



# The digital facts of cultural heritage

EUROMED-short paper

Marco de Niet  
The DEN Foundation

Limassol, 11 November 2010

# Digital Heritage Statistics



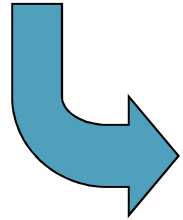
Why should we collect statistics on digitisation of cultural heritage?

1. Accountability: did we spend the (extra) money well?
2. Policy planning: how much time and money do we need for future digitisation projects? How much digital heritage will become (potentially) available for Europeana?
3. Benchmarking: are our investments and quality criteria comparable to what others are doing?

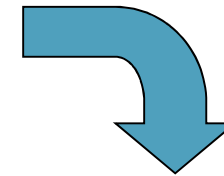
# A family of projects



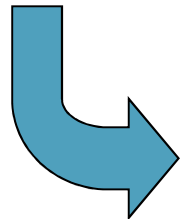
NUMERIC (EU; 2007-2009)



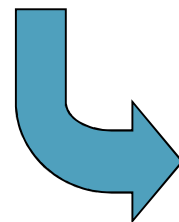
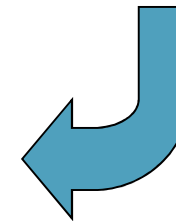
The Digital Facts (NL; 2008-2009)



More Digital Facts (NL; 2009-2010)



SIG-STATS (EU; 2009-2010)



ENUMERATE (EU; 2011-2013)

# NUMERIC (2007-2009)



“NUMERIC is a European Commission project that defines the empirical measures for digitisation activities and establishes the current investment in digitisation and the progress being made by Europe’s cultural institutions.”

# NUMERIC (2007-2009)



European Commission  
Information Society and Media

Developing a statistical framework for measuring the progress made in the digitisation of cultural materials and content

Study deliverable N° 8:

## Study Report

Study findings and proposals for sustaining the framework

*The opinions expressed in this study are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.*

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)  
No 1 Croydon  
CR0 0XT  
United Kingdom

**IPF**

May 2009

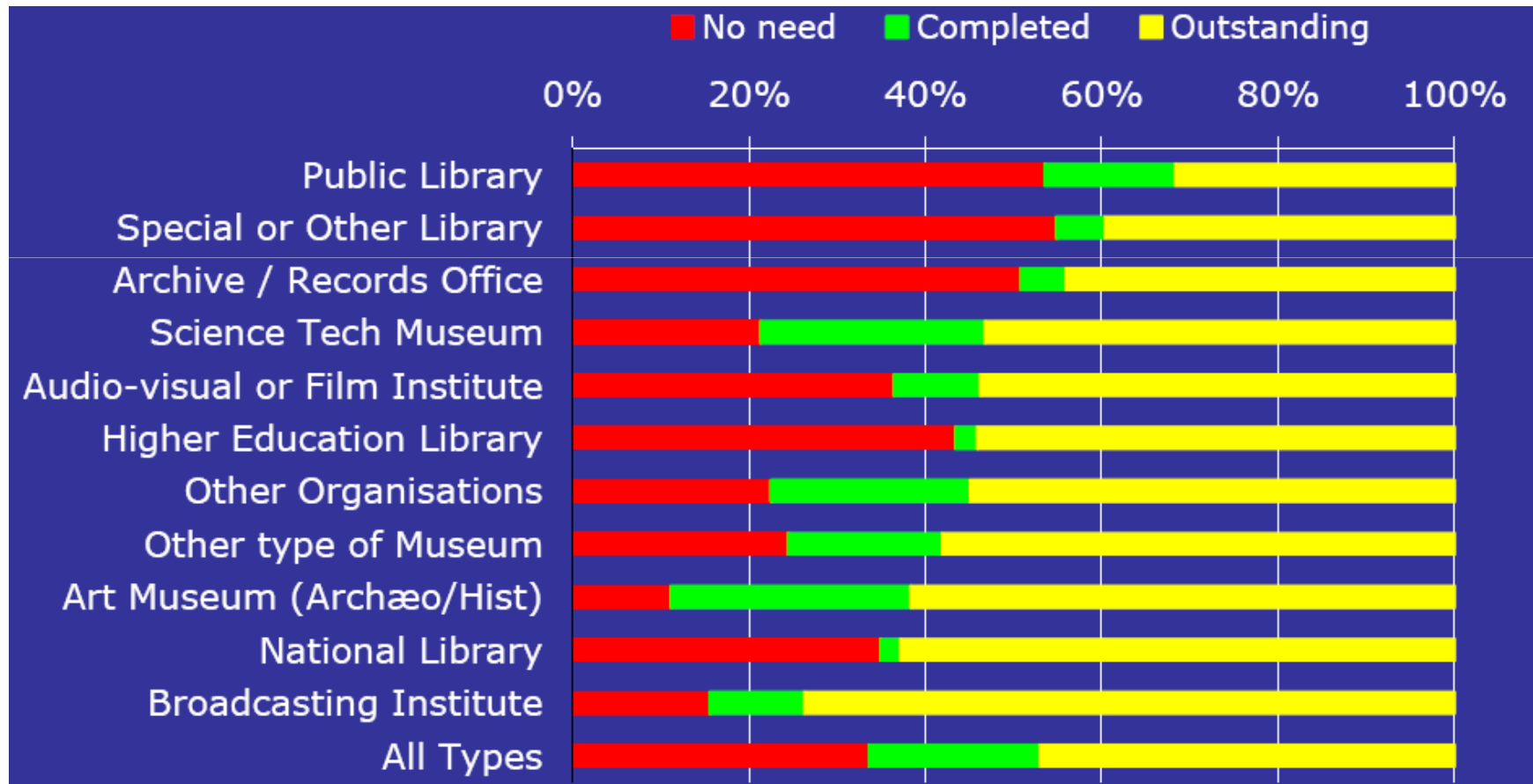
<http://www.NUMERIC.ws>

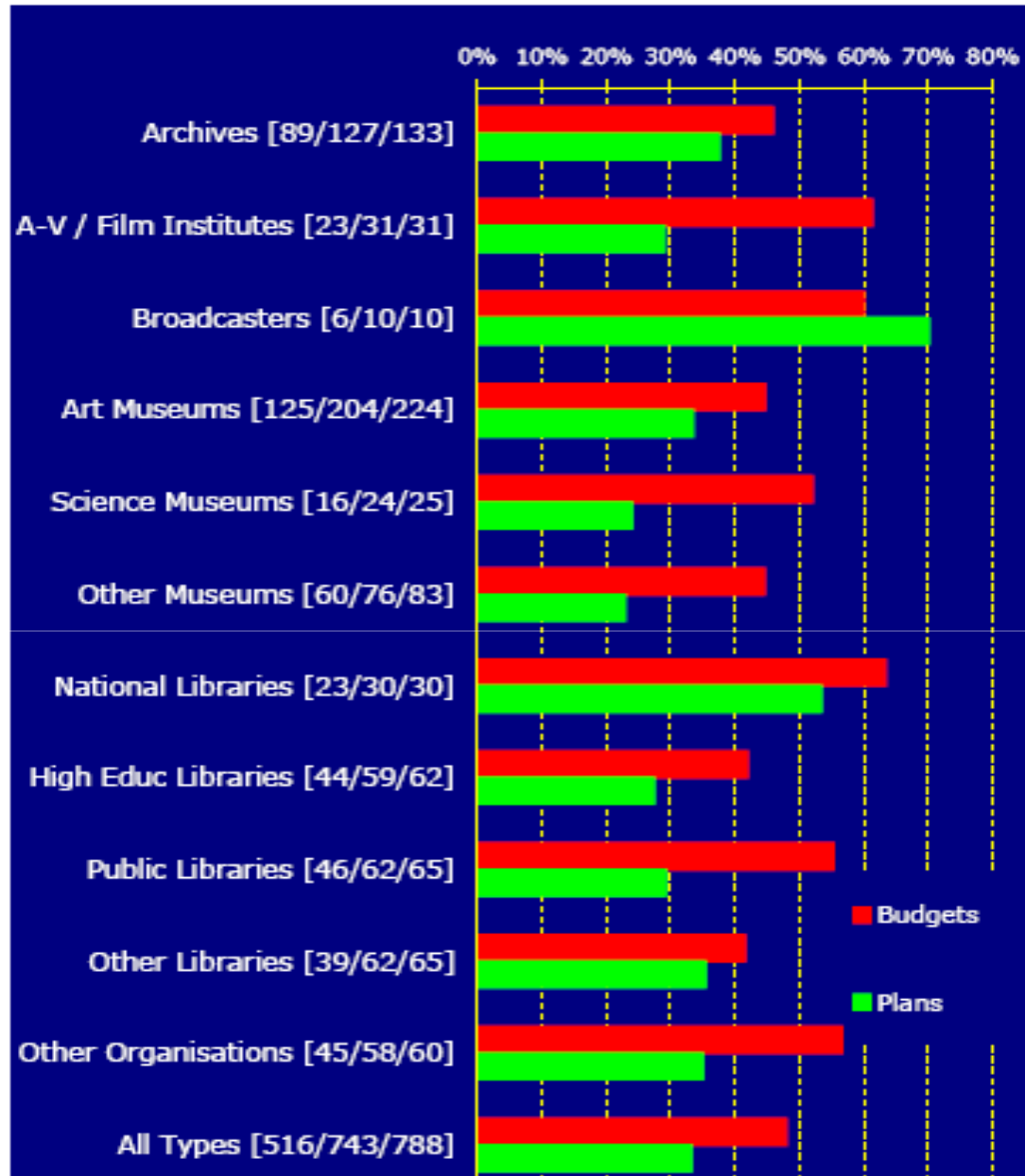
788 respondents from 26 countries

Main subjects:

- digitalisation budgets
- staffing for digitisation
- status information policies
- financing models
- role of third parties (companies)
- progress of digitalisation
- most popular formats
- costs of digitisation
- use and access rights

# How much has been digitised?





[The first two figures in brackets indicate the number of institutions respectively responding to the question about their (1) BUDGET and their possession of a (2) PLAN; the third figure is the total number of (3) survey respondents. Some will not have indicated that they possess a budget or a plan; the proportion that did is indicated by the bars in the chart.]

Separate  
digitisation  
budgets

Information  
plans available

# NL-The Digital Facts (2008-2009)

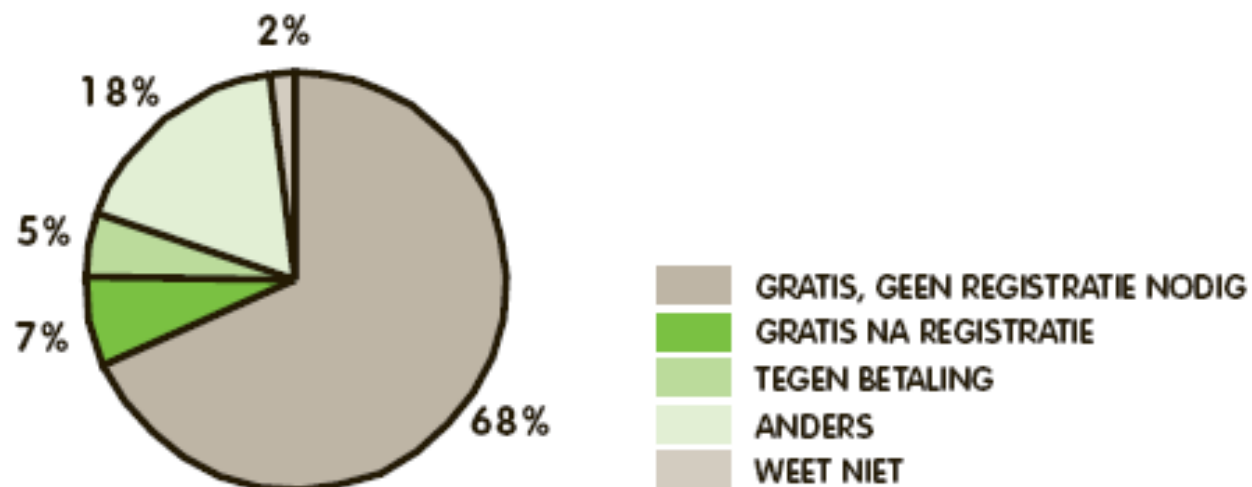


Financed by the Dutch Ministry of Culture

Research done by the DEN Foundation, with a steering committee from 6 specialists on digital heritage and / or statistics

130 respondents from NL:  
Largest contribution to Numeric.





**GRAFIEK 4** WIJZE VAN BESCHIKBAARSTELLING  
DIGITAAL GEREPRODUCEERDE COLLECTIE (N=119)

<b>GEMIDDELD %</b>	DIGITALE BESCHR. PUBLIEK	DIGITALE BESCHR. PC INSTELLING	DIGITALE REPRO PUBLIEK	DIGITALE REPRO PC INSTELLING
Archiefinstellingen	70%	57%	55%	60%
Bibliotheken <sup>9</sup>	63%	72%	33%	47%
Musea	31%	81%	35%	68%
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>52%</b> n=92	<b>70%</b> n=93	<b>41%</b> n=93	<b>61%</b> n=91

**TABEL 2.6** DIGITALE BESCHRIJVINGEN EN REPRODUCTIES VIA INTERNET OF PC

# More Digital Facts (2009-2010)



Follow up project, again financed by the Ministry of Culture, with the focus on developing better methodologies:

1. Better understanding of investments in infrastructure and digitisation => cost model for digitisation projects
2. Research into born-digital heritage: => methodology to measure the size of born-digital heritage collections
3. Research on the use of web statistics by cultural heritage institutions. => recommendations for use of webstatistics, e.g. in annual reports

# Evaluation



Numeric was groundbreaking effort. It had to deal with:

- No existing personal infrastructure
- Lack of an overall methodology (learning by doing)
- Lack of quality data at hand at the institutions
- 'Questionnaire fatigue' at the institutions
- Difficulties to fit monuments into the questionnaire



4.30| Including monuments in the more detailed survey analysis of materials that are being digitised was not a complete success. The definitions exist, but the diversity in types of monument inevitably leads to alternative views on the definition of digitisation for each type. Furthermore such monuments can either be part of a wider heritage site, falling under local administrative control, whilst others are maintained by a central agency. The approach to measuring the digitisation of these objects needs to be reviewed.

# SIG-STATS



The European Commission supported the formation of a Special Interest Group to prepare future surveys.

Six National Coordinators from Numeric: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands (chair).

Endorsed by the EU-Member States Expert Group in October 2009

First results: *Recommendations for a follow up to Numeric* (April 2010)

# Key issues



## Improve methodology

- Guidelines (e.g. webstatistics, terminology)
- Tools (e.g. cost models)
- Harmonisation with other surveys (ESSnet, TEL, EGMUS)

## Separate Core & Thematic Surveys

- Size, costs and use of digital heritage
- Support for National Coordinators

## Long term approach

- Statistical analysis to identify trends
- Support benchmarking

## Flexible presentation

- Reports, digests, data
- Support for re-use by third parties

# ENUMERATE

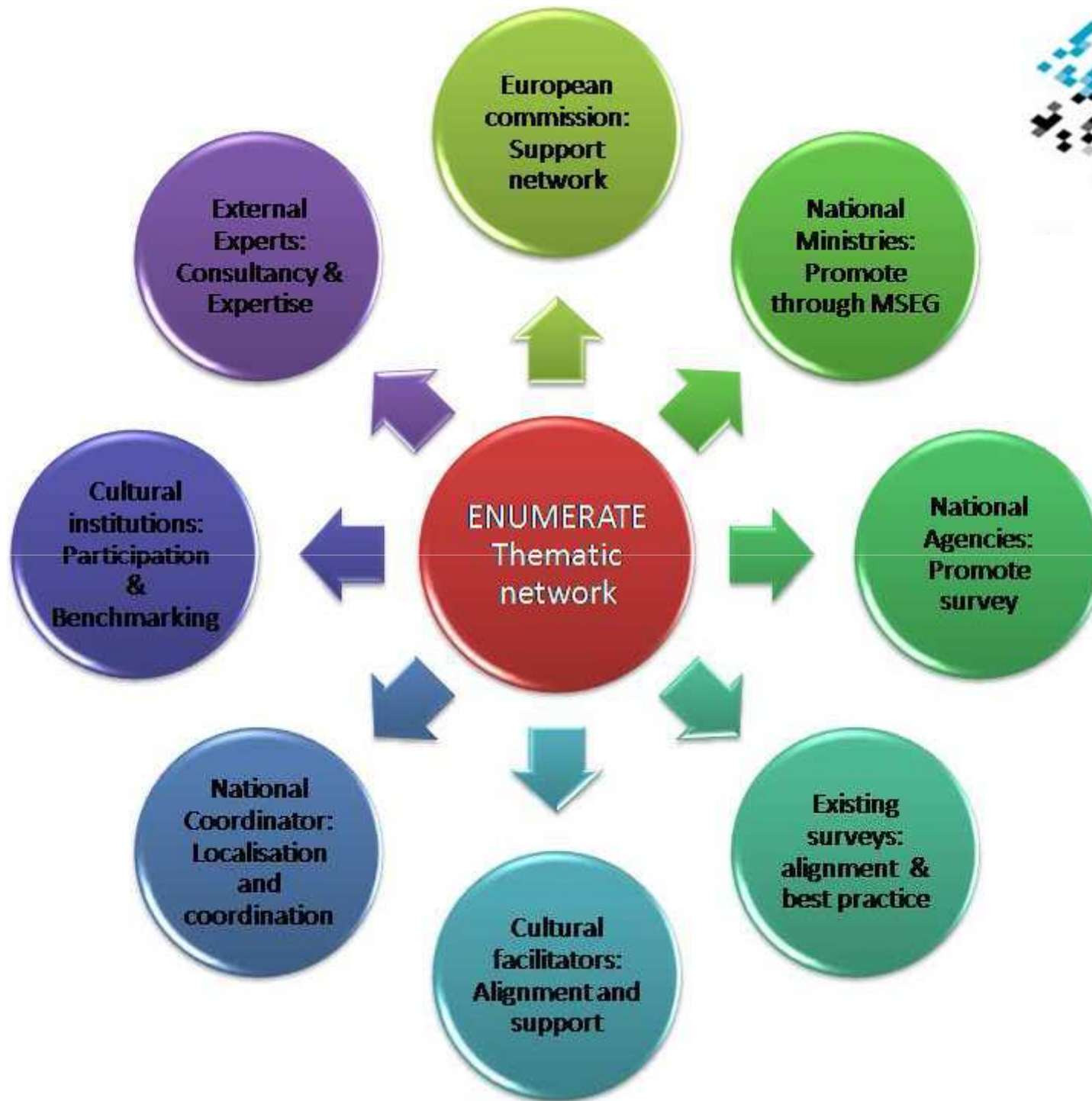


Thematic Network under the 4<sup>th</sup> ICT-PSP call

## Objective

The primary objective of the ENUMERATE Thematic Network (TN) is to create a reliable baseline of statistical data about digitization, digital preservation and online access to cultural heritage in Europe.

Currently, statistical data on Europe's digital heritage is tentative and scattered at best. ENUMERATE will bring about major improvements in the availability, quality and accuracy of such data. In this way, ENUMERATE can support and drive strategic decision-making at European, National and Institutional level and thus support the Digital Agenda 2020.





# Wanted!



## Intelligence about:

- **Size of digital collections**
- **Costs of digitisation**
- **Costs of digital preservation**
- **Use of digital heritage**

**Join the**

**ENUMERATE THEMATIC NETWORK**

**(start 1 February 2011)**



More information:

[www.numeric.ws](http://www.numeric.ws)

[www.den.nl](http://www.den.nl)