

# Europeana

Towards The European Digital Library



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# Outline:

- **Europeana**
  - **What is it**
  - **How it is being built**
  - **System view**
- **CNR ISTI in Europeana**
  - **Past Experiences**
  - **Role in EDLnet**
  - **Role in Europeana**
- **Contacts & Links**



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# What is Europeana: Short History

- In October 2004 **Google Book Search** a tool from [Google](#) that searches the full text of books The service was formerly known as **Google Print** when it was introduced at the [Frankfurt Book Fair](#)
- In 2005, Jacques *Chirac* initiated the European *Digital Library* project in order to affirm the ‘cultural identity’ of Europe and to spread its heritage.
- In 2006, The European Commission takes on board the duty of creating the European Information space (i2010) and in particular elaborates a plan to bring on-line the European Culture (**i2010 – Digital Libraries Building Europe's Digital Library**)



# What is Europeana: Short History

Horst Forster at ECDL 2006:

- Within the i2010 strategy, the European Commission has designated the “European Digital Library” as a flagship project, delivering integrated access to millions of digital objects from cultural collections, distributed across a wide range of museums, archives and libraries in Europe.
- Plan: the Commission and CENL — the Conference of European National Libraries — announced last March that the European Digital Library for cultural content will be built onwards from the **TEL-project's** organisational infrastructure. TEL already provides a strong European cooperation between national libraries, which makes it a good organisational nucleus for the initial development of the European Digital Library. It will gradually integrate resources held by archives, museums and other libraries at local and regional level



# What is Europeana: Short History

- on 24 August 2006, the European Commission presented its vision about the European Digital Library:
- *A common multilingual access point would make it possible to search Europe's distributed – that is to say, held in different places by different organisations – digital cultural heritage online. Such an access point would increase its visibility and underline common features.*
- *The access point should build on existing initiatives such as **The European Library (TEL)**, in which Europe's libraries already cooperate. It should where possible closely associate private holders of rights in cultural material and all interested stakeholders. A strong commitment by the Member states and cultural institutions to arrive at such an access point should be encouraged.*



# What is Europeana

- Two main threads: the **stakeholders** (libraries, archives, museums, other organizations devoted to the production and dissemination of culture) and the **scientific/technological**
- From the stake-holders thread:
  - TEL
  - EDLproject an [eContentplus Programme](#) coordinated by the [German National Library](#).
  - The project, started in September 2006 and completed in February 2008, worked towards the integration of the bibliographic catalogues and digital collections of the National Libraries of [Belgium](#), [Greece](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Norway](#), [Spain](#) and [Sweden](#), into [The European Library](#).
  - EDLnet
  - ... (many many more)



# What is Europeana

- **Scientific/technology thread:**
  - **DELOS**
  - **BRICKS**
  - **EPOCH**
  - **Multimatch**
  - **(and many many more)**





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# EDLnet (past)

- The EDLnet Thematic Network is an **eContentPlus** programme to prepare the ground for the European Digital Library. The project addresses particularly the area of improving cross-domain accessibility to cultural content- a pillar of the European Commission's i2010 Digital Libraries initiative.
- EDLnet Thematic Network aims to tackle the fragmented cultural heritage map of Europe by bringing on board the key European stakeholders to build consensus on creating the European Digital Library.



# EDLnet (past)

EDLnet project aims to deliver the following results:

- A larger and more visible community of archivists, librarians and museum people committed to making content available in an interoperable way.
- Clear and usable summary reports and recommendations on each of the main areas of interoperability addressed in the EDLnet.
- A roadmap showing how the component parts interlink and what needs to be achieved when to realise the aim of the European Digital Library.
- One or more prototype(s) demonstrating the proposed solutions.
- A fully working prototype, with interoperable multilingual access to at least 10 collections from each of the four cultural sectors, covering over 2 million digital items.
- A proposal for funding to create a fully operational European Digital Library service.



# EDLnet (present)

EDLnet project results:

- Europeana functional specifications: D2.5
- Working prototype: <http://www.europeana.eu>

The screenshot displays the Europeana website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'My Europeana', 'Communities', 'Partners', 'Timeline', 'Thought lab', and a 'Choose a language' dropdown menu. On the left side, there is a large, stylized 'e' logo with a 'beta' badge and the text 'europeana pensez culture'. The main content area features a search bar with the text 'wolfgang mozart' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there is a 'Timeline navigator' section with a horizontal scroll of historical documents and a portrait of Wolfgang Mozart. At the bottom, there are four interactive sections: 'Share your ideas:' with links for 'Tagging', 'Send us feedback', and 'People are currently thinking about:' with links for 'mozart sonate', 'south-korea history', and 'mozart'. The 'New content:' section includes a link for 'Browse through time.' and a link for 'From our partner museums, archives, libraries and audio-visual collections'.

# EDLnet (present)

- EDLnet has created the ground and also defined a number of projects which will cooperate to make Europeana.
- **Project cluster (Running):**
  - **EPA** (APENET) The aim is to build a network of European archives.
  - **EFG**: European Film Gateway: It will provide direct access to about 790.000 digital objects including films, photos, posters, drawings, sound material and text documents.
  - **EUROPEANA Local**: is a Best Practice Network. The project aims to improve the interoperability of the digital content held by local institutions and to make it accessible through Europeana.
  - **PrestoPrime** will research and develop practical solutions for the long-term preservation of digital media objects.
  - **Athena** is a Network of Best Practice. will bring together relevant stakeholders and content owners from museums and other cultural institutions.
  - **STERNA**: Semantic web based Thematic Reference Network Application.



# EDLnet (present)

- **Project cluster (Negotiation):**
  - **Europeana v1.0** is the successor of EDLnet (EuropeanaNet). It will develop an operational service and solve key operational issues related to the implementation and functioning of the European Digital Library [Europeana].
  - **Europeana connect:** It will deliver core components which are essential for the realisation of the European Digital Library (Europeana).
  - **BHL Europe:** The aim is to improve the interoperability among projects dealing with biodiversity material in numerous institutions across the EU.
  - **EUScreen:** Best Practice Network aims at achieving a highly interoperable digitised collection of television material.
  - **Europeana Travel** The theme is Travel and Tourism in Europe
  - **MIMO:** It will deal with museums of Musical Instruments.
  - **Judeica** The aim is to establish a comprehensive map of European Jewish Cultural Heritage.



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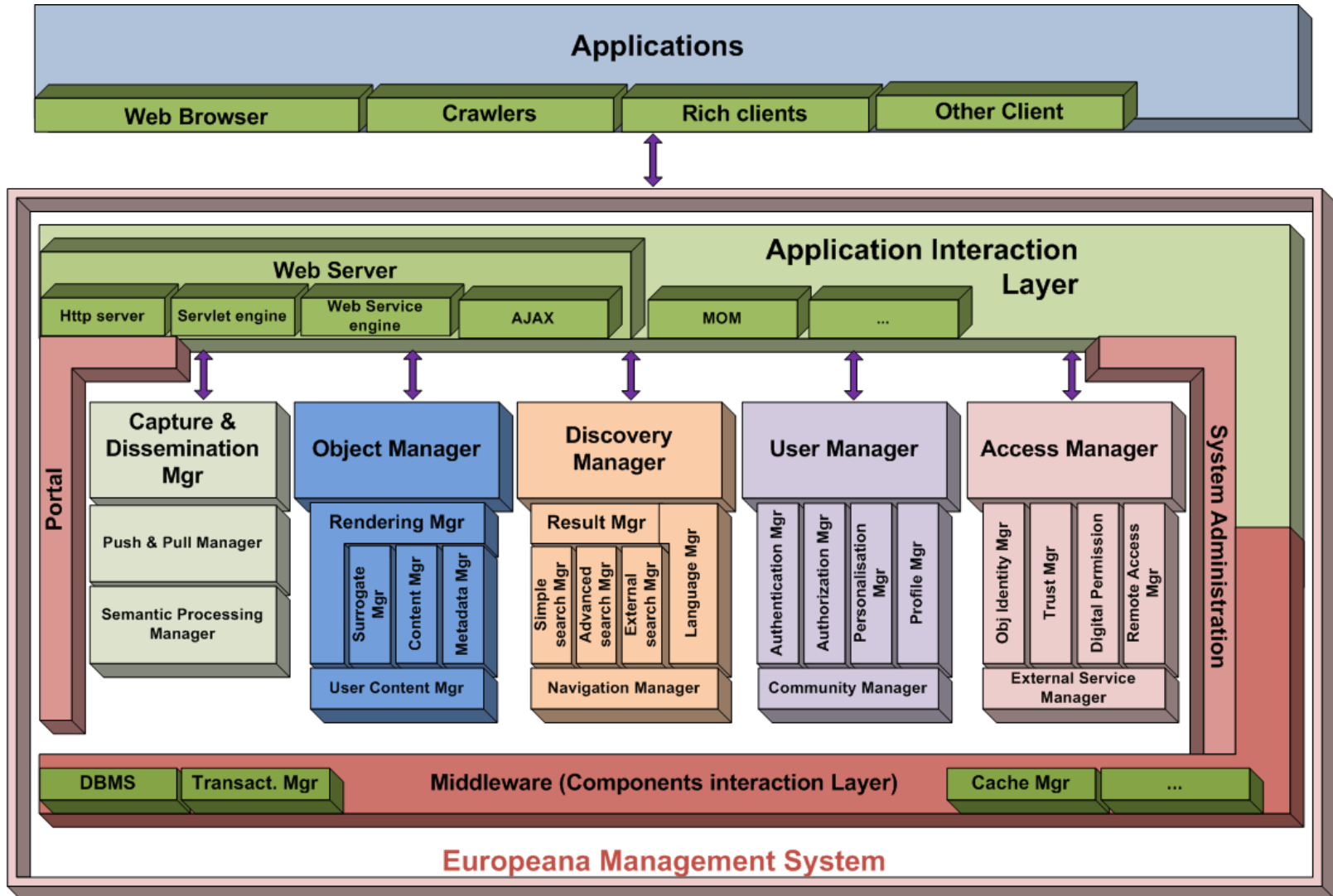
# System view

- An integration system
  - Periphery: highly heterogeneous schemas and data
  - Europeana: integration in a global schema (surrogate model).
  - Free search on the whole metadata values.
  - Advanced Search on a pivot schema (ESE).

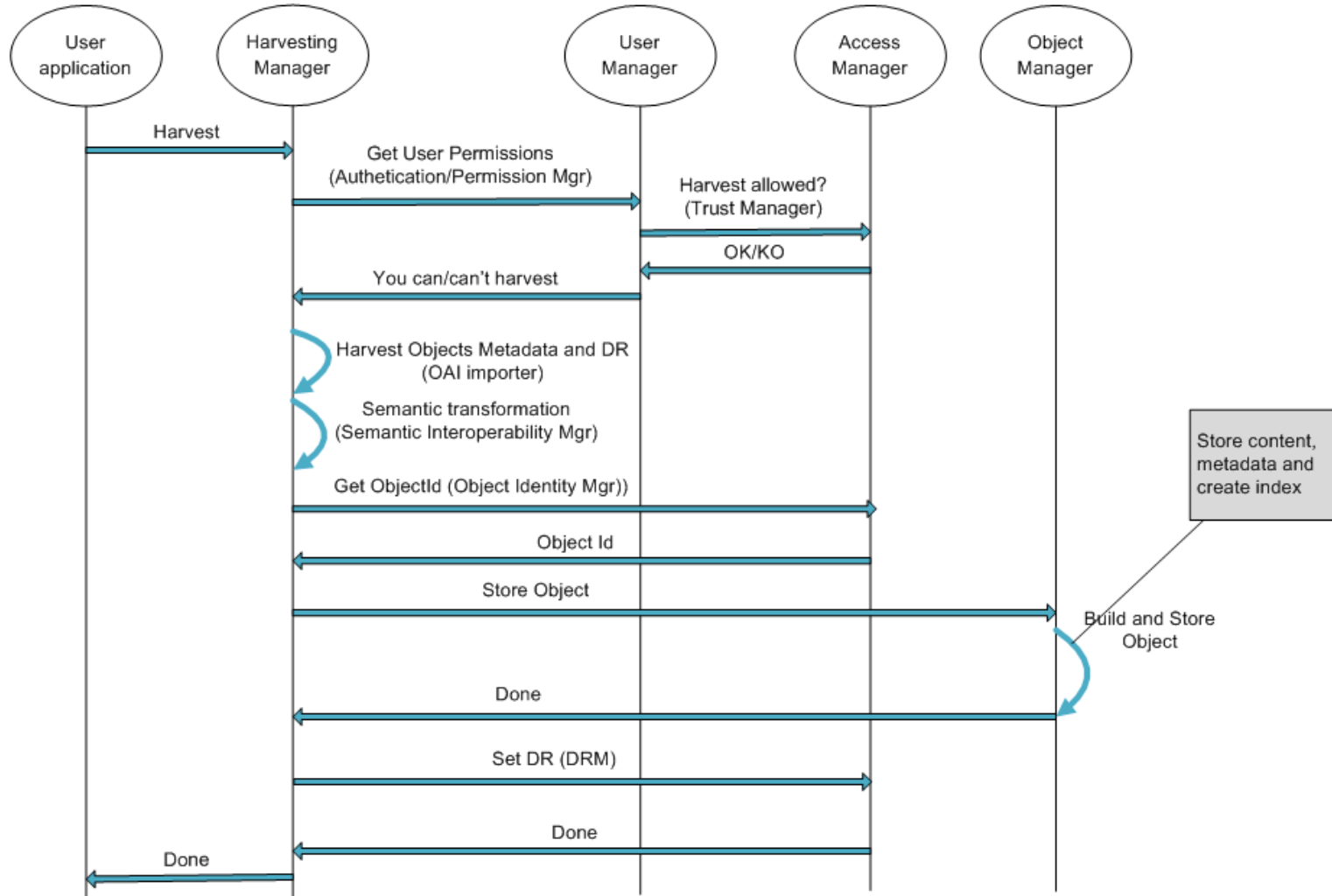




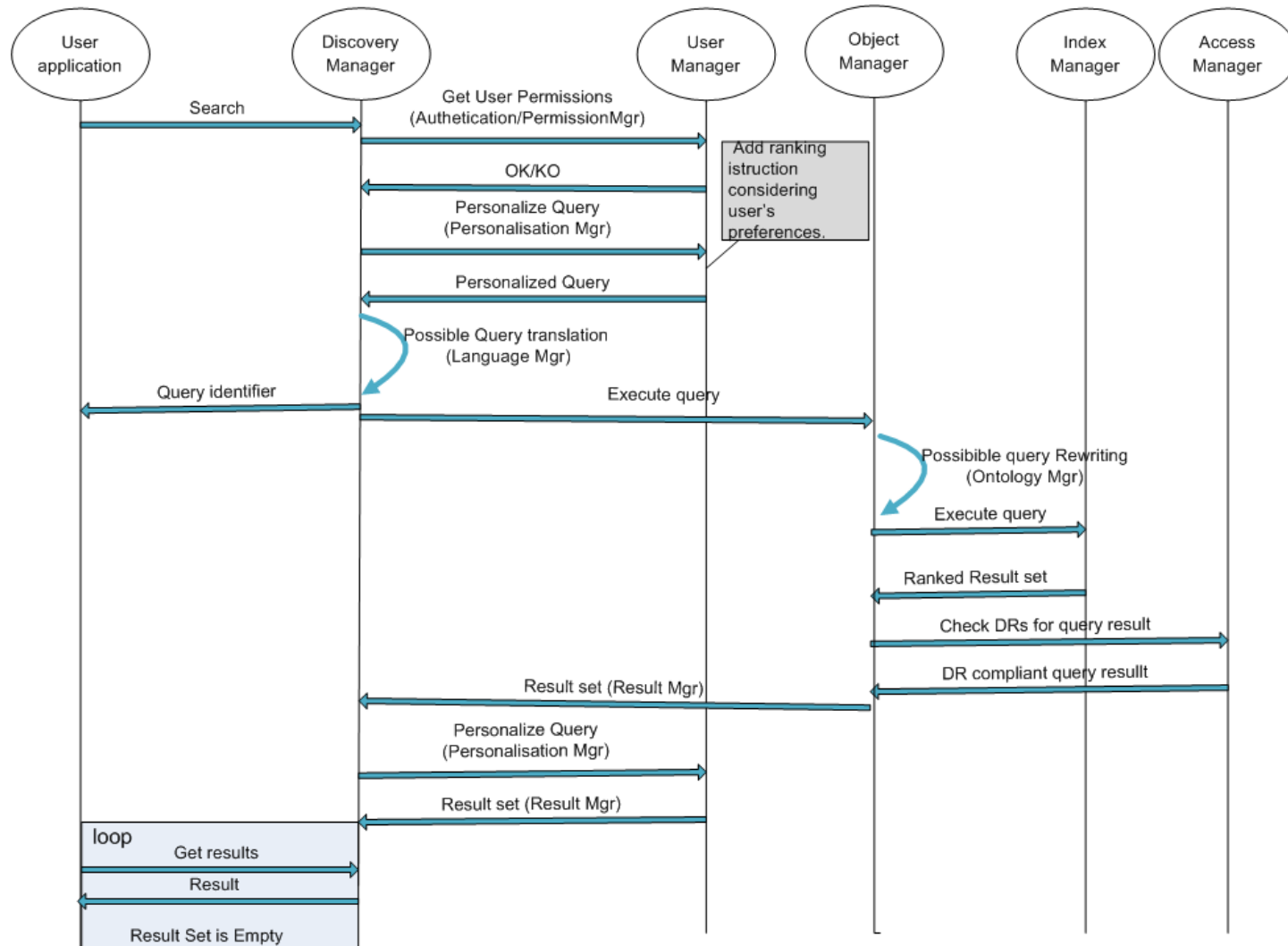
# Functional architecture



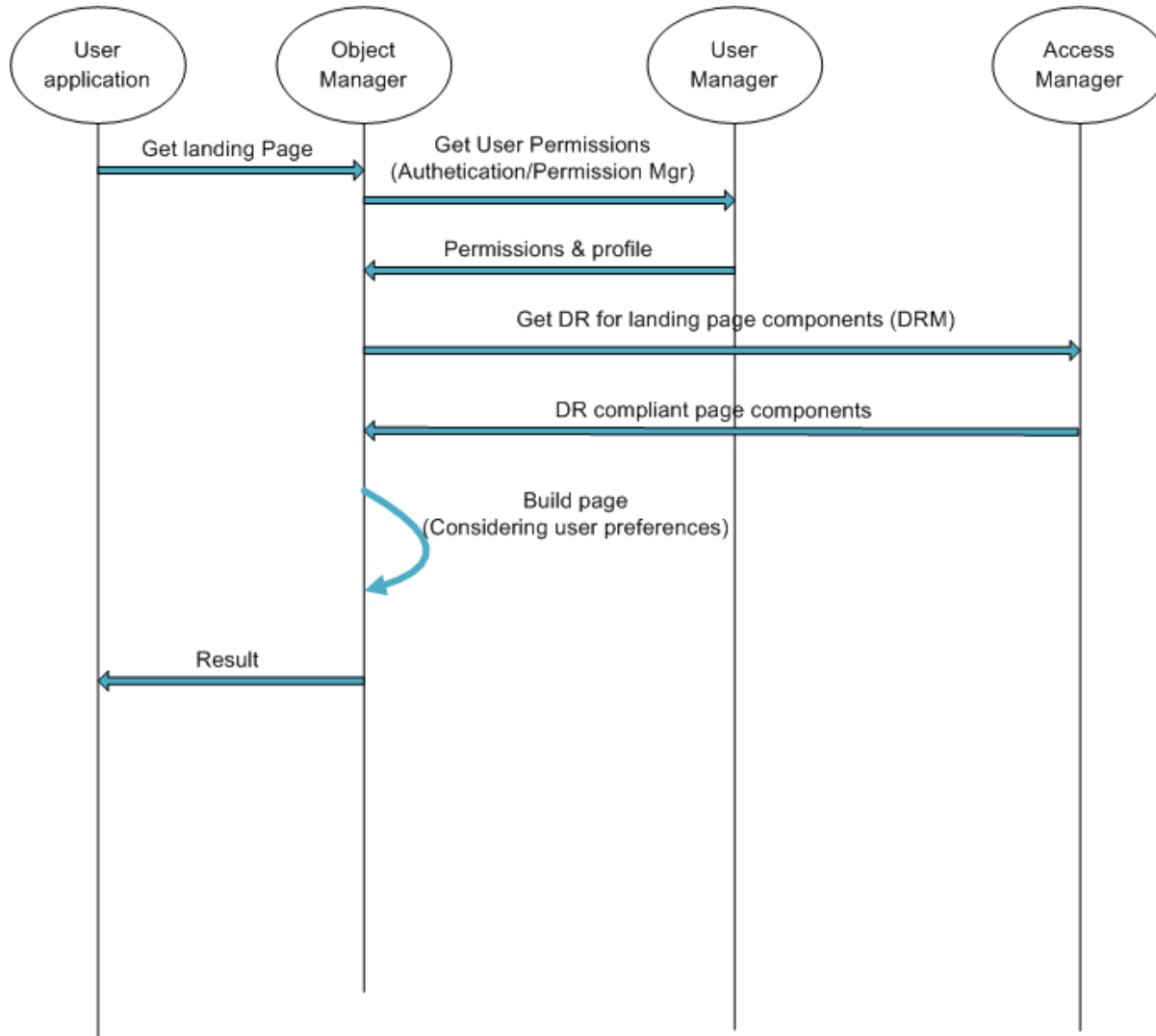
# Functional architecture (harvesting)



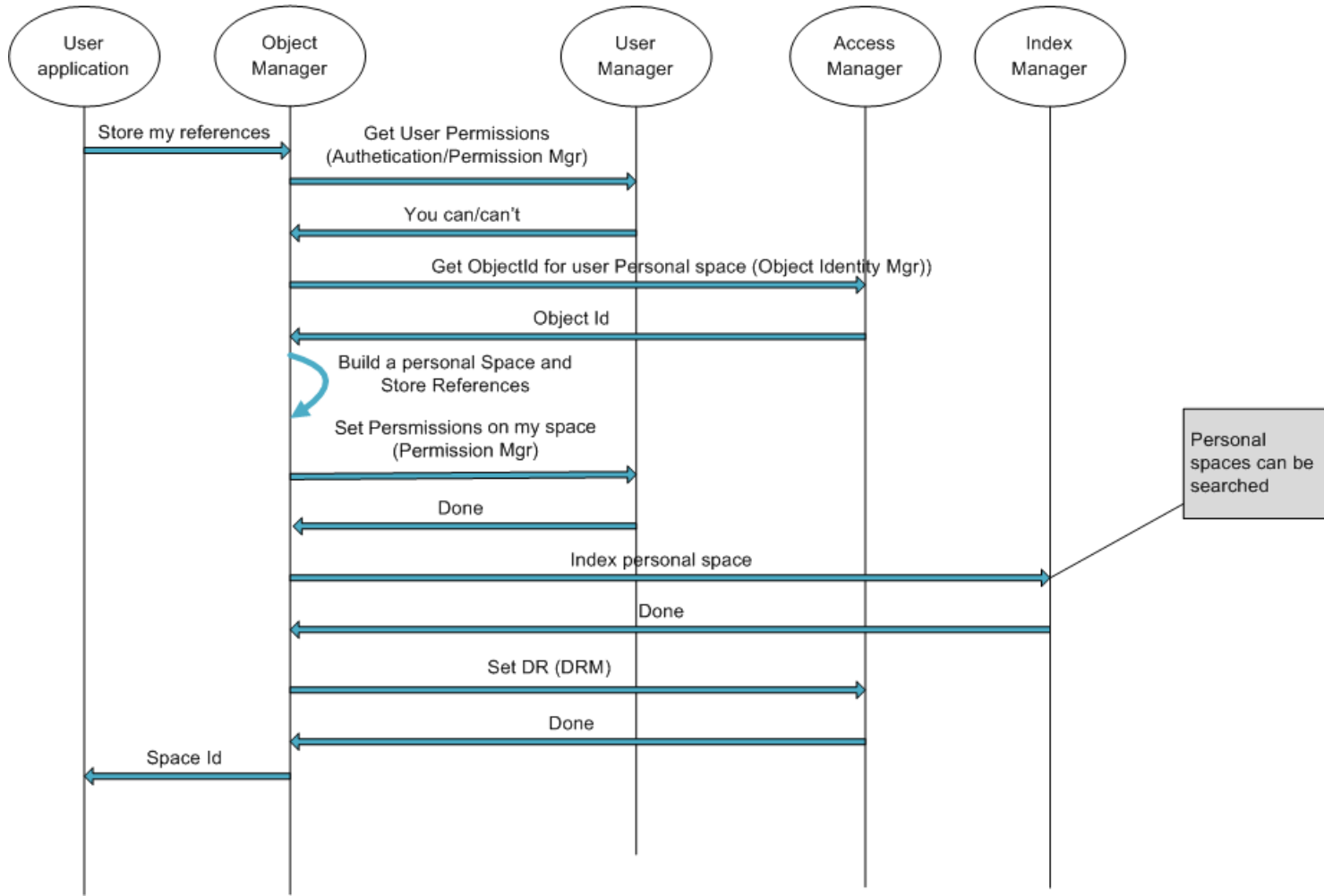
# Functional architecture (search)



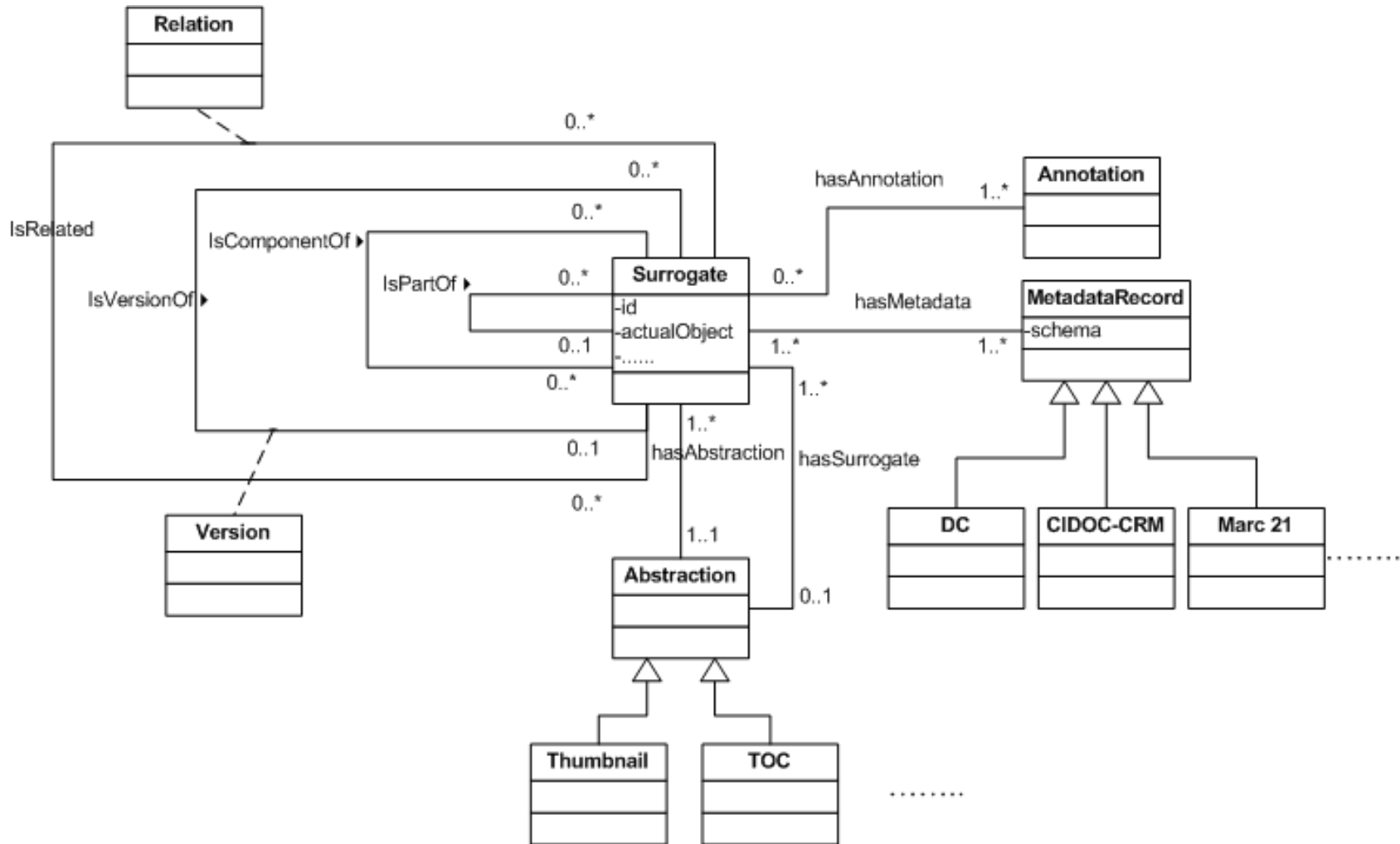
# Functional architecture (landing Page)



# Functional architecture (my Europeana)



# Surrogate Model (beta)



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# CNR ISTI past and present experiences

- **DELOS1, DELOS2**
- **FP5 projects**
- **FP6: BRICKS, CASPAR, Multimatch**
- **FP7: DRIVER, SAPIR, EFG, DL-org**
  
- **More at**  
<http://www.isti.cnr.it/ResearchUnits/Labs/nmis-lab/research-pro.html>





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# Role in EDLnet

- Carlo Meghini has been invited as Director of the EDLnet Working Group on the Technical Architecture in July 2007.
- Since then, CNR ISTI has been strictly cooperating with EDLnet. In particular:
  - Modelling
  - Functional Architecture design in the func. Specs (D2.5)
  - Prototype realization



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# Role in Europeana

- We will work in Europeana1.0
- We do:
  - Data model
  - Search functionality
  - Ingestion
  - Technical support to the development infrastructure



# Contacts & Links

- Europeana: <http://www.europeana.eu>
- CNR ISTI: Cesare Concordia, Carlo Meghini, Nicola Aloia  
(nome.cognome@isti.cnr.it)



To be continued...



européana  
pensez culture



européana  
think culture



européana  
pensar la cultura

Thank you