# User Guide for evaluating EuropeanaRS

First off, thank you for participating in our evaluation study.
This guide will assist you in performing the evaluation of the EuropeanaRS system, which usually takes less than *30 minutes*.

## What is EuropeanaRS and how is it different from Europeana?

**Europeana** is a **Learning Object Repository** which provides access to millions of books, paintings, films, museum objects and archival records that have been digitised throughout Europe. Europeana portal can be visited at http://www.europeana.eu.

**EuropeanaRS** is an open source **Hybrid Learning Object Recommender System**.
EuropeanaRS allows to retrieve Learning Objects from Europeana and to use them to generate recommendations based on contextual information and user profiles among other factors.
The objective of this study is to evaluate the EuropeanaRS recommender and to get general feedback from real users.
A testing instance of this system with more than 10.000 issues of historical newspapers from several countries is available at **http://europeanars.global.dit.upm.es**. This instance is the one that is going to be used for this study.

# Evaluation

## Step 1

First, you need to register on the EuropeanaRS platform at **http://europeanars.global.dit.upm.es.**
To do that, just click on the "**Sign up**" button placed in the header (see Fig.1 on next page), and fill in the registration form.
Please, provide all the required data in the registration form. If your mother tongue language is not included on the available languages, pick out any other language of your knowledge.
Once you have been successfully registered on EuropeanaRS, you will be redirected to the homepage of EuropeanaRS (shown in Fig.1 on next page). Before continuing, please check that the username you used when signed up on EuropeanaRS is now shown in the header on the right side.
Take into account that you can change the language of the user interface at any time by clicking on the language selector placed at the right corner.
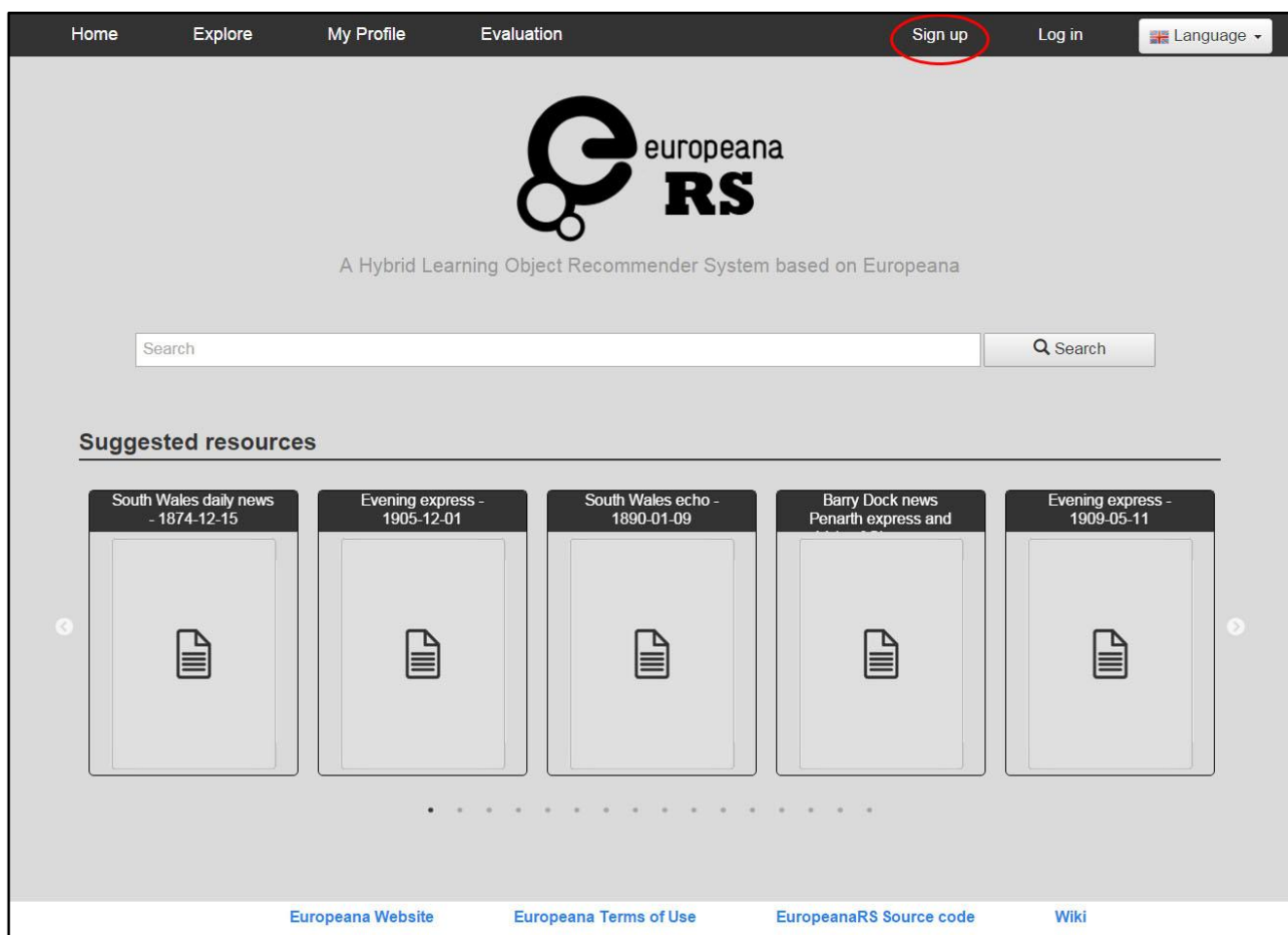Continue with step 2.

Fig 1. *Homepage of the EuropeanaRS platform*

## Step 2

At this point you are in the homepage of the EuropeanaRS platform.
Remember that you can always come back to this page by clicking on the '**Home**' button placed in the header on the left side.

This system stores and provides access to more than **10.000 issues of historical newspapers** from different countries and time periods. No other kinds of resources are available, just issues of historical newspapers.
From now on, you can put yourself in the situation of a teacher or a student of humanities who is looking for resources. If you already are a teacher or student of humanities this should be easy.

Now, let's go to perform a guided tour to get familiarized with the EuropeanaRS platform:

1. Below the '**Suggested resources**' title, several issues of historical newspapers are recommended for you. You can browse through the suggestions (i.e. recommended newspapers issues) by using the arrows.
   Choose one of the issues of the historical newspapers recommended for you and click on it. You will be redirected to a new page like the one shown in Fig.2 (next page).
2. On this page several details of the selected newspaper issue are provided.
   Besides, below the '**Suggested resources**' title, some new recommendations of other issues of historical newspapers are displayed.
   Choose one of the recommendations and click on it. After that, you will be redirected to a new page which shows the details of the selected newspaper issue.

Fig 2. *Newspaper issue details on EuropeanaRS*

3. If you like or are interested in an issue of an historical newspaper, EuropeanaRS allows you to save the resource into your user profile. To do that, you can use the star button placed next to the '**Save Resource**' label (see circle on Fig.2).
   Save the newspaper issue you are seeing at this moment into your user profile by clicking on the star and continue with the next action.

4. We can see the resources we have saved in our user profile. To go to our user profile we should click on the '**My Profile**' button placed in the header.
   Go to your user profile by clicking on the button 'My Profile' and continue with the next action.

5. On this page, all the information that EuropeanaRS has from your user is displayed. This is the information used for generating the recommendations.
   On this page you can also edit your personal information as well as your account details. Please, check that the user language is right (if not, you are still on time to change it by clicking on the edit button below the 'User Information' label).
   Now, click on the 'My Settings' button placed at the left menu.

6. This page shows all the settings that users can customize for the recommender system. For this study, we request you **not to change** the default settings assigned by the system. Now, click on the 'Saved Resources' button placed at the left menu.

7. This section shows all resources that you have previously saved on EuropeanaRS. Currently, it should contain only the issue of the historical newspaper that you saved before. If not, we request you to restart this guided tour.
Click on the saved newspaper issue to go to its details page.

8. The star next to the 'Save Resource' label will appear filled. That means that you are seeing a newspaper issue which has been saved. If you want to remove the newspaper issue from your saved resources, you can click on the start again (it will appear unfilled again).
Remove the newspaper issue from your saved resources by click on the star.
After that, go to the homepage by click on the 'Home' button in the header.

Until here we have learned how to take advantage of the recommendations to find related issues of historical newspapers both from the homepage of the platform and from the pages where the details of the newspaper issues are shown, how to save and remove newspaper issues and how to see our saved resources in the user profile.
Next, we are going to learn **how to search issues of historical newspapers** on the EuropeanaRS platform.

9. The EuropeanaRS service can be accessed at any time by clicking on the 'Explore' button placed in the header. From the homepage (Fig. 1) of the platform (the page on which you should be at this moment) you can perform a search either by clicking on the magnifying glass button or by pressing the 'enter' key when the search text input is selected.
Please, access the search service (for instance by clicking on the 'Explore' button).
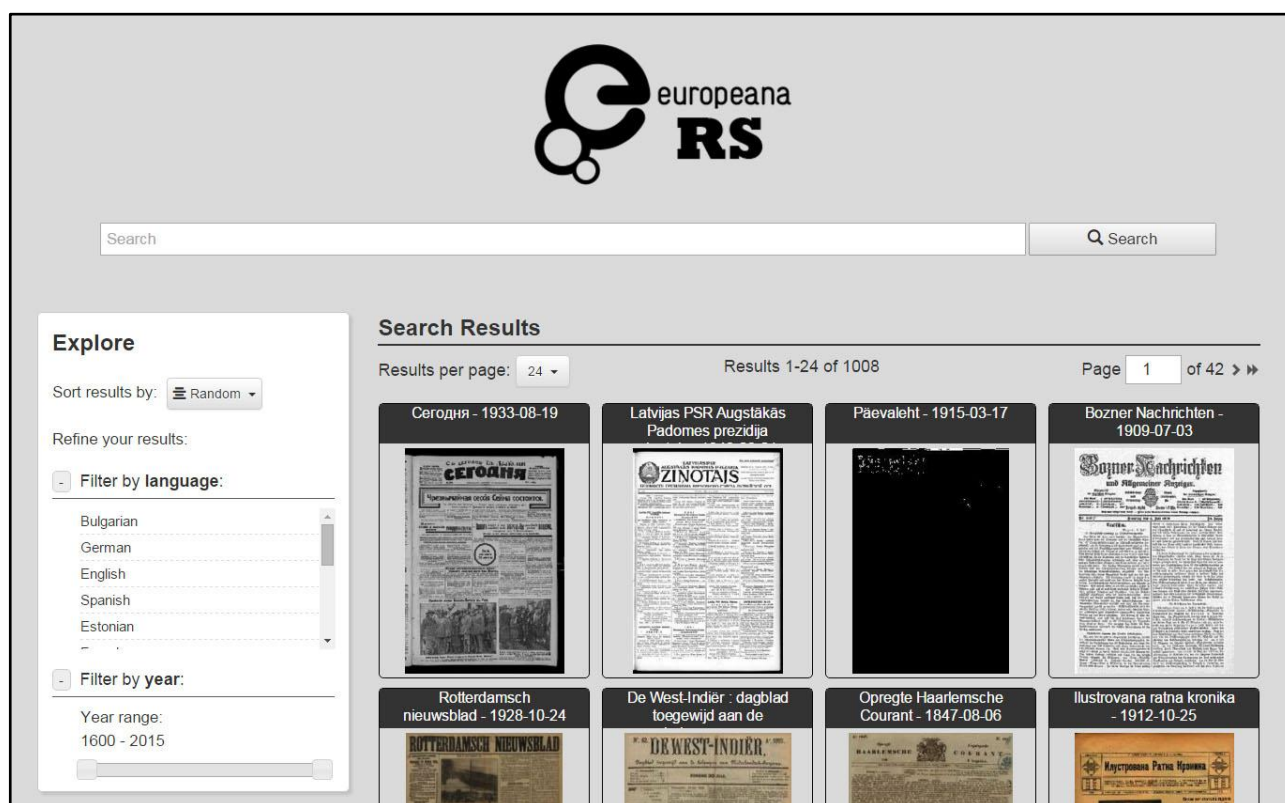You will be redirected to the following page (Fig. 3):



Fig 3. *EuropeanaRS search service*

10. The EuropeanaRS provides the following main features for searching issues of historical newspapers:
    a. **Search by text**: just as in the well known search services such as Google, the issues of the newspapers can be searched based on text.
    b. **Filter by language**: allows searching issues of newspapers available in a specific set of languages. This filter is additive. This way, if we select both English and Spanish, we will search for issues in English and Spanish.
    c. **Filter by year**: allows searching issues of newspapers that belongs to a specific time period or year range.
    d. **Sorting**: results can be sorted in different ways: by novelty (from newest to oldest), by year (from oldest to newest) or randomly.

For search by text, just type the text you desire in the text input and click on the search button. The sorting feature as well as all the filters are available through the menu placed at the left side (see Fig.3).

Next, perform the following searches:
1. Search for all Spanish newspaper issues from 1700 to 1855.
   How many results do you get? *The answer is **78**.*
2. Undo the previous search to get all newspapers issues again.
   *Year range should be **1600–2015** and no language filters should be applied.*
   *Total results should be **12380**.*
3. Sort the results by novelty.
   Which is the year of the most novel issue?
   *The answer is **2007** (d'Lëtzebuerger Land - 2007-05-18).*
4. Get all issues of the newspaper '*Le Figaro*' performing a text search with these words. After that, filter the results to get all issues from 'Le Figaro' newspaper from 1900 to nowadays.
   How many results do you get? *The answer is **120**.*

Congratulations, you have finished the guided tour.
Come back to the homepage and continue with the following step.


# Step 3

At this point you already should know how to use the main features of the EuropeanaRS platform. To complete this step, you have to **find and save** in your user profile **4 or 5 newspapers issues** that you consider **relevant** for you (or at least more relevant than the rest of newspaper issues), you personally **like** or you have **interest** in.
Please, keep putting yourself in the situation of a teacher or a student of humanities who is looking for relevant resources.

Remember that you can find newspaper issues both using the EuropeanaRS search service ('Explore' button in the header) or by using the recommended newspaper issues displayed below the **'Suggested Resources'** label. Remember also that you can save a newspaper issue in your user profile by going to its detail page and clicking on the star. If the star is filled, that means the newspaper issue has been successfully saved. Saved resources can be seen by clicking on the 'My Profile' button in the header and selecting 'Saved Resources' in the left menu after that.

Once you have **found and saved 4 or 5 relevant newspaper issues** continue with the last step.

# Step 4

Please, access the EuropeanaRS evaluation tool by clicking on the '**Evaluation**' button placed in the header. Take into account that for accessing this tool is mandatory to have at least 4 saved resources. If this is not your case, return to step 3 and complete it.

The first thing that you should be requested to do is to fill in a questionnaire about EuropeanaRS. You can fill in directly in the EuropeanaRS website or you can access the questionnaire at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I03uDYz2Ple6_scH2EQdG82cUt8qSd4oAkJhELWDzYY/viewform

We suggest you to use the above link since the questionnaire will be displayed using the whole screen.

Once you finish and submit the questionnaire just **come back to the EuropeanaRS evaluation tool and follow the instructions**. The tool will require you to perform two small tasks. After that, you will have successfully completed the evaluation study.

Thank you very much for your collaboration!

# Questions and issues

If you have some doubt regarding the evaluation study, or if you are experiencing difficulties with the system, you can contact us at *europeanars@gmail.com*.