical events, it is not identical with it, however, with the areas covered by its collections ranging far beyond those of the old Party Archive.

The AdsD also houses the most important archive of German trade unions. More than 16,000 metres of trade union files are to be found in its archive rooms. In addition to the extensive German Trade Union Federation archive and the IG Metall archive, the AdsD is also the caretaker of old files of the Trade Union of German Employees, numerous individual unions which are members of the German Trade Union Federation, European and international trade union associations. Last but not least deserving mention is the archive of the Confederation of German Trade Unions from the Weimar period.

The history of German trade unions takes on particularly vivid form through numerous posters, pins, flags, postcards and photographs: from the beginnings of the trade union movement in the 19th century to the present. The collection of trade union posters alone, with about 6,500 specimens from German trade unions, documents the development of the organised workers' movement with original posters. The pioneering demands of trade unions for shorter working hours, co-determination and equal treatment at the work place can be traced along with their political struggle for peace, freedom and disarmament. It is possible to depict the reconstruction of sector-based trade unions in the Federal Republic of Germany after World War II with AdsD archive material just as one can use it to trace the development of the trade union movement in the German Democratic Republic. The traditional demands of trade unions are especially focused on May Day – workers' day. This is also clearly reflected in the collections of the AdsD.



More than 100 pins from 1915 to the present alone document the history of May Day in Germany. The pins helped participants in May Day demonstrations recognise one another and served as a symbol of solidarity on workers' day.

The collection of postcards with motifs exhibiting May Day begins even earlier. The AdsD postcard collection, primarily from the years 1890 to 1930, offers vivid documentation of this key day in the workers' movement. Because postcards were not primarily intended to serve as documentation or to disseminate news or events, the motifs above all exhibit decorative elements. Their purpose, rather, was to commemorate this day and keep the spirit of this day alive during the rest of the year as well. That is why the depictions are often playful or humorous. Although the images sometimes cross the borderline of formalism, their message is of considerable importance in illustrating especially this commemorative day as a result of their highly decorative nature.

Another impressive documentation of the trade union movement is the collection of historical trade union flags which were raised or carried at May Day demonstrations and trade union congresses: around 60 historical trade union flags, especially from the 1880s and 1890s, are preserved in the flag archive of the AdsD.

What role May Day has played as the day of demonstrations for the workers' movement is also documented by more than 1,200 photographs on May Day spanning a period of 100 years from the 1890s to the 1990s at the AdsD. The



photographs, some of which have been painstakingly restored, bear witness to mass demonstrations along with transparencies showing the demands of German trade unions and workers' movement at the respective time.

Looking at Switzerland, where *Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv (SSA)* in Zurich offers wide-ranging source material on Labour Day: In addition to classic postcards, posters and photographs, it also has an interesting 'dry run' tone document: The Central Secretary of the Swiss Metal-Working and

Watch-Making Association performed a dress rehearsal of his May Day speech on 1 May 1956, which he also wanted to be understood as a warning about the Soviet Union and Communism. A special Swiss tradition is the "Mai-Bändel", of which there are more than 200 in the SSA. These special pins reflect the changing times from the 1890s until the present – one propagating the "eight-hour movement: 8 hours work, 8 hours leisure time, 8 hours sleep", with another one calling for "peace in Vietnam" and another one focusing on a local issue "Lake Zurich – for a free lakeshore".

There is two-fold reason to celebrate in Finland: the pictorial documents from *Työväen Arkisto (TA)* alone illustrate the get-together at the spring festival dubbed "vappu", where especially students celebrate, and the May celebrations and demonstrations by the workers' movement. A special gem in the TA are the six historical films – now digitised – on Labour Day which were placed in the archive thanks to the Social Democratic Party. Moving pictures of 'red' Vienna, for instance, are also provided by *Verein für Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung (VGA)*. The real climax of the VGA material, however, is to be found in the May Anniversary Publications dating back to 1890, unique in their comprehensiveness.

Turning to Hungary, the *Open Society Archives (OSA)* offer numerous sources on the history of May 1: in addition to photographic and film material, especial from the 1950s – including János Kádár's famous condemnation of the "counter-revolution" before hundreds of thousands of people gathered on Budapest's Heroes Square in 1957 – there are also recordings from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, usually in the form of written transcripts. What is impressive about this OSA collection is that, in addition to the situation in Hungary, it also contains material on Socialism-Communism in Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and even the USSR.

Finally, also deserving mention is the wide-ranging material from the Amsterdam *Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG)* and the *AMSAB-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis* in Gent/Antwerp. The photographic documents contained in the AMSAB, for example, provide insight into those European interconnections seeking to move the HOPE project into the limelight. One transparency from the 1938 May Day demonstration in Gent proclaims "De

Socialisten hebben duizende Spaansche kinderen het leven gered” – “The Socialists have saved the lives of dozens of Spanish children” –, with some of the 3,500 girls and boys taken in by host parents in Belgium marching together. Finally, pictures of representatives of the International Brigades at the 1937 Brussels May Day demonstration are not surprising - they merely demonstrate, rather, the transnational dimensions of the Spanish Civil War.



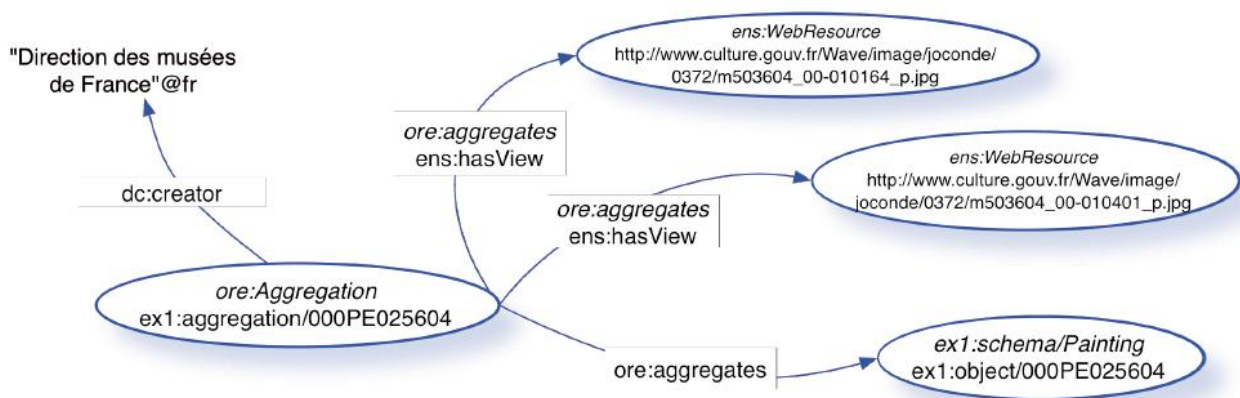
2.) The HOPE Data Model unveiled

An early achievement to come out of the HOPE project was the HOPE Data Model, made available to the public via the HOPE website in May 2011. But what is a 'data model' exactly, and how is it relevant to HOPE or to anybody working in the cultural sector?

Well, surely, for the mere production and publication of digital objects on the internet or elsewhere, a data model is not high on the list of necessities. However, to give quality, depth and relevance to the way your users are experiencing your digital objects, a data model can work for you. The thing is, when you present your digital objects to your users, you want to tell them a few things on the object, so that your users can fully understand its meaning, context and importance. This information – data on objects, or 'metadata' as we sometimes call it – can really be anything at all, and will most probably vary considerably according to the nature of the digital object. For instance, if your object is a digitized letter, you will want to inform your user on the language it is written in. But if your object is an image of a statue, rather than language, you will want to mention such things as its dimension or the material it is made of.

What this means is, that you better think before you start producing metadata, and that you probably should select and structure the information you want to record on your objects. This is especially true when you want to distribute your information on platforms outside of your own network, and exchange your metadata with external systems. In order for your partners to properly present your data, they must understand what you are saying, what kind of information you are passing. And this is where a data model kicks in.

A data model is a structured description of the metadata you are using. Typically it looks like a listing of the pieces of information you are producing – the 'metadata elements' as we call it. A data model can be rather complicated: metadata elements can be grouped together and linked in layered relationships. For instance, if you are describing a book written by Karl Marx, and another book describing the life of Karl Marx, you will probably want to store the name 'Karl Marx' only once, in order to avoid redundancy and to facilitate power searches. Then you will have to create a separate table and call it 'persons' or 'agents' or so, and then establish relationships to your book records, with attributes such as 'author' or 'subject'. A data model that does all this looks something like this:



Source: Europeana Data Model Primer, 2010, p. 10.

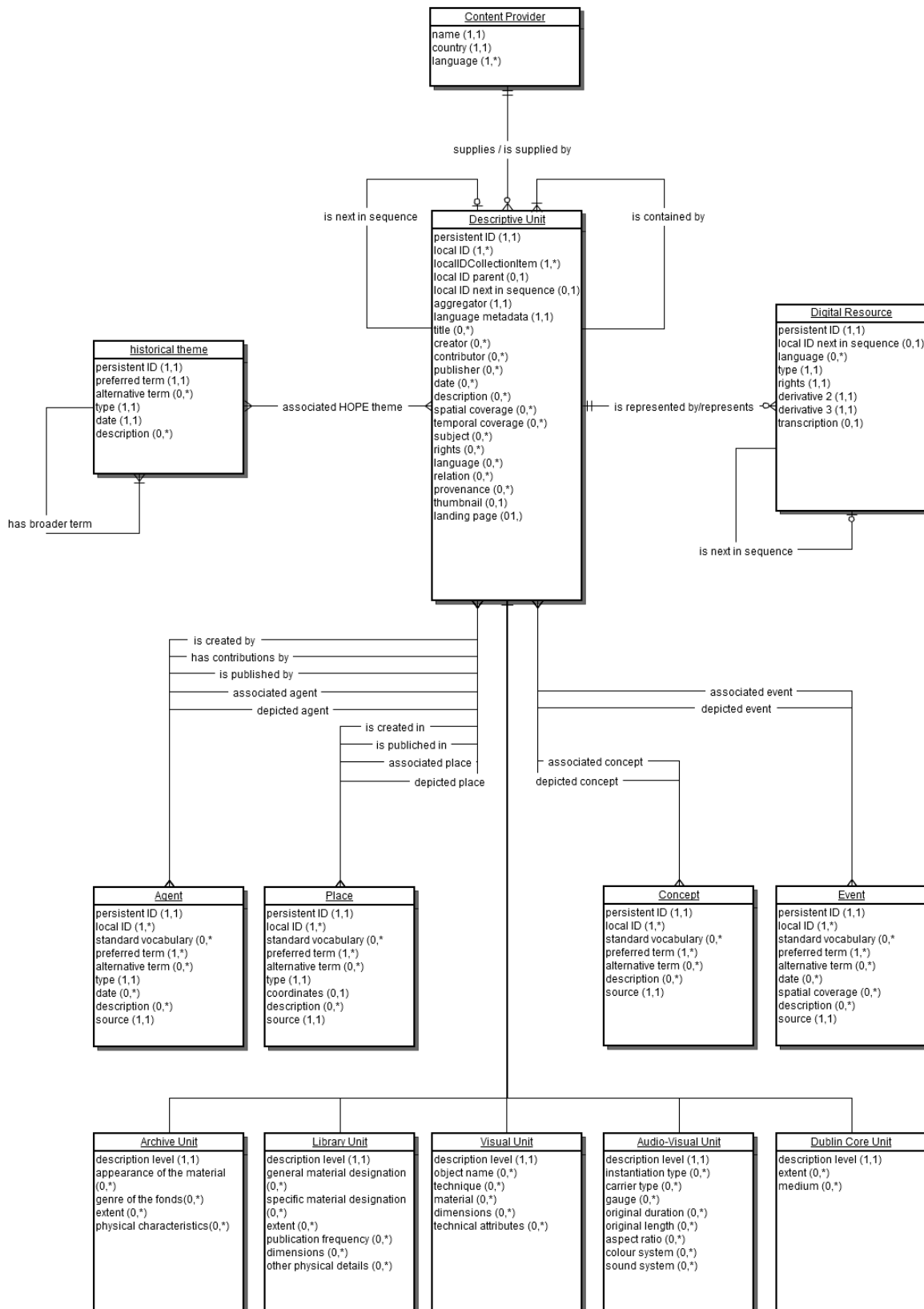
Alright, you may say by now, so a data model can make sense if you are dealing with metadata and digital objects, but why a HOPE data model? Surely, there are plenty of existing data models out there, several already in use by Europeana aggregators like HOPE. So why come up with something new? Well, for sure, the HOPE Data Model is not inventing anything new. Almost all of its elements are taken from existing and well known metadata standards such as EAD, MARC or Dublin Core. What is new, is the combination of these elements.

The thing is, what makes HOPE different from other aggregators, is that its collections are documenting the common people's history of Europe, its everyday

life and its struggles and fights for survival and social justice – or 'social history' as we call it. This documentation consists of non-public records, often shattered and fragmented, sometimes trivial, sometimes even illegal, and of an almost infinite variety.

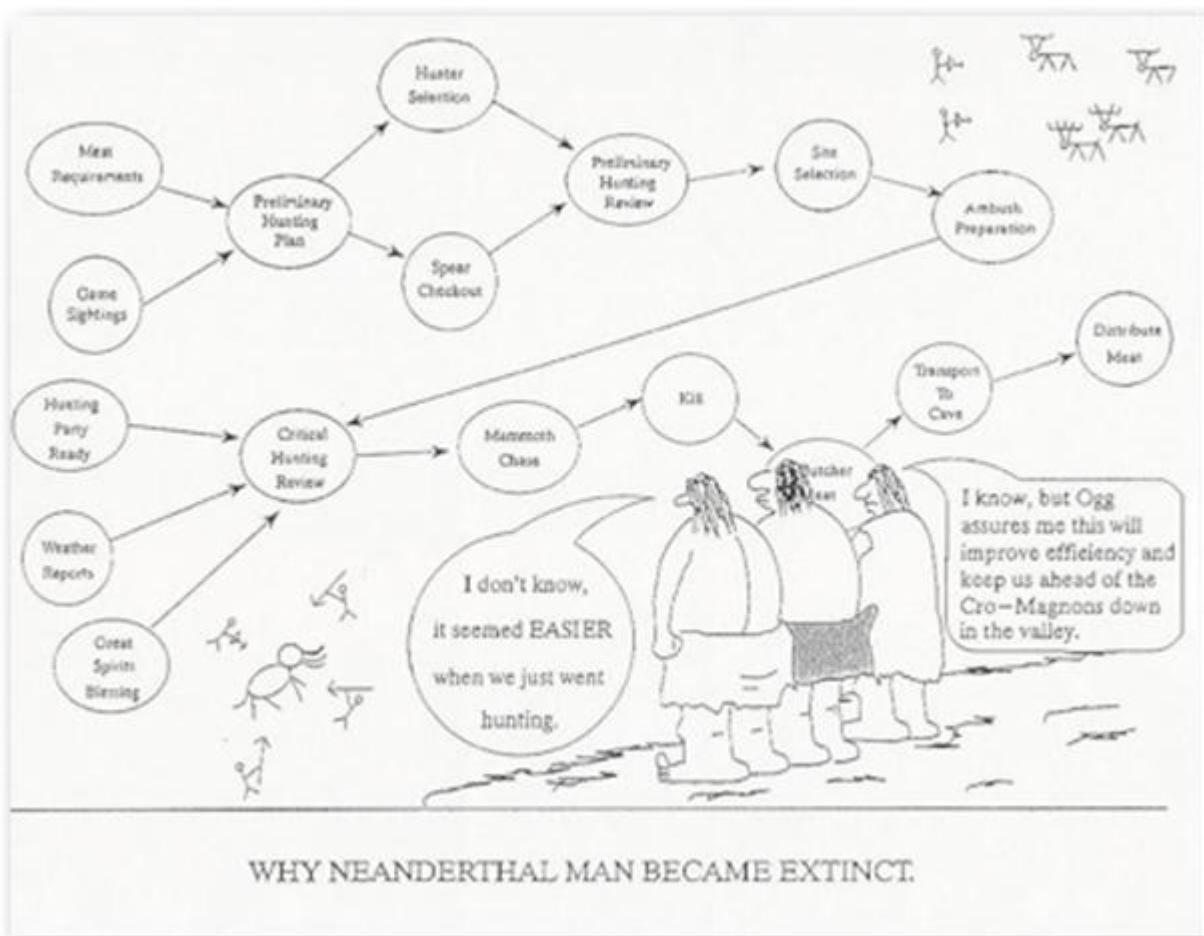
Variety – there you have it, the big word is out. What makes the HOPE data different from most other aggregators, is that it is 'cross-domain' as Europeana would call it. The HOPE data do not just describe archival material, or library items, or museum objects, they do all of that at the same time. The HOPE metadata cover anything from text material and images to sound and video. The HOPE Data Model therefore must house all of these widely differing metadata, and yet at the same time bring them together in one single system. How did we do this?

The trick was the introduction of the so-called HOPE Domain Profiles. We have identified five collection domains, each of which got a data profile of their own: Archive, Library, Visual, Audio-Visual and a generic Dublin Core profile. A HOPE Domain Profile essentially consists of two types of metadata elements: elements that are common to each of the profiles, supplemented with elements that are domain-specific. The common elements form a descriptive unit which is at the heart of the data model, and each of the five domain profiles form a sub-section to this common descriptive unit, containing complementary metadata elements specific to a certain domain. All other related information, such as metadata on agents, places, events or digital objects, are linked to the common descriptive unit, not to the domain-specific sub-sections. That way, in a user search a book description can become linked to an image description, for instance if they are both dealing with the event 'Revolutions of 1848', even if the data presented in both records will contain rather different and highly specialized information.



Overview of the HOPE Data Model

The idea behind this is that the HOPE content providers should distinguish between different sub-sets of the material they want to deliver. Each sub-set should be associated with one specific HOPE Domain Profile. The content providers are not limited in this choice. For instance, an archival institution has a small library collection, but for budgetary reasons prefers to use its archives catalogue to describe the library material. In that case, the metadata will be archival of nature even though the described material is not, and the content provider is free to choose the HOPE Archive Domain Profile for the mapping of the library metadata.



Mapping, another big word! For the content providers, in order to get their data from their own local data model to the HOPE Data Model, and beyond to Europeana or any other discovery service, each of their metadata elements must be carefully translated to an existing standard – 'mapping' as we call this. The HOPE Data Model is investing strongly in mapping issues. Each of the domain profiles is fully mapped to a domain specific standard: EAD (Archive), MARC and MODS (Library), LIDO (Visual), EFG (Audio-Visual) and Dublin Core. This means that the elements of the descriptive unit, common to all five domain profiles, have mappings to at least five different standards, Dublin Core included.

The HOPE Data Model is completed, and the HOPE Domain Profiles are being used as we write this by the HOPE Content Providers to ingest their data. But of course completed does not mean finished. We will continue to work on the data model, to disseminate it to other interested Europeana aggregators, and to enrich it as much as possible. Especially on vocabularies more can be done. The wide variety of the HOPE material is a hindrance to keyword tagging. However, a HOPE Theme vocabulary is in the making, which will be used to enrich the HOPE metadata and open up the rich world of social history to as wide an audience as possible. (dw)

3.) IPR Best Practice Guidelines – HOPE Deliverable 1.3 is available

Archives, Libraries and Museums are repositories of cultural heritage and, increasingly, have an important role in its dissemination – to which the use of new information technologies and, in particular, the Internet have contributed.

This growing access by the public to Archives, Libraries and Museums collections, and the diversity of media introduced in the twentieth century, has brought issues of great relevance in the management of rights of those materials.

The aimed globalization of access (and the technical means to facilitate it, such as digital reproduction) justifies, in a project of Social History such as HOPE, special attention to copyright and neighboring rights. It is important to balance the desired promotion of access to culture and, in particular, the common heritage of the peoples' Europe, with the due protection of the authors' rights over their documents disseminated via the web.

This balance is complex and varies from country to country, it is not without issues even within the European Union and it has numerous areas of conflict. This Deliverable intends to illustrate the main Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues, with particular emphasis on the reality of the collections part of the HOPE Project.

Read the whole Deliverable here:

www.peoplesheritage.eu/pdf/D1-3-Grant250549-HOPE-IPRGuidelines1-0.pdf

If you have any questions, just get in touch with:

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