

European Library of Traditional Music Resources

The European Library of Traditional Music Resources (ELTMR) is a project to catalogue and deliver items relating to traditional music making. In the first instance the project will reflect the practice of traditional music making within the European context. The collection is not limited to the European context and can reflect elements from elsewhere. The core purpose of the collection is to catalogue traditional melodies. These will in the main part be social dance melodies, but can also include ceremonial dance melodies and other traditional music. It is the stated aim of the project to put traditional music making into context of a wider European culture.

Key to the projects success will be the early adoption of existing interpretable standards. The project will use the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Meta data Harvesting (OAI-PMH) (<http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/>) to deliver data first to Culture Grid (www.culturegrid.org.uk) and then to Europeana (<http://www.europeana.eu/>).

Melodies will be notated and delivered using ASCII ABC Notation and musicXML. Both are open and widely used standards. Notated melodies will also be delivered using jpg, pdf, png and midi formats. Whilst not a core element of the project scanned scores will be delivered with abc/musicXML notation.

As a reflection of the practice of traditional music making, the project will also include sound recordings. These will be drawn from historical sources (78rpm disc, open reel and cassette) and from contemporary recordings made for the project. All recordings will be accompanied by abc/musicXML transcription. Items will be delivered in multiple formats including wav, mp3 and flac.

The Project will be launched with an initial upload of c.1000 items. The total number of items on line will increase to c.10,000 in the first year. It is expected that growth will continue at this rate through the second year of the project. In the initial stages the project will work with items drawn from private collections and will reflect diverse cultures including Louisiana(USA), Northern England, Auvergne(France) and Marche(Italy). In it's second year the project will aim to make links with other music collections allowing the data service to be used as an aggregator for items drawn from other sources.

Mike Hirst
Project Director
European Library of Traditional Music Resources
11:07 19 March 2012