

## **VSMM2008 - Roundtable Discussion**

### **Digitizing the Past and the Present for the Future:**

#### **Double-click on the Cultural Heritage Content: Challenges and Solutions.**

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In the recent years substantial progress is achieved in the digitization of Cultural Heritage and the provision of access to objects held by memory institutions. Nevertheless, the successful development of ICT technologies cannot conceal that barriers to the full unfolding of large-scale, inclusive cultural content digitization, still exist. *While the process of technology take-up throughout the various types of organisations and memory institutions is still open-ended and organisational tasks remain, the cultural and legal arena will continue to be a source for challenges regarding novel solutions.*

Digitizing the Cultural Heritage treasures on a European -and not only- level provides the need for concrete actions regarding users & content, economic sustainability, technological development and tools and digital memory preservation. Challenges are also visible in fragmentation, multilinguality, the configuration of knowledge realms, enhanced re-usability of content and suitable application levels that relate to heritage institutions' and users' demands in an effective manner. *Additionally tensions between universal access to Cultural Heritage online and the varying copyright and other issues seem to constitute an important impediment to the progress of this undertaking; the crucial question is: Could all those obstacles be surmounted or not?* The round table will endeavour to provide answers and for this purpose will bring together international experts in content technologies for Cultural Heritage to further development at the interface of cultural institutions and leading edge technology. What this event will strive for is a worldwide collaboration in this area, the establishment of channels of cooperation and bridges of communication between the various disciplines involved in Cultural Heritage. It is clear that the aim is to digitize the present and the past, to make it wide accessible and to preserve it for the future creatinh a "Hi-tech" history.