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Query and Context based Visualization of Time-Spatial Culture Dynamics

Achievements
First Year

QVIZ

Query and context based visualization of time-spatial cultural dynamics

The QVIZ project is co-funded by the European Union through the IST programme under FP6.

Project Rationale

European Cultural Heritage institutions face two common challenges. The organization and presentation of archival information is so complex that they often restrict easy access to the material. Secondly, knowledge from communities of practice is often neglected.

Research Conducted

With these challenges in mind, the QVIZ project was started in May 2006. During the first year activity focused on underlying research, system specifications and prototype design. More specifically, this work involved establishment of use cases, user scenarios, access strategies, an administrative ontology and a platform for knowledge models and collaboration.

Prototypes

Based on a foundation of the aforementioned research, the technical implementation and user trial phase began. A QVIZ prototype portal for easy access to archival information is shown in Figure 1.

Thus far, the portal provides direct access to archival resources over time and space through administrative units.

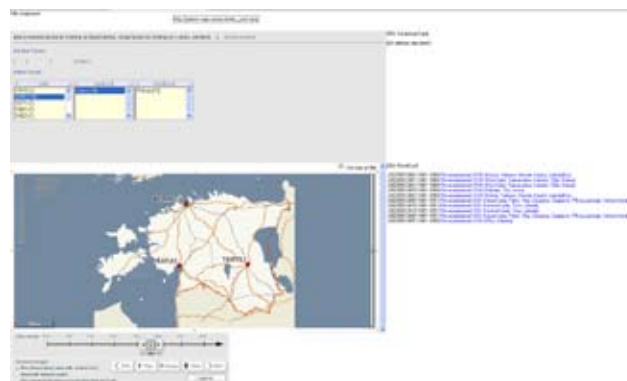


Figure 1



Figure 2

An innovative faceted query in combination with a map-time representation makes it possible to display and search over complex archival structure without deep knowledge of archival organization.

The collaborative environment, shown in Figure 2 is the front-end of domain ontologies expanded by communities of practice. Its function is to stimulate co-creation of content, and to make best use of user-created knowledge. Hence, QVIZ affords content-based exchange and collaboration through semantic annotation and linking of resources.

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