

**Proceedings of the First International Workshop on  
Accessing Cultural Heritage at Scale  
(ACHS'16)**

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Collocated at JCDL 2016  
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Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on Accessing Cultural Heritage at Scale (ACHS'16), 22 June 2016, Newark, NJ, USA.

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# Preface of the Proceedings of ACHS'16 the First International Workshop on Accessing Cultural Heritage at Scale

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These proceedings contain the full papers, short papers, and posters selected for presentation at the First International Workshop on Accessing Cultural Heritage at Scale (ACHS'16), a workshop of the ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2016) which is a major international forum focusing on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, and social issues.

The focus of the workshop is in line with the theme of the JCDL 2016 conference, that is “Big Libraries, Big Data, Big Innovation”. In fact the workshop has explored challenges and opportunities, current and emerging, for accessing and actively using collections managed in large digital libraries, with particular reference to cultural heritage collections of resources.

All submissions were reviewed by two members of the international Program Committee. The accepted submissions are two full papers, three short papers, and two posters. In all three types of submissions there are both technical and user-focused contributions, but all are concerned with the different aspects of inventing new methods for giving the possibility to the users of accessing digital cultural heritage resources experiencing a deeper understanding of the contents of the managed collections.

The resource collections that are addressed in the submissions cover a wide spectrum, ranging from the multimedia collections managed by Europeana to archival, library and linguistics databases and digital libraries.

One main goal of the workshop has been to assess the current state-of-the-art, to identify opportunities and establish future research priorities, and we can say that has been reached thanks to the spectrum of the experiences that were reported and because the workshop was a forum for knowledge sharing, discussion, and networking to:

- Identify outstanding information access challenges and understand their impacts on DL providers and users;
- Review latest developments for enhancing information access in CH digital libraries;
- Work towards a view of future research needs.

The scale, variety and availability of cultural heritage content, combined with the variety of user groups with respect to background knowledge, specialist experience and needs is challenging in the context of existing access methods. In particular, one main concern was going beyond keyword search in large-scale cultural heritage digital libraries, in support of exploration and discovery. In fact large-scale digital libraries are becoming ubiquitous within and between cultural heritage (libraries, museums and archives) institutions, with increasing variety of content (media formats, metadata, and level of detail in text description), diverse user communities (from expert to novice) with differing, often poorly defined, and even unanticipated information needs, and widely varying interfaces to support more exploratory information seeking. In these ‘big libraries’ with challenges presented by both the volume and variety of content, we can also add the further challenges of needing to support a variety of users and uses.

The ACHS'16 workshop has built upon previous successful workshops on information access issues in digital cultural heritage, by the current organizers and colleagues:

- The SUEDL Workshop on Supporting Users Exploration of Digital Libraries has been run on two previous occasions, collocated at TPDL 2012 and TPDL 2013 respectively.
- The ENRICH Workshop on Exploration, Navigation and Retrieval of Information in Cultural Heritage was collocated at SIGIR 2013.