Innovate your photographic heritage and your future business!



Prof. **Fred Truyen** of **KU Leuven** recently published an interesting article on his Digital Culture blog, under the title Europeana Space Photo pilot: Innovate your photographic heritage?and your future business! The article tells the commitment the **E-Space project** is devoting through its **Photo Pilot** to demonstrating a range of possibilities offered by apps, Europeana API's and a multitude of tools developed by the open source community to come up with **innovative models involving historical and present-day photography, with monetising potential and investment appeal**.

Investigated possibilities are grouped around three main focus

Museum applications providing access to Europeana and similar resources can yield new types of visitor-experiences; **Storytelling web applications** and apps allowing for users to create new stories by mixing historical images from Europeana and other public sources with user-generated content;

Augmented reality applications enabling historical images to be layered with actual experiences and other material, such as maps and social user data.

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Silver gelatine glass plates reprinted in HDR with very high resolution give a totally new photo experience, with these beautiful girls laughing at you from decades away.Gaston Paris | location unknown (France), 1935 Young women at a fun fair. Roger-Viollet collections © Gaston Paris/Roger-Viollet

«The **web** and the **smartphone** have changed photography irrevocably» Truyen observes. «**The classic business models** have suffered from this [?] in particular, the IP-based business models underlying the photo industry **are under strong pressure**, forcing photo archives, photo agencies, museums and publishers to innovate or perish [?] But of course the new situation also holds **tremendous opportunities**. Some of those are currently underexploited». E-Space aims to explore and exploit those opportunities, trying to find «the links between the photographic heritage content, the wide variety of general public, amateurs, pro-ams and professional developers through an intermediate software architecture that provides real role identification and task burden sharing while at the same time improving transparency on rights [?] This is the place for **innovative, sustainable, professionally maintained infrastructures**. In this way Europeana Space hopes to contribute to the overall success and relevance of Europeana».

Read the full article on Fred Truyen's Digital Culture blog

About the author:

Fred Truyen (°1961) holds a PhD in Philosophy (1991) and is Associate Professor at the **Faculty of Arts**, KU Leuven, Belgium. Head of the **Faculty's Computer Department** since 1989, he is currently chairman of the **ICT Council of the Group Humanities and Social Sciences** at KU Leuven.

Fred Truyen is a member of the Institute for Cultural Studies, where he leads the CS/Digital Media lab.