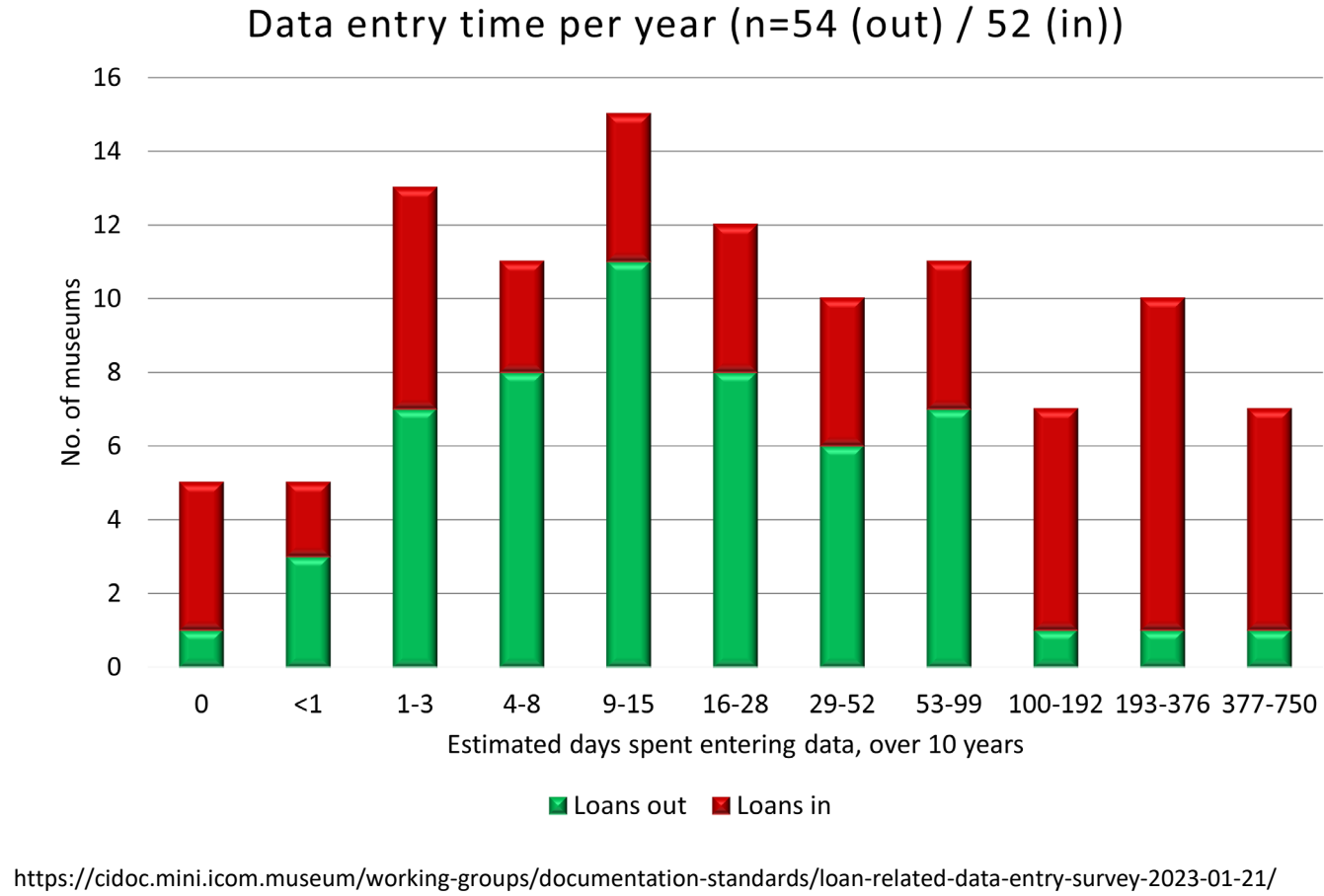# 1: The problem

Every year, museum staff waste hundreds of hours copying data between different databases when lending and borrowing objects. Using the results of a survey carried out in autumn and winter 2022, we estimate that over 10 years, considering *only* loans in:
- The median time spent by a museum on data entry is 48 days
- The mean is 127 days: very nearly 7 months, so well over half a working year
- In the case of one institution, 750 days: nearly 3 ½ working years

Data entry time per year (n=54 (out) / 52 (in))

No. of museums — Estimated days spent entering data, over 10 years

0, <1, 1-3, 4-8, 9-15, 16-28, 29-52, 53-99, 100-192, 193-376, 377-750

■ Loans out ■ Loans in

https://cidoc.mini.icom.museum/working-groups/documentation-standards/loan-related-data-entry-survey-2023-01-21/

2: The solution

E O D E M

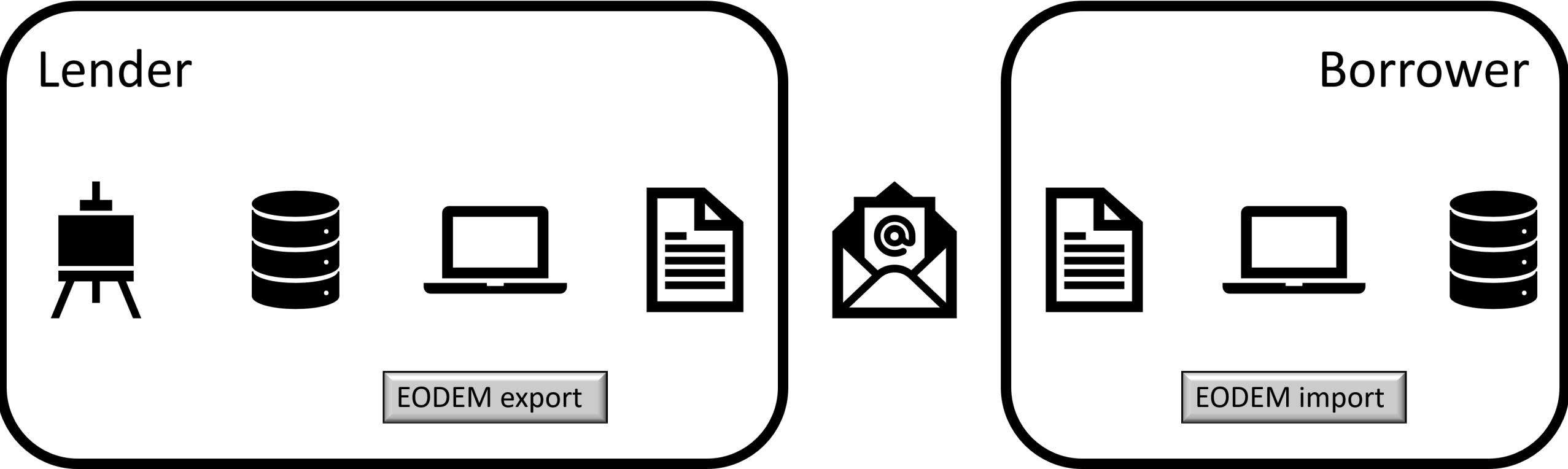## EXHIBITION OBJECT DATA EXCHANGE MODEL

A framework that enables museum databases to export objects' data from one system at the press of a button, and import the data into another system just as easily.

3: How does it work?

Lender

EODEM export

Borrower

EODEM import

1. We start with an object
2. Which is recorded in a database
3. The lender opens their collections management system (CMS) and finds the object's record
4. They press the 'EODEM export' button
5. An EODEM file is created
6. The lender emails the EODEM file to the borrower
7. The borrower receives the email and saves the EODEM file
8. They open their CMS
9. And press the 'EODEM import' button
10. The object's data is stored in the borrower's database

4: What does it include?

An EODEM record must contain information that identifies the object; it can also include the object's requirements whilst on loan: environment, security, transport, valuation, insurance, etc.

5: Is my data good enough?

Almost certainly! An EODEM record can contain a lot of data; but we recognise that not everyone has comprehensive, structured data and we believe that something is better than nothing. If your museum can provide four pieces of information –
1. Object Type
2. Title or Name
3. Object ID
4. Record Type
– then you should be able to provide a valid EODEM record.

6: Who's implementing EODEM?

The following companies have released, are working on, or are planning to work on EODEM exporters / and or importers:

Company	Product	Exporter	Importer
axiell	Axiell Collections, Mimsy XG	under development	under development
axiell / MUSOFT	Museion	under development	possibly
GallerySystems	TMS	planned	under development
Knowledge Integration	CIIM	planned	no
_Kultur IT	Primus, DigitaltMuseum	under development	under development
modes	Modes	**next major release**	**next major release**
md	musdb	**released**	**released**
SISTEMAS do FUTURO	in arte, in patrimonium	planned	no
	S-MUSEUM	under development	planned
Userix Oy	Collecte	planned	possibly
zetcom	MuseumPlus	**released**	**released**

7: How can I get EODEM?

If you use musdb or MuseumPlus, just make sure you're using the latest release. If you're using Modes, upgrade to version 1.6 when it's released. Otherwise, *ask your software supplier to add the functionality to their system*. EODEM is a profile of the LIDO data transfer standard, so if the software already has a LIDO exporter or importer, implementing EODEM is very simple.

8: Acknowledgements

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LIDO — *Lightweight Information Describing Objects*

https://cidoc.mini.icom.museum/working-groups/documentation-standards/eodem-home/

M CIDOC — ICOM international committee for documentation