Advancing Digital Empowerment
of Libraries in Europe

Case studies template
PR2

ICCU – December 2022

Introduction

This document provides the template for the development of the Case Studies on digital transformation in libraries.

The ADELE project aims to contribute to the internationalisation of organisations that choose a path of digital transformation. Through the network they can connect, collaborate, compare, and exchange ideas with organisations across Europe and beyond.

The 100 case studies are aimed at initiating the digital transformation of libraries and inspiring libraries that want to improve their performance on certain areas of the tool.

The areas of the ADELE tool cover the use of digital technologies in libraries from different perspectives: management, infrastructure and equipment but also lifelong learning, users training opportunities and community and stakeholders involvement.

The case studies may be linked to an activity, a service, a new professional profile, an initiative, a place or a library infrastructure in line with the areas and the statements of the ADELE tool. We aim to create a database of good practices to foster innovation and the adoption of digital practices in the library.

Library presenting the case study (Name, city, website and contact details)	Classense Library of Ravenna Website: https://www.classense.ra.it/ General email: informazioni@classense.ra.it Contact email: ffiasconaro@classense.ra.it

Title of the case study	Classense digital collections
Area of ADELE tool illustrated by the case study *Please underline the selected area*	☐ *Management* x *Infrastructure, Equipment and Support* ☐ *Continuing Professional Development* ☐ *Self-reflection on digital competences* ☐ *Learning opportunities on digital competences for users* ☐ *Collaboration, Networking, and Community*
Description of the experience: aim, methods and outcomes	The Classense Digital Collections (CDC) aims to be a project of digital enhancement based on sustainability: open source, open to interoperability and backward compatibility, modulated on the descriptive specificities of resources, open to reuse in other contexts, respectful of the historical development of the Classense collections. Nowadays CDC collects 4500 objects and more than 45 digital collections, ranging from photographs to manuscripts, ancient books, correspondence, graphics, documents of the Ravenna Historical Archives. The digital environment must be logically and semantically related but, at the same time, it should be guaranteed a space for autonomous discovery, in some way not predetermined and open to serendipity, which is the essence of exploratory research. With these conditions, the CDC project in its experimental phase has chosen as Content Management System OMEKA version S: an opensource project that was created to bring the conceptual settings of the Semantic Web in a tool easily accessible to a large part of the community of cultural operators. A tool, therefore, of valorisation and storytelling, complementary to the catalogue, integrated and connected to it in an agile way, aimed at strengthening the dissemination and promotion of the historical collections of the Classense. In the CDC, objects are related not only from a bibliographical point of view but also historical: they are related to the characters of the history of the library, with the rooms in which they are exposed and with other collection. In fact, another outcome of CDC is to recompose and make more evident the internal articulation of important collections and to highligh the ways in which these collections have developed and have now been included in the overall heritage of our library. Ultimately, CDC wants to tell the historical and monumental heritage of the Classense and at the same time tell the library itself, container and content, in a GLAM perspective.
Resources needed to implement the idea *Please, provide any link and/or send them in attachment*	Human resources: • Librarians to check contents and data to be uploaded • Operators involved in digitisation process • Experts in computer science and Omeka programming language Technical resources: • Computer equipment and digitisation tools
Target groups	Historians and researchers interested in the History of Ravenna Users interested in a first approach to the Classense's historical collections.
Elements of innovation	One of the strengths of the CDC project is the possibility of linking different resources together. A historical library such as the Classense has an extraordinary variety of cultural objects (bibliographic, archival, historical,

	museum), each with its own language and descriptive rules. These specificities often make it difficult to understand in a simple way the links that exist between the different types of collections of a historical library. CDC intends, respecting the current descriptive and metadata standards, to bring out these connections in an easy way for the researcher and curious people. CDC is a first approach to historical collections, a first access tool, and is directly linked to the reference services that the library offers to users.
Tips to other library staff using this idea	To keep in mind that tools like this are storytelling tools that do not replace the catalog but are complementary to it. To be clear about the purpose of the work: whether it is to relate different entities (as in our experience) or more homogeneous information, it must be drawn from official and authoritative repositories and it must be made in an attractive way. To have human and instrumental resources available to the project. Omeka S is scalable and can be used for small projects or small businesses, but it should be remembered that the correct metadata and adequate digitization (both for digital preservation and for use) require time.
Keywords	#linkedata #digitalibrary #digitization
References	https://classense.unibo.it/s/Classense/page/home