



# Prototyping the Digital Library of the Middle East

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# Project overview

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- Partnership between the Council on Library and Information Resources and the Antiquities Coalition, with Stanford Libraries as technical partner
- Response to conflict and loss of life in Middle East and increased looting of and trafficking in cultural heritage materials
- Broad and expansive vision outlined to stakeholders and funders
- Prototyping intended to demonstrate efficacy of vision and to assist with the pursuit of subsequent funding



# Constraints in prototyping

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- Time
- Staffing and expertise
- Scope
- Lack of specific requirements



# Prototyping approach

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- Proof of concept to provide portal and curation functionality
- Metadata aggregation from select partner institutions
- Leverage existing standards and open source frameworks
  - Spotlight and Blacklight
  - Traject
  - Europeana Data Model
  - International Image Interoperability Framework
  - oEmbed
- Document future considerations, technical and otherwise



# Documenting ethical concerns

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- Opportunities arose during prototyping to record specific issues or need for further discussion, strategy, and implementation guidance
- Provided opportunity for stakeholder or funder engagement through additional discussions
- Intent is **not** to disclaim responsibility, but to highlight gaps and to inform future DLME-related efforts
- Specific concerns included lack of subject and language expertise; internationalization; entity resolution and alignment; language identification and machine-assisted translation; and privacy and safety concerns



# Open questions for DLME as a project

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- How do we define "the Middle East"?
- What languages or cultures do we support or include, and how do we define that support or inclusion?
- What is the ethical framework within which our technology operates? How do technologies get chosen for DLME?
- Which organizations, political entities, etc. carry weight with the initiative?



# Thank you!

<https://dlme.clir.org/>



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