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## Newsletter – June 2011

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Are you interested in the technical implementation of the HOPE project?

Are you interested in the historical importance of our HOPE collections that will be going online in the next few months and years?

Then stay on the Newsletter distribution list of Heritage of the People's Europe.

You can obtain additional information at the website [www.PeoplesHeritage.eu](http://www.PeoplesHeritage.eu).

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### **1.) HOPE - The heritage of workers' history and social history will be going online soon**

15 archives, libraries and institutes from the field of social history and history of the workers' movement from 10 European countries are cooperating and linking up their digital stocks in the best practice network "Heritage of the Peoples' Europe". More than 880,000 digital objects will be linked up with the European database Europeana in this three-year project. The digital database Europeana has been in existence since as far back as November 2008 ([www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu)). Europe's most important cultural goods can be researched and experienced here

## The HOPE Partners:



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



Amsab-Instituut voor  
Sociale Geschiedenis, Belgium

**CGIL**

Confederazione Generale  
Italiana del Lavoro, Italy



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

FUNDAÇÃO

MÁRIO SOARES Fundação Mário  
Soares, Portugal



Schweizerisches  
Sozialarchiv, Switzerland

TYÖVÄEN ARKISTO

Työväen Arkisto, Finland



Verein für Geschichte  
der Arbeiterbewegung, Austria



Nyílt Társadalom  
Archívum / Közép Európai  
Egyetem, Hungary

**CHS**

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

in digital form. Important European collections can already be found on Europeana now using a multilingual search engine: digitised pictures, text sources, video and audiovisual material. More than 10 million digital objects were linked with Europeana over the course of 2010.

Special projects have been initiated under the Europeana umbrella which are oriented towards scholarly subject areas and types of objects. There are Europeana projects which are especially intended to contribute special digitised music and film material or collections from archaeology or biology. HOPE networks institutes specialising in social history and the history of the workers' movement and primarily made up of organisations which are also members of the "International Association of Labour History Institutions" (IALHI / [www.IALHI.org](http://www.IALHI.org)). One of the main intentions of HOPE is bring together important collections on the history of the workers' movement and social history from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries in digital form which have been scattered throughout Europe through war and expulsion. HOPE partners are furthermore setting up their own data portal with an integrated search engine where users can work with HOPE collections. A previous version is already available at [www.labourhistory.net](http://www.labourhistory.net).

These collections will be researched by users on Europeana and Labourhistory.net, although solely metadata and low-resolution images will be available there. There will be a link to the source where the digital object is available containing the respective rights. Additional data and high-resolution images will also remain at the facility and will not be placed

freely in the Internet, but can be downloaded by users using the usual enquiries.

The first digital collections will be going online in the coming summer months.

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### **Are you interested in getting involved with HOPE?**

Anyone who wants to become a content provider at HOPE can do so. Especially archives, institutes and libraries specialised in the history of the European workers' movement and social history are cordially invited to place their material online at HOPE and link up to the European database Europeana.

A workshop for interested facilities will be taking place in September 2011 in Bonn, Germany. If you would like to know more, please contact Ernesto at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, e-mail: [Ernesto.Harder@fes.de](mailto:Ernesto.Harder@fes.de); tel.: 0049 / 172 204 59 60.



### **New content providers are welcome!**

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## **2.) Persistent Identifiers – PID: Page Not Found: what a PIDty**

Everyone has experienced it: a search result on the web looks very promising but when you click on the link the information can not be accessed and instead you find your self staring at an "Error 404, Page Not Found" message.

Or a link that once worked turns out to be a dead-end street when you come back to it years later.

This has been a familiar phenomenon since the early days of the web. In fact: the error message "page not found" still refers to the relatively simple situation where you have visited a website and one of its sites has had its name changed or a link to an external source and at some other website the corresponding site has been moved or deleted. Especially the latter scenario is quite common: web masters administering sites cannot know what other sites in the world provide a link to their information, so their first priority has been to prevent "link rot" on their own web-site.

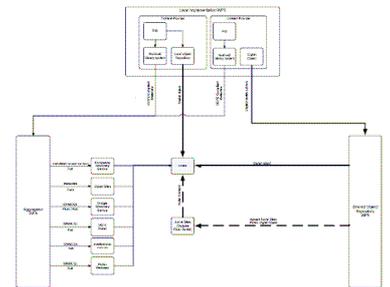
When the academic world started using the Internet for publishing, though, and when cultural heritage institutions later started putting their treasures on the web, the situation changed. Something needed to be done.

Academic publishing needed reliable citation of digitally stored scientific output and flawless access spanning decades worldwide to enter the era of e-science.

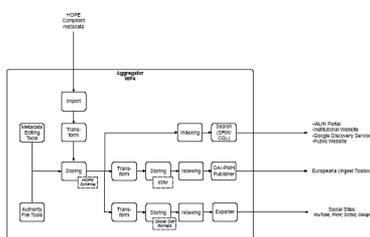
The cultural heritage world began mass-digitisation of its physical collections and needed unique identification of these digital representations in combination with easy access from anywhere by anybody on the web. The objective: new ways of exposing local treasures to global audiences.

Over the last ten to fifteen years technical and organisational progress has been made towards the goal of:

- uniquely and persistently identifying any digital material that is put on the web
- storing such uniquely identified material in warehouses on the web to enable access (also referred to as "repositories" holding "digital objects")
- making the unique and persistent identifiers useful in a web environment; in other words: have web linking (web addresses) based on these identifiers and based on access location that leads back from, say: a search result, to the exact right repository and within the repository fetches the exact right object (such web linking is also referred to as "resolving")
- making arrangements to do all of the above on a permanent basis



HOPE High Level Design



HOPE High Level Design

The goals of Unique Identifiers, Persistency and Resolving (a web link that by definition leads back to the "digital something" that is behind the link) are often referred to for short as "PID": Persistent Identifiers. Clearly the goal of Permanent Access goes above and beyond technical solutions and requires organisational measures to bring about.

The HOPE infrastructure that will be aggregating digital material from many different content providers and has "discovery to delivery" (d2d) as one of its main goals therefore puts great emphasis on the PID and PID issues: the "what a PIDty - I have this nice search result but get a Page Not Found error" situation is to be avoided at all costs.

A future article will highlight some best practices relating to PID issues and Trusted Digital Repositories as well as sketch a few concrete examples of how – HOPE realises access through Permanent Identifiers.

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### **3.)Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine (BDIC):**

The BDIC (International Contemporary Documentation Library) is one of the French partners associated with the HOPE project, as a content provider through the *Centre d'Histoire Sociale du XXe Siècle Université Paris1-Sorbonne/CNRS (UPIP)*. Established in 1917 with the aim of collecting documents of all kinds that were likely to be of use in the history of the First World War, the BDIC, now an associate centre ("pole associé") of the French National Library, has since become a library specialized in the history of conflicts and international relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Its own acquisitions, in different languages, are complemented by numerous donations. Its international vocation has never flagged, incidentally, and it brings together geographically very varied and multilingual collections.

As part of the Hope project, the BDIC has selected around fifteen collections which attest to the diversity of its archives on social and labour history:

#### ***Iconography and political posters – the Paris Commune***

The chronologically oldest collection to be integrated in the Hope project is that of the *Paris Commune Posters*. The Paris Commune is an excellent example of the need to connect the different collections. Indeed, whilst the Commune happened in just one country, its lasting impact has been very much international. The outcasts of the Commune lived in London, Belgium or in Switzerland, continued their militant activities there and left many traces, in particular newspapers and books. In the collections provided to Hope, the *Descaves collection* from the IISG also brings together a large number of documents on the Paris Commune, collected by this libertarian author, at least two of whose works were inspired by the Commune: "La Colonne", 1902, and above all "Philémon, vieux de la vieille", a history book more than a novel. These works as well as



Commune of Paris: Street battle in Paris, etching, 1871 (AdsD, FES).

"Sous-offs" had a lasting impact on generations of militants.

<http://www.iisg.nl/archives/nl/files/d/10748972full.php>

<http://militants-anarchistes.info/spip.php?article1221>

### ***First World War***

Several collections are directly linked to the First World War: they contain soldiers' correspondence and notebooks, documents on the rehabilitation campaigns by the Human Rights League for "those shot as an example", minutes and resolutions of the peace conferences.

The *newspapers of the trenches*, which are newspapers made by the soldiers of the First World War, are a collection unique to this genre in terms of its significance (102 newspapers, 9571 pages). They complement those kept at the French National Library: shared online access to the digitized collections of the two establishments, enhanced by titles in German from the collections of the BNU in Strasbourg, has also been set up ([http://www.bdic.fr/journaux\\_tranchees.html](http://www.bdic.fr/journaux_tranchees.html)). These publications, drafted and in part realised using various makeshift procedures during the war, on the front, by soldiers for their brothers in arms, provide accounts of daily life, the thoughts, hopes and despair of the soldiers.



First World War: Battlefield near Fleury and Thiaumont, France, April 1916, AdsD, FES.

The archives of *the survey conducted in the academy of Lille* (north of France) are interesting on several fronts. They contain the answers to a questionnaire drawn up by the rector's office of the academy of Lille and disseminated through academic newsletters destined for school establishments. The materials collected were to be used as part of the international exhibition of Lille (1921) and participate in the collection of a future war library.

The questions focussed on three main points: in general, on the German occupation and the way in which people experienced it; more specifically, on

German relations with the school population; and finally, on the relations with French and Allied troops. Let us take this question for example: "Has the presence of the Allied (or native) troops, especially black, Hindu etc. troops affected the local dialect? Have any foreign words (English, Hindu etc.), distorted to whatever degree, penetrated it and do they appear to be likely to persist?" Apart from the answers themselves, a whole host of additional documents were collected and preserved: sketches, posters, postcards, poems, administrative documents, propaganda, photographic plates etc.

Another collection is the one dealing with *the review in 1928 of the trial of the Bonnet Rouge*, an anarchist and satirical publication created by Eugène Bonaventure Vigo (aka Miguel Almeyreda), accused during the First World War of defeatism and treason. Amongst these documents we find manuscripts, press clippings, offprints, a set of letters dealing with the review, etc.

### ***Second World War***

The Second World War (and student union activities) are present in the form of the 2587 pages of correspondence of the French National Union of Students between 1940-1945 — a student union which is later to play an important role during the Algerian war and May 1968.



Second World War:  
Invasion of Normandy, 6.6.1944.  
Copy right holder not discoverable,  
AdsD FES

### ***International Relations - Pacifism***

To approach the topic of wars from a different angle, the BDIC is also offering the archives of a militant pacifist to Hope:

*The Prudhommeaux collection* consists of monographs, brochures, typed documents, correspondence, tracts... published by the pacifist movements or on the topic of pacifism and collected by Jules Prudhommeaux (1869-1948), a professor in history, doctorate in philosophy, teacher at the Free College of Social Sciences, and Director of the European Centre of the Carnegie Foundation. As a specialist in the study of the history of social doctrines, Jules Prudhommeaux defended two doctoral theses on Icarian communism of 1848 and the history of Icarian communities, which are the authority on the movement of ideas they are devoted to. As a militant cooperative member (member of the Society of Cooperative Studies), then founder in 1946 of the Association of Friends of Cooperation and a pacifist, once the war is over, he becomes involved in the European Centre of the Carnegie Foundation in 1919 and later becomes Secretary General of the French Association for the League of Nations and the Association of Peace through Law. From 1936 to 1939, Jules Prudhommeaux

participated in the work of the French Committee of the *Rassemblement Universel pour la Paix* (RUP) –an anti-war coalition. He was also the president of the Versailles branch of the French Human Rights League.

Here, too, the complementarity between the Hope project partner institutions is worthy of note. The IISG also owns some *Prudhommeaux Papers* which are not yet integrated in the Hope project but will be, we hope, in the near future.

Institutional pacifism is also represented thanks to the papers of the *Russian Association for the League of Nations* and, to a lesser extent, by those of the *Society of Russian Students in Paris*, as well as by those of the Russian emigrant, Victor Bulin.

Donated to the BDIC in 1934 by one of the directors of the association, the *archives of the Russian Association for the League of Nations* reflect the activity of the association between 1920 and 1922. In fact they contain the lists of the members of the association, its statute, its programme and correspondence, the minutes of meetings, various official texts, documents relating to its participation in international conferences and press articles to do with the work of the association.



Spanish Civil War - Federacion Anarquista Iberia: Liberty!  
Approx. 1936, AdsD, FES.

### **Russian, Spanish and Polish immigration collections**

The *Bulin collection* is a set of personal archives (papers, photographs, correspondence, essays, poems and short stories, manuscripts or typed texts totalling more than 2500 pieces) covering the years 1923-1983, and provides an account of Russian emigration to Germany and the United States during the 20th century. As a Russian imprisoned by the Germans in 1943, Victor Bulin (pseudonym of Viktor Evgen'evič Černomorcev) was freed in 1945, then emigrated to the United States in 1951, where he worked as a manual labourer in the steelworks of Cleveland. Throughout his life, he wrote poems, essays and published a dozen or so books.

### ***Spanish immigration***

It is a different war this time that the periodicals of Spanish immigration are linked to, the result of exiles following the civil war. The BDIC is offering 82,000 pages of publications in series from immigrants on this, as well as the *photos of the Spanish war* taken by the brigadist Gaby Ersler (1913-2005), a volunteer in republican Spain from September 1937, later linked to the communist resistance in France.

The iconographic collection — classified according to five topics “Brigadists”, “Different activities”, “Gabriel Ersler”, “Military operations and demonstrations” and “Health service” — donated to the BDIC brings together 221 negatives and prints corresponding to the period of his work in the health brigade of the Polish battalion “Dombrowski” of the XIIIth Brigade, from March 1938 to April 1939.

### ***The Algerian war, May 1968 and the Gulag***

The BDIC is offering two other photographic collections to the Hope project. That of Elie Kagan on the Algerian war (and in particular the photographs he took during the demonstration violently suppressed on 17 October 1961, where he was the only photographer to cover the event) and May 1968, and that of Vladimir Ablamski on the Gulag.. The photographs — more than a hundred in total — by Vladimir Ablamski (1911-1994) document life in a soviet camp shortly before its end. Deported in 1947, from 1953 onwards he was commissioned by the authorities of his camp to photograph each freed prisoner. Up until his liberation in 1956, this virtually official position as the camp photographer allowed him to let his eyes “linger” on his surroundings: his snapshots form an iconographic documentation of the Gulag, as exceptional as it is rare.

Françoise Blum (UPIP) and Franck Veyron (BDIC)

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

##### ***Ernesto Harder***

HOPE Coordinator for Dissemination & Networking

Archiv der sozialen Demokratie (AdsD) / Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)

HOPE – Heritage of the People’s Europe

Ernesto.Harder@fes.de

Godesberger Allee 149

53175 Bonn

(in charge under the German Press Act (*Pressegesetz*))