Newsletter 1

Welcome to the first newsletter from the QVIZ project! The intention with this newsletter is to inform interested in the project *Query and context based visualization of time-spatial cultural dynamic*, QVIZ, about recent developments and progress in the project. The newsletter will be delivered four times a year. Please forward it to other who may be interested.

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to the list, please send an e-mail to either *newsletter-subscribe@qviz.eu* or *newsletter-unsubscribe@qviz.eu.*

Introduction to the QVIZ project

QVIZ will research and create a framework for visualizing and querying archival resources by a time-space interface based on maps and emergent knowledge structures. The framework will also integrate social software, such as wikis, in order to utilize knowledge in existing and new communities of practice.

QVIZ will lead to improved information sharing and knowledge creation, easier access to information in a user-adapted context and innovative ways of exploring and visualizing materials over time, between countries and other administrative units. The common European framework for sharing and accessing archival information provided by the QVIZ project will open a considerably larger commercial market based on archival materials as well as a richer understanding of European history.

The consortium consists of the following seven partners from universities, archival institutions and companies:

• Umeå university, Sweden

• Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft, Austria

• Regio, Estonia

• University of Portsmouth, UK

• Swedish National Archive, Sweden

• National Archives of Estonia, Estonia

• Telefonica I+D, Spain

Progress

Kick-off
The kick-off meeting was carried out May 9-11. Issues such as practical implementations, potentially problematic areas and administrative routines were discussed. A first steering group meeting was also held in conjunction with the kick-off meeting.

State of the art analysis

Extensive work has been carried out to gather knowledge and resources for further analysis. In particular the following issues/technologies have been covered:

• Annotation of resources

• Access to digital resources

• Visualization of time and space

• Data preparation for time-spatial visualization

• Semantic descriptions of resources

• Social software (wikis, blogs, combinations)

• Cross institution authorization

• Gazetteer services and protocols

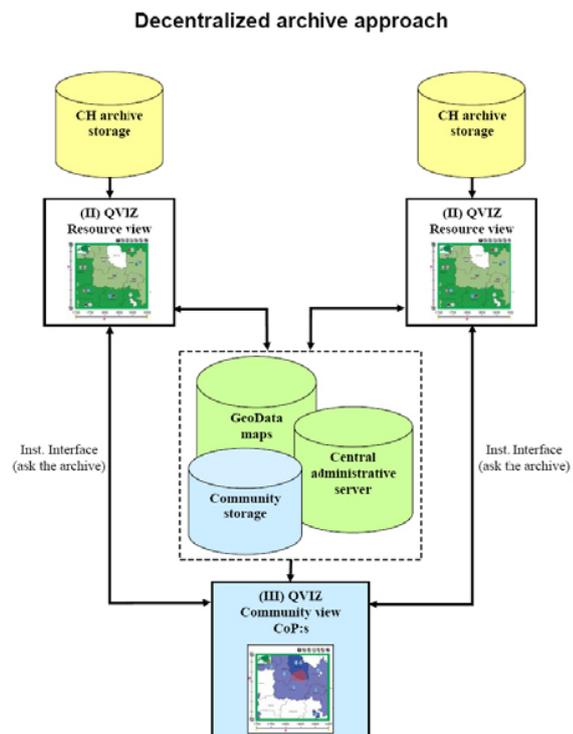• Persistent digital identifiers

Requirements analysis

The requirement analysis carried out so far includes:

• Identification of existing and future user of archival resources

• Drafting user scenarios using online wiki

• Descriptions and analysis of business models of archives

• Deriving functional requirements

Concept mock-ups

Concept mock-ups and storyboards have been employed to stimulate and design user scenario descriptions. These have been very efficient in promoting the understanding of various ideas and scenarios. Mock-ups have addressed some of the issues of access strategies, and also some issues and problems with a completely centralized system. See right for a schematic representation of a decentralized approach.

Decentralized archive approach

Dissemination

The project will be disseminated through various meetings, conferences, information materials and this newsletter. A project leaflet, poster and a website, were created at an early stage.

The Dissemination Plan was submitted by the end of July 2006. It can now be reached through the project web site, *www.qviz.eu.*

Many contacts have been established within the archival and research communities and, generally speaking, there is a great deal of interest in the project.

QVIZ has so far been represented at the following events during 2006:

*   The Nordic ALM Forum, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 30-31
*   The International Cultural Heritage conference "An Expedition to European Digital Cultural Heritage" in Salzburg, Austria, June 20-22
*   QVIZ participated in a meeting organized by the Unit for Learning and Cultural Heritage in Luxemburg 29-30 June. The project was presented and several significant contacts were made.
*   Cyberinfrastructure for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Summer Institute July 24-28, UC San Diego, USA.
*   The Genealogist Convention 2006, 12-13 August, Stockholm, Sweden
*   Nordic Archival days, Uppsala, Sweden, 24-25 August

Planned activities

The dissemination activities include many small events, but also some large-format conferences. So far the following activities have been planned for the autumn of 2006

*   VAST2006 Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus, 30 October - 4 November
*   IST 2006 Conference in Helsinki, Finland, 21-23 November.

Next consortium meeting

The next consortium meeting will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, 11-13 October. There will be a steering group meeting, general sessions and group-based work in areas such as access methodologies, administrative ontologies and technical specifications. In additional there will be a dissemination seminar with Uppsala University and several technical meetings.

Information Society
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