

# Digital Collection Contexts: Intellectual and Organizational Functions at Scale

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## Abstract

This full-day workshop examines conceptual and practical aspects of *collections* and the context they provide in the digital environment, especially in large-scale cultural heritage aggregations. Collections will be considered in relation to the information needs of scholars, roles of cultural institutions, and international interoperability. The workshop aims to: 1) Broaden the conversation across an international community, 2) Further the research and development agenda for digital aggregations, 3) Relate conceptual advances to implementation goals and 4) Identify realistic approaches for collection representation, contextualization, and interoperability at scale

**Keywords:** digital collections, cultural heritage aggregations, information modeling, interoperability

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## 1 Description

Trends in interoperable content and open data raise important questions on how to represent complex objects, curated and dynamic collections, and context in ways that benefit users and collecting institutions. This workshop will provide a forum for international engagement on this important topic and provide iSchools the opportunity to build a community around our strengths in this important research area. Sessions will be led by European and North American experts from iSchools and projects developing large-scale digital cultural heritage collections.

- Morning session: Conceptual Foundations of Digital Collections
  - Carole L. Palmer & Karen Wickett (CIRSS, University of Illinois)
  - Hur-li Lee (School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
  - Martin Doerr (Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas)
  - Carlo Meghini (Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche).
- Afternoon session: Practical Implications for Building Digital Collections
  - Antoine Isaac, Europeana
  - Emily Gore and Amy Rudersdorf (Digital Public Library of America)
  - Sheila Anderson (Centre for e-Research, King's College London)
  - Shenghui Wang (OCLC Research)

- Mark Stevenson and Paul Clough (Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield)

We encourage participation from:

- Faculty and students from iSchools involved in research and education in information organization, cultural heritage, digital collections and archives, and metadata.
- System designers and developers interested in the creation of metadata schemas and promoting interoperable digital cultural heritage content.

## 2 Background Reading

*Modeling Cultural Collections for Digital Aggregation and Exchange Environments*, a whitepaper developed by researchers from the Europeana Foundation and CIRSS that discusses functions of collections in cultural heritage aggregations and proposes a formal extension to the Europeana Data Model to explicitly accommodate representation of collections and collection/item relationships. A public release of the paper is available at <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/45860>.

Position papers by session contributors and additional workshop details will be posted as they become available at <http://bit.ly/collectionsworkshop2014>.