

**Title: From the Digital Library of Serbia to the National portal of cultural heritage**

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**From the Digital Library of Serbia to the National portal of Serbian cultural heritage**

**Abstract:**

The National Center for Digitization in Serbia was founded in 2003 and the National Library of Serbia (NLS) was one of its founders. This consortium includes Mathematical institute Belgrade, National Library of Serbia, National Museum Belgrade, Archaeological Institute Belgrade, Archives of Republic of Serbia, Serbian Institute for Monument Protection, Mathematical faculty Belgrade and Serbian film archive. During its five years of existence, the Centre is organizing regularly the annual international conferences on digitization in Belgrade and is publishing twice a year the "Review of the National Center for Digitization". So, its activities are focused on conferences, review and standards. Concerning the practical activities and the coordination of different digitization projects in the national level, the Center has not a big achievements. The NLS is only one cultural institution in Serbia which has the special department for digitization, established in 2001. The Digital Library of the NLS is the only one digital library in Serbia and it has more than one million of digital items in about 70 different digital collections of Cyrillic manuscripts, old and rare books, children's books, new books, newspapers and magazines, cartographic materials, engravings and art material, photographic documents, posters and documentary material, printed music and sound records, digital catalogues and bibliographies <http://digital.nb.rs/eng/index.php>. With its rich digital collections, informatics specialists, modern equipment, know-how and implementation of OAI standards, the NLS is recognized in the national level as the centre of the best practice in the digitization and as potential leader in this domain. As the national cultural heritage is not kept only in the NLS, the NLS mobile team for digitization (experts with mobile scanners) is going now through Serbian regional libraries and is helping its staff to digitize cultural heritage hold in their libraries. We expect that during the year 2009, the NLS team will finish with the digitization of materials in 25 regional libraries. After that, we will create the portal "Digital Libraries of Serbia" which will contain all national cultural heritage in digital format from libraries. The intention of the NLS is to invite all other cultural institutions from Serbia, as archives, museums, audio and video institutions to join the portal with the main goal to create the National portal of Serbian cultural heritage. The NLS team has the capacity to support all cultural institutions in Serbia to realize this goal. The NLS is already the partner in many important international digital projects, as International Children's Digital Library, the World Digital Library, The European Library and Europeana. The National portal of Serbian cultural heritage will be presented in the national Internet domain [www.europeana.rs](http://www.europeana.rs), which will be in the near future the part of the big Europeana portal – [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu).