

Full length paper (20 min plus question time)

Title: ICON Project: content integration in Portuguese national archives using CIDOC-CRM

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The Portuguese national archives (DGLAB) are responsible for the management of several information systems that support its mission on safeguarding, enhancement and promotion of government and public records, as well as other historical documents in its custody. One of the most significant (<http://digitarq.arquivos.pt>) holds the archival description of information objects dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to present days, of several natures and media. The data infrastructure is supported by a relational database, although the archival descriptions obey the hierarchic rules defined by the standards of the International Council on Archives (ICA). Both the technology and the data model appear to be unable to respond to the current challenges of our information management needs and those of our audience.

The ICON Project aims to renew the existing data infrastructure in order to become more efficient to internal and external users. One of its key features is content integration, as we intend to create a more flexible data model that can both interoperate with other information systems and accommodate information of cultural resources other than archival documents. The ICA is reviewing its standards towards a conceptual model, but as it has not yet released a final or stable version, the choice of CIDOC-CRM as our root ontology seemed the most appropriate for our project.

Focusing on the archival resources of the DGLAB, this paper presents the ICON Project current state of development, discussing our doubts and options on applying the CIDOC-CRM to archival resources in integration with other cultural objects information.