

Featured Article

Free Access to Film Documents from October 2010

Providing quick and easy access to multiple thousands of film historical documents as preserved in 15 European



film archives and cinémathèques – that’s the aim of the European Film Gateway, which will go online in October 2010. The portal currently under development will provide researchers with a single access point to the archives’ digital collections that up to now have been widely dispersed across the Internet and so haven’t been always easy to locate.



Alongside documentaries, newsreels and feature films, unique collections of film stills, set photos, posters, film set drawings, text documents and sound material will also be searchable. The diversity

of material available through the portal will offer scientific researchers, as well as pupils, students, lecturers and the interested public a comprehensive view on Europe’s rich film history as well as a look at and behind the scenes of filmmaking from the early days up to today. The European Film Gateway will not only facilitate online access to historical documents, but will also lead users directly to the archives that hold the respective objects, thus simplifying formerly time-consuming and complex researches immensely.

The EFG project, initiated by the Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (ACE) and led by Deutsches Filminstitut - DIF in Frankfurt - started in September 2008 and runs for three years until September 2011. The project is a Best Practice Network funded by the eContentPlus programme of the European Commission and has 21 partners in 15 different countries. Especially for the 15 film archives involved, EFG has a ground-breaking dimension as the project addresses a number of key issues for access to digital content.



The European Film Gateway is one of the two aggregator projects from the audiovisual sector to deliver content to the Europeana portal, which in turn provides integrated access to digital treasures from Europe’s museum, archives, audiovisual

archives and libraries. Around 130,000 records with links to digital objects have been contributed to Europeana from the EFG database so far and further contributions will follow in the next months.

The prototype version of the portal will be available this month for internal testing, and will be launched publicly in late October 2010. For further information, please visit the official EFG project [website](http://www.mede-awards.com).

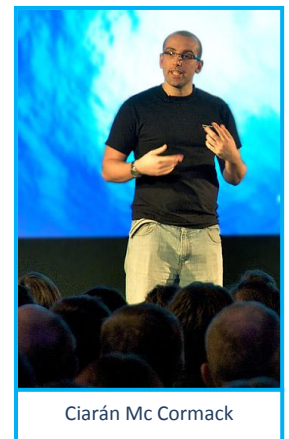


Tools of the Trade

iPad as a Tool for Education?

In the June edition of this newsletter, we introduced a new feature on tools and software that make the integration of different types of media into learning possible. This month we invited Ciarán Mc Cormack from FÍS/IADT in Ireland to let us know what he thought of Apple’s new iPad as an educational tool.

Ciarán: “At the end of June Apple announced that it had sold 3 million iPads in 80 days. While this is a very impressive statistic the whole truth about the statement was not revealed. These statistics only relate to the 10 countries where the iPad is currently available. So over the next few months this figure is surely set to grow at an exponential rate as more countries welcome the device with open arms. So what is the hype all about? What is the iPad and will it have any impact in education?”



Ciarán Mc Cormack

Firstly the iPad is not a laptop, a netbook, or an iPod, though it does have similar characteristics to all three. Apple are calling it a “whole new” device that sits in a category all on its own. The iPad looks like a giant iPod touch and has many of the features of a netbook, there is no physical keyboard, and everything is touch screen - even the keyboard. You can surf the Internet wirelessly, write emails, create word documents, Excel sheets,

