

Prototyping the Digital Library of the Middle East

Mark A. Matienzo / @anarchivist Collaboration & Interoperability Architect, Stanford Libraries Design for Diversity Opening Forum, 16 October 2017

Project overview

- 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



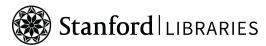
Constraints in prototyping

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



Prototyping approach

- 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
 - o Europeana Data Model
 - International Image Interoperability Framework
 - o oEmbed
- Document future considerations, technical and otherwise



Documenting ethical concerns

- 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

- 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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