



ERFGOED LEIDEN EN OMSTREKEN

As you can read in the section “Call for Partners” Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken (ELO) has very ambitious plans for the future. We want to offer single point access to all our collections.

As with most information in the world, a big part of our information has a geolocation, which can be used as the common demeanour. But this also faces us with an enormous task. How can we attach the correct geolocation in an automated way to millions of records? Coordinates do not change, which cannot be said for the names given to a location. How do we tackle this problem?

In order to try and solve these problems we are participating in a nationwide pilot project in the Netherlands, where we try to come up with a good strategy and working model for a historical geovocabulary, which in turn will be then be used as input for a historical geocoder which is developed in a related pilot project.

A lot of questions, but once these have been solved we can start with making connections. Linked Open Data, at first within our own collections, but as soon as possible also linked to information around the world!

Call for Partners

Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken (Heritage Leiden and Region, ELO) is an institute within Leiden city council that combines the collections and expertise of archaeologists, archivists and architectural historians.

It is our conviction that these fields complement each other and that the boundaries between the historical disciplines are fairly arbitrary.

Uniting the different aspects of history and the heritage services in one institute is an answer to the historical curiosity of our public, which disregards the professional disciplines and concerns all the material and immaterial traces of our history.

Blurring the boundaries between disciplines gives ELO the chance to enhance the usability of its collections and knowledge. Combining different strands also leads to new insights and a richer historical tapestry.

SINGLE POINT ACCESS

During the coming years ELO will work hard to provide integrated digital access for professional and private users of its collections.

We will use the fact that all objects in the various collections are comparable: they are the result of human actions that took place at a certain time and in a certain place. These three attributes will be used to build an integrated portal to the collections, with the geographical tools providing theme in access.

All objects in historical collections have in common that they are the result of human actions which took place at a certain moment and in a certain place.

This can be used for a combined access.

USING THE POWER OF USERS

The customers and their different questions and requirements will be the central consideration for ELO.

How can we make the interfaces intuitive or even 'game like', so that anybody can use our data without any instruction?

An innovative presentation of search results, which can be customized by the customer, leads to new insights and new usage.

By offering all data as 'open data', reusable in other applications, we are aiming for maximum use of the collections.

By regularly making large quantities of data available to crowdsourcing projects, in which the customer also can add his knowledge to ours, the power of our users is exploited to the utmost.

INTEGRATED DATA MANAGEMENT

An integrated digital front office requires integrated data management from the back office.

Managing the historical built environment, archives and archaeological collections requires similar processes: advice, conservation, documentation and collection.

Similar registration of these processes paves the way for integrated digital access for customers.

For the next few years ELO will therefore pay a lot of attention to the fusion of the various databases and workflow systems in the back office.

PARTNERS

Have we roused your interest?

Are you a software developer, a heritage institute or government department facing similar developments?

Would you like to participate, to hear more or to share your own views?

Contact us!

Together we will generate more power. One can go faster alone but one gets further together. That's why we would like you to join us.

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