

# A Treasure Trove at Your Fingertips: Analysis of Contents from Europeana with Regard to Their Copyright Status

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**Abstract** - Libraries, museums, archives and other institutions from more than 35 countries in Europe as well as several countries outside Europe, shared with Europeana the metadata about their heritage documents in digital form. This enabled the creation of huge integrated digital library which gives access to more than 55 million digital documents. Among these documents are books, newspapers, photographs, illustrations. Lots of documents from Europeana are freely available to use for various purposes, given that it is content in the public domain or content that has one of the Creative Commons licences or is otherwise free to use without having to pay compensation to rights holders. This kind of open access content was especially important during the Covid-19 pandemic when, for example, many teachers and school librarians could use it for the improvement of online teaching and learning. The goal of this study was to research the copyright status of contents from Europeana. The Europeana's contents of different copyright status were analyzed with regard to the following aspects: type of media, type of right statement, country in which the content is located, institution in which the content is located. Insights were acquired using the quantitative content analysis of the data from Europeana.

**Keywords** - Europeana; copyright status; digital library; open access; creative commons; public domain

## I. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, several high-ranking politicians from different European countries sent a message to the European Commission to create a digital European library. This library should contain numerous works of European cultural heritage and provide free access to these works for all interested. In 2007, the Europeana Foundation was founded, and 'a year later the website [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu) goes online, while the European Digital Library (EDL) gets its new name: the Europeana' [1]. The Europeana is funded by the European Commission and its goal is to 'make Europe's cultural and scientific heritage accessible to the public' [2, p.85-86]. Since its inception, the Europeana has been building technological infrastructure and collaborative relationships with a number of libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions, to aggregate metadata about digital objects that are available in various collections across Europe and beyond. Today, the Europeana is one of the world's largest digital libraries through which you can search and access digital heritage content from all European and a few non-European countries. In 2012, the Europeana had more than 20 million objects in its catalog [2]. In 2016, it had 33 million objects from approximately 2500

participating institutions [3]. Today, it has more than 55 million objects from more than 3700 participating institutions [4]. This means that Europeana users have quite a wide selection of digital content at their disposal, content that they can use for various purposes. According to research from 2017, in which around 250 users of Europeana were surveyed, it was found that 30.4% of them were users from the academic field, there were 24.6% of cultural heritage enthusiasts, as well as 18.3% of cultural heritage professionals. Also, there were 13.3% of students and 4.6% of school teachers [5]. Insights from this research indicate that among the Europeana users there are many of those whose interests and positions are related to cultural heritage, research and education. It was also established that the majority of users 'were searching Europeana with the intention of using the information found to create a new work, e.g. to write a book, to prepare an exhibition, to use images for a presentation...' [5, p.216]. The possibilities for using Europeana contents in education and related fields are quite diverse. For example, biology teachers can use contents about the different types of plants that exist around the world. The Europeana has millions of records of this type and many of them are in the public domain, so students can use them to create a wide variety of projects: they can use the images and descriptions of plants they find on Europeana to write and publish essays with images of rare plants. Also, school librarians can find books at Europeana, which are not available in their library. They can inform their users about contents from Europeana that are available for use in various ways, including modification of original works from Europeana. Employees in the education sector, can organize workshops to present valuable sources at Europeana and explain in which ways specific Europeana contents can be used with regard to copyright status. Insights gained from research that will be described in this paper, as well as from topically similar research papers, could support and encourage employees in the education sector to get to know and use Europeana contents more fully and frequently. The topics that will be presented in the following part of the text are rights statements about the contents of Europeana, research goals, methodology and findings. Also, important findings will be discussed and further research opportunities related with copyright status of Europeana contents, will be proposed.

## II. EUROPEANA, METADATA AND RIGHTS STATEMENTS

The Europeana collects metadata about digital objects from different institutions. Also, it formats and manages

this metadata. Based on the aggregated metadata, users from all over the world can search a large amount of digital content of European cultural and scientific heritage. The metadata, which is provided to Europeana is licensed with Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication, which means that it could be freely re-used by other institutions and individuals. One of the main challenges for Europeana is the issue of copyright and licensing related to the digital objects described by this metadata. In order to ensure that digital cultural heritage contents described through collected metadata can be legally shared and used, content providers, such as galleries, libraries, archives and museums (the 'Europeana data providers'), must select the proper right statements for their materials [6]. They have to designate if their content is in the public domain, if it is in copyright or if it has some other type of copyright status. There are 14 rights statements, which provide information about re-use of contents for research, education, or other purposes. These statements designate if the contents described by metadata can be re-used and under what conditions. Among the statements are six Creative Commons licences, which are used for 'works that are in copyright and for which the rights holder wants to authorise some reuse': 'Creative Commons - Attribution (BY)'; 'Creative Commons - Attribution - ShareAlike (BY-SA)'; 'Creative Commons - Attribution - No Derivatives (BY-ND)'; 'Creative Commons - Attribution - Non-Commercial (BY-NC)'; 'Creative Commons - Attribution - Non-Commercial - ShareAlike (BY-NC-SA)'; 'Creative Commons - Attribution - Non-Commercial - No Derivatives (BY-NC-ND)'. Also, among the statements are two Creative Commons tools, which should be 'used on works that are in the public domain or that want to be dedicated to the public domain': 'The Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication (CC0)' and 'Public Domain Mark'. Finally, there are six Rights Statements by the Rights Statements Consortium: 'No Copyright - non commercial re-use only (NoC-NC)'; 'No Copyright - Other Known Legal Restriction (NoC-OKLR)'; 'In Copyright (InC)'; 'In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted (InC-EDU)'; 'In Copyright - EU Orphan Work (InC-OW-EU)'; 'Copyright Not Evaluated (CNE)'. These Rights Statements 'were designed to complement Creative Commons Licences and Tools: so that only when these are not suitable for a specific situation, Rights Statements are used' [7]. The intention of Europeana is to encourage the use of Creative Commons licences and tools to facilitate the use and reuse of digital cultural heritage. But, there are cases when those rights statements are not suitable, for example, if the providing institution cannot legally apply Creative Commons licences, then Rights Statements should be used. It needs to be emphasized that Europeana most often does not receive metadata about rights, as well as other metadata, directly from the individual institutions that created them and that own the items described by metadata, but instead, Europeana receives metadata from the aggregators that collect data from libraries, museums or other institutions. Currently, the Europeana has 145 aggregators that collect metadata according to different criteria: there are national, regional, domain and thematic aggregators. While 'national and regional aggregators define their scope by specific country or region', 'domain

and thematic aggregators define their scope by cultural sector (such as museum, archive or library) or by topic and theme (such as fashion)' [8]. Domain and thematic aggregators work with contributors from various countries, while national and regional aggregators work with contributors from a specific country or region. Most of the content available through Europeana is in the public domain. These are works that are not protected by intellectual property rights, therefore users can dispose with them in any way they want - 'the contents in the public domain can be freely combined, re-arranged, transformed, and reworked, enabling unlimited possibilities for creative play' [9, p.963]. Also, organizations that digitize public domain content do not need to search for the copyright owner, nor do they need to obtain an owner's permission to digitize and publish the work. On the other hand, if the work to be digitized is protected by copyright, this presents important challenges, such as, finding the copyright owner, obtaining permission for the digitization and publication of these works. Also, institutions that digitize, collect and publish content should take care to protect the moral rights of authors during and after digitization - for example, they should take care that photographs are not used in contexts that may be offensive to their authors or the persons in the picture. In particular, works in digital form are 'more vulnerable to alteration, addition of content or distortion' [9, p.969]. In the description of EuropeanaPhotography project it was pointed out that private contributors to archives want that the moral integrity of the works or documents they contribute is preserved: 'Many people would love to donate family photo heritage to their local archive, but fear that when it becomes published online as public domain material, it could be reused without any moral restraint. Photos of their family might be altered, defaced, ridiculed and republished' [10, p.414]. Regarding this issue, it is worth to mention that in some countries, including Croatia, there is legal protection of moral rights for photos and other types of creative works, regardless of their copyright status [10].

### III. RESEARCH

The goal of this study was to research the copyright status of contents from Europeana. The Europeana's contents of different copyright status were analysed with regard to the following variables: type of media, type of right statement, country in which the content is located, institution in which the content is located. The quantitative content analysis method was used, with the goal to acquire insights about these aspects. Publicly available data regarding the explored variables were collected from January 13 to 15, 2023 from the Europeana digital library. The data was collected through the search interface of Europeana, which enables the search of all Europeana contents using different search facets. The following facets, i.e. search categories were used to acquire data : 'Type of media', 'Can I use this?', 'Providing country', 'Rights statements'. Acquiring detailed insights about the availability and copyright status of items in Europeana is potentially useful to various subjects - scientists dealing with similar research topics, employees of heritage institutions working to create and share digital content

collections, educators and artists who plan to use items from Europeana in their educational and artistic work, etc.

#### IV. FINDINGS

As of January 15, 2023, Europeana had metadata in its catalog on over 55 million items stored in institutions from a large number of countries. The exact number of item metadata available in Europeana was 55,859,454. Each of the Europeana items is marked with one of 14 right statements. Most of the items have the following rights statement: 'Public Domain Mark'. There are 21.23% of these items (see Table I). In second place, according to the quantity, are items with right statement 'In Copyright' - 18.55%. In third place are items with 'CC0' right statement - 12.79%, and in fourth place, according to the quantity, are items with 'CC BY' right statement - 10.68%. In fifth place are objects with 'CC BY-SA' right statement - 7.33%. Items with these five most numerous rights statements comprise about 39.4 million items or 70.58% of the total number of items. Among the items with these five rights statements, only for items with the 'In Copyright' right statement the permission to use them should be requested, while the items with the following two rights statements can be used without fulfilling any condition - 'Public Domain Mark', 'CC0'. Also, for items with the 'CC BY' right statement the name of the author of the work should be provided, when they or their derivatives are used and published. Finally, for items with the 'CC BY-SA' rights statement the name of the author of the work should be provided and used item should have the same licence.

TABLE I. RIGHTS STATEMENTS OF EUROPEANA ITEMS

Rights statement	Items	%
Public Domain Mark	11,858,735	21.23
In Copyright	10,360,359	18.55
CC0	7,142,342	12.79
CC BY	5,968,215	10.68
CC BY-SA	4,092,748	7.33
CC BY-NC-SA	3,711,793	6.64
CC BY-NC-ND	3,609,838	6.46
No Copyright - Other Known Legal Restrictions	3,321,452	5.95
No Copyright - Non-Commercial Use Only	1,681,341	3.01
In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted	1,571,979	2.81
CC BY-NC	1,287,387	2.30
Copyright Not Evaluated	923,788	1.65
CC BY-ND	280,837	0.50
In Copyright - OW-EU	30,179	0.05
Rights Reserved - Free Access	9,862	0.02
Out of Copyright - non commercial re-use	4,552	0.01
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>55,859,454</b>	

The Europeana items belong to one of the following five types of media: image, text, sound, video, 3D. Of the total number of items, the largest percentage share have image items - there are 56.5% or about 31.4 million image items. In second place are text items - 41.94% or about 23.4 million text items. Regarding the media types, image and text items convincingly prevail in Europeana with 98.18%. The remaining 1.82% of the items are sound items (1.2%), video items (0.61%) and 3D items (0.01%).

Out of approximately 31.4 million image items in Europeana, the majority have the following rights

statement: 'CC0'. There are 18.89% of these items, among all image items. In second place, according to the quantity, are image items with 'CC BY' rights statement - 17.43%. In third place are image items with 'In copyright' statement - 16.53%, and in fourth place are image items with 'CC BY-SA' rights statement - 11.99%. In fifth place are image items with 'Public Domain Mark' statement - 8.44%. Image items with these five most numerous rights statements comprise about 23 million or 73.28% of the total number of image items. Among these image items, only for items with the 'In Copyright' statement, the permission should be requested to use them. Out of approximately 23.4 million text items in Europeana, the most text items have the following rights statement: 'Public Domain Mark'. There are 29.09% of these items, among all image items. In second place, according to the quantity, are text items with 'In Copyright' right statement - 18.53%. In third place are text items with 'No Copyright - Other Known Legal Restriction' statement - 11.31%, and in fourth place are text items with 'No Copyright - non commercial re-use only' rights statement - 7.12%. In fifth place are text items with 'CC0' rights statement - 5.15%. Text items with these five most numerous rights statements comprise about 19 million or 81.2% of the total number of text items. Among these text items, the items with 'Public Domain Mark' and 'CC0' rights statements can be freely used for any purpose, while the text items with 'No Copyright - non commercial re-use only' statement can be used for any non-commercial purpose. Among approximately 0.67 million sound items in Europeana, the majority of them have the following rights statement: 'In Copyright'. There are about 0.52 million sound items with 'In Copyright' statement or 78.25% of the total number of sound items. Also, among approximately 0.34 million video items in Europeana, the majority of them have the following rights statement: 'In Copyright' (see Table II). There are about 0.3 million video items with 'In Copyright' statement or 88.64% of the total number of video items.

TABLE II. RIGHTS STATEMENTS OF EUROPEANA VIDEO ITEMS

Rights statement	Type of Media VIDEO	%
In Copyright	304,309	88.64
In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted	8,808	2.57
Public Domain Mark	7,880	2.30
CC BY-NC-ND	5,744	1.67
CC BY-NC-SA	2,309	0.67
CC BY-SA	1,485	0.43
CC BY	2,132	0.62
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>343,309</b>	

In Table III, the terms of use of all Europeana items are presented. However, for the better understanding of data in Table III, as well as data in the succeeding tables, explanations are needed. In its faceted search interface Europeana has a following search category, 'Can I use this?'. When the user selects this search category, then three search subcategories i.e. answers to this question, are displayed: 1. 'Yes'; 2. 'Yes, with conditions'; 3. 'Maybe, seek permission'. If the user selects one of these subcategories, he/she is presented with search results containing all items in that subcategory. The subcategory

‘Yes’, contains all Europeana items which are marked with one of the following four rights statements: ‘Public Domain Mark’, ‘CC0’, ‘CC BY’, ‘CC BY-SA’. Items with these rights statements can be used for various purposes without asking the rights holder’s permission. Rights statements ‘Public Domain Mark’ and ‘CC0’ are particularly generous statements toward users, because they do not impose any conditions if users want to use items marked with these statements. Rights statements ‘CC BY’ and ‘CC BY-SA’ are also generous statements toward users, although they impose some minor conditions for using items marked with these statements. ‘CC BY’ is a Creative Commons rights statement that allows the use of item without asking the rights holder’s permission, but user should attribute the author. Finally, ‘CC BY-SA’ is a Creative Commons rights statement that allows the use of item without asking the rights holder’s permission, but the user should attribute the author and should license the adaptations of the work under the same terms. This means that all ‘new works based on the original licensed work will carry the same license’ [7]. After these explanations, we can turn our attention to Table III. In it we can see the number and percentage of Europeana items which belong to a subcategory ‘Yes’, the subcategory which contains items marked with the four previously mentioned rights statements. We can see that there are about 29 million items that belong to ‘Yes’ subcategory, which makes 51.88% of the total number of Europeana items. Also, there are about 15.4 million items that belong to ‘Yes, with conditions’ subcategory, which makes 27.52% of the total number of Europeana items. This subcategory contains all Europeana items which are marked with one of the following eight rights statements: ‘CC BY-NC-SA’, ‘CC BY-NC-ND’, ‘No Copyright - Other Known Legal Restrictions’, ‘No Copyright - Non-Commercial Use Only’, ‘In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted’, ‘CC BY-NC’, ‘CC BY-ND’, ‘Out of Copyright - non commercial re-use’. Items with these rights statements are less available to use for different purposes than items in a subcategory ‘Yes’. For example, the rights statement ‘CC BY-NC-SA’, which belongs to ‘Yes, with conditions’ subcategory, is a Creative Commons right statement that allows the non-commercial use of item without asking the rights holder’s permission. Also, the user should attribute the author and license the adaptations of the work under the same terms. Another somewhat restrictive rights statement, which belongs to ‘Yes, with conditions’ subcategory, is ‘CC BY-NC-ND’ rights statement. It is a Creative Commons statement that allows the non-commercial use of item without asking the rights holder’s permission. User cannot change the item in any way and, also, user should license the adaptations of the work under the same terms [7].

In Table III, we can see the number and percentage of Europeana items which belong to a subcategory ‘Maybe, seek permission’, the subcategory which contains items with the following rights statement: ‘In Copyright’. There are about 11.2 million items that belong in this subcategory, which makes 20.06% of the total number of Europeana items. Although items with ‘In Copyright’ rights statement are available in Europeana and its partner institutions, any kind of their use requires permission from the rights holder [7]. Therefore, items with the ‘In

Copyright’ rights statement, i.e. items in a subcategory ‘Maybe, seek permission’, are in the most restrictive subcategory for use, compared to items in subcategories ‘Yes’ and ‘Yes, with conditions’.

TABLE III. TERMS OF USE OF ALL EUROPEANA ITEMS

Can I use this?	Items	%
Yes	28,980,652	51.88
Yes, with conditions	15,371,030	27.52
Maybe, seek permission	11,206,028	20.06
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>55,859,454</b>	

In Table IV, we can see the number and percentage of Europeana items which can be used without any conditions or only with minor conditions. There are about 11.9 million items marked with ‘Public Domain Mark’ statement, which makes 40.87% of the total number of Europeana items in ‘Yes’ subcategory. Also, there are about 7.1 million items marked with CCO statement, which makes 24.65% of the total number of Europeana items in the same subcategory. Items marked with the two already mentioned rights statements - ‘Public Domain Mark’ and ‘CC0’ - can be used for various purposes without asking the rights holder’s permission and without the need to fulfill any condition, when using them. There are about 19 million such items, which makes 65.52% of the total number of Europeana items in ‘Yes’ subcategory.

TABLE IV. RIGHTS STATEMENTS OF EUROPEANA ITEMS WHICH CAN BE USED WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS OR WITH MINOR CONDITIONS

Can I use this?	Items	%
<b>Yes</b>		
Public Domain Mark	11,844,684	40.87
CC0	7,142,342	24.65
CC BY	5,900,827	20.36
CC BY-SA	4,092,799	14.12
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>28,980,652</b>	

In Table V, the terms of use of Europeana items with regard to their types of media, are presented. Image items are the most numerous items in Europeana, regarding the type of media. Majority of image items are in ‘Yes’ subcategory - 56.53% out of the total number of image items, which is about 31.4 millions. Next, there are 26.43% of image items in ‘Yes, with conditions’ subcategory and 16.78% of image items in ‘Maybe, seek permission’ subcategory. Text items have the similar division by the mentioned subcategories. For example, almost half of text items are in ‘Yes’ subcategory. Sound, video and 3D items have very different division by the mentioned subcategories, in comparison with image and text items. There are more than 80% of sound and video items in ‘Maybe, seek permission’ subcategory, and there are almost 90% of 3D items in ‘Yes, with conditions’ subcategory. This means that, on average, sound and video items have the most restrictive rights statement among Europeana items. 3D items have less restrictive rights statements and image and text items have the least restrictive rights statements.



TABLE V. TERMS OF USE OF EUROPEANA ITEMS WITH REGARD TO THEIR TYPES OF MEDIA

Can I use this?	Image	Text	Sound
Yes	56.53%	47.73%	4.16%
Yes, with conditions	26.43%	29.67%	12.71%
Maybe, seek permission	16.78%	21.65%	83.13%
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>31,416,291</b>	<b>23,426,302</b>	<b>667,709</b>
Can I use this?	Video	3D	
Yes	3.41%	5.77%	
Yes, with conditions	7.80%	89.41%	
Maybe, seek permission	88.79%	4.83%	
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>343,309</b>	<b>5,843</b>	

In Table VI, the terms of use of Europeana items with regard to the providing countries, are presented. For the better understanding of data in this table, some explanations are needed. In the second column ('All items (1,2,3)') - quantities of items 1, 2, and 3 from a specific country are listed: items 1 comprise all items in 'Yes' subcategory; items 2 comprise all items in 'Yes, with conditions' subcategory; and items 3 comprise all items in 'Maybe, seek permission' subcategory. In the third column ('Items 1 and 2') - percentages of items 1 and 2 from a specific country are listed. Items 1 and 2 are items which are marked with less restrictive rights statements, in comparison with items 3, which have the most restrictive rights statement: 'In Copyright'. Countries in Table VI are listed according to the percentages from the third column. The higher the percentage share of items 1 and 2 originating from a particular country, the higher that country is positioned in the list of countries in the second column.

TABLE VI. TERMS OF USE OF EUROPEANA ITEMS WITH REGARD TO THE PROVIDING COUNTRIES

Country	Can I use this?		
	All items (1,2,3)	Items 1 and 2	Items 1
Norway	3,469,641	99.65%	85.89%
Finland	1,144,806	96.02%	91.25%
Denmark	1,010,867	95.17%	34.11%
Sweden	4,439,064	94.61%	70.20%
France	3,970,078	90.33%	15.78%
United Kingdom	4,816,412	83.91%	69.87%
Netherlands	9,175,688	83.47%	79.48%
Hungary	1,017,249	80.09%	11.20%
Spain	3,566,741	79.91%	32.02%
Germany	6,248,078	74.57%	20.64%
Belgium	2,506,863	71.55%	59.43%
Poland	3,649,817	67.30%	65.66%
Austria	2,636,522	64.25%	38.88%
Czech Republic	1,244,959	61.31%	37.35%
Italy	2,185,087	45.78%	9.19%
Slovenia	469,480	51.38%	44.20%
Serbia	80,107	91.24%	49.88%
Croatia	58,178	28.97%	21.49%

It can be seen from the Table VI that Norway has the largest percentage of items 1 and 2, in comparison with the percentage of items 3 from the same country. This means that Norway has the largest percentage of items that are marked with less restrictive rights statement (99.65%), in comparison with its items with 'In

Copyright' statement (0.35%), which is a most restrictive rights statement. For example, Italy is positioned quite low in the second column, which means that it has a much lower percentage of items 1 and 2 (45.78%), and much higher percentage share of items 3 (54.22%), in comparison with Norway. In the fourth column ('Items 1'), it can be seen that Norway has 85.89% of items 2 (items in 'Yes, with conditions' subcategory). This means that it has only 13.76% of items 2 (items in 'Yes' subcategory). On the other hand, Italy has only 9.19% of items 2, which means that it has 36.59% of items 2 (items in 'Yes' subcategory). The Europeana contains items from more than 40 countries and in this table the data for 15 countries that have the largest number of items in Europeana, are listed. Additionally, the table contains data related to Slovenia, Serbia, and Croatia, the countries which are not among those 15 countries. Slovenia is in the 18th position, Serbia is in the 28th position, and Croatia is in the 32nd position, with regard to the number of items in Europeana.

In Table VII, the terms of use of Europeana items with regard to the providing institutions, are presented. The Europeana contains items from more than 3700 institutions. In this table, data from 15 institutions that have the largest number of items in Europeana, are listed. It can be seen that there are seven institutions with 100% of items 1 and 2. This means that these institutions have only provided items with less restrictive rights statement. On the other hand, Austrian National Library is in the last position in the list of countries, because it has provided 54.46% of items 1 and 2. It means that it has provided 45.54% of items 3, which are marked with 'In Copyright' rights statement.

TABLE VII. TERMS OF USE OF EUROPEANA ITEMS WITH REGARD TO THE PROVIDING INSTITUTIONS

Institution	Can I use this?		
	All items (1,2,3)	Items 1 and 2	Items 1
Naturalis Biodiversity Center	4,512,513	100%	100%
The National Archives of Norway	2,995,810	100%	86.57%
Trustees of the Natural History Museum	2,453,996	100%	100%
Meise Botanic Garden	1,383,210	100%	100%
National Library of Spain	619,942	100%	0%
Cultural Heritage Agency of Netherlands	600,185	100%	99.90%
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	574,117	100%	99.98%
Deutsche Fotothek	1,311,703	99.92%	10.68%
Swedish National Heritage Board	784,264	99.17%	100%
Bavarian State Library	1,239,897	98.68%	0%
Jagiellonian Digital Library	569,564	98.63%	100%
National Library of Poland	608,455	97.78%	100%
National Library of France	2,976,646	97.78%	0.19%
National Library of the Netherlands	1,308,024	64.07%	100%
Austrian National Library	1,481,153	54.46%	50.11%

## V. CONCLUSION

According to research insights, it can be concluded that Europeana provides a huge amount of content that can be used for various purposes, including teaching and research. It is particularly significant that tens of millions of Europeana items have rights statements that are very generous to users, regarding the right to use and re-use these items. For example, it has about 19 million items with rights statements 'Public Domain Mark' or 'CC0', which makes up 34.02% of the items in Europeana. These are very valuable and extensive resources for users,

because these rights statements allow them to use the contents in the most free way possible: they can use the contents in their original form, they can rework them and create new works based on the original contents, they can use the contents in educational and any other contexts, non-commercial or commercial. Also, users can decide for themselves under which licence they will distribute the works created on the basis of the items from Europeana and partner institutions, which have 'Public Domain Mark' or 'CC0' rights statements. When publishing these Europeana items outside of Europeana or when publishing works created on the basis of these items, it is not necessary to mention the names of their authors. Additionally, it is important to point out that there is a large number of items in Europeana with an almost equally non-restrictive rights statements. Namely, Europeana has around 10 million items with rights statements 'CC BY' or 'CC BY-SA', which makes up 18.01% of Europeana items. These items are just as free to use as items with the rights statements 'Public Domain Marks' and 'CC0', except that when using 'CC BY' and 'CC BY-SA' items, the names of their authors should be mentioned. Also, when publishing Europeana's 'CC BY-SA' items outside of Europeana, or when publishing new, derivative works based on 'CC BY-SA' items, it is necessary to share those new works with the same rights statement: 'CC BY-SA'. But, regardless of these minor restrictions, those two statements still leave great freedom to use the items for various purposes. It should be noted that Europeana also has a large number of items with somewhat more restrictive terms of use, but which still leave plenty of room for users to use these items in various contexts. For example, there are items with rights statements 'CC BY-NC-SA' (6.64%) and 'CC BY-NC-ND' (6.46%). And besides, even the items that have the most restrictive rights statement regarding the possibility and conditions of further use - namely, works with 'In Copyright' rights statement - are available to read, view or listen via Europeana and its partnering institutions. Although for publication of 'In Copyright' items outside Europeana or for their modification, the permission of the rights holder should be obtained, nevertheless these items are accessible through Europeana. These items can, in their original form, be included as required reading literature in educational courses or as valuable visual materials in the graphic design or arts educational process. Considering all the contents offered by Europeana and its partners, it can truly be said that it is an open access treasure trove, which is at everybody's fingertips. But it should also be said that, according to the type of media, there are huge inequalities in terms of the amount of items in Europeana. Image and text items make up as much as 98.18% of Europeana items. The remaining 1.82% items are sound items (1.2%), video items (0.61%) and 3D items (0.1%). And while less than 20% of image items have the most restrictive 'In Copyright' rights statement, even 78.25% of sound items and 88.64% of video items have this rights statement. It means that Europeana is primarily a source of images and texts, while there are significantly fewer sounds and videos. Additionally, most image and text items have less restrictive rights statements than most sound and video items. With regard to the countries from which Europeana items originate, there are also

pronounced inequalities regarding the amount of items and their rights statements. It is noticeable that a large number of Europeana items come from countries in the north of Europe - Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden. A very low percentage of items from these countries have the most restrictive 'In Copyright' rights statements (less than 5%). They are followed by France, UK, the Netherlands and Hungary, which have a slightly larger share of 'In Copyright' items - they have less than 20% of these items. This situation is stimulating for additional research. Interesting topic to explore could be specific reasons and contexts that are contributing to the fact that the majority of items from all these mentioned countries are licensed with very non-restrictive rights statements. For example, could it be that an extended collective licence model, which was established in the Nordic countries, is responsible for the favorable situation in the Nordic countries regarding the huge amount of digitized and available items and their non-restrictive types of rights statements. Also, other good practice examples of digitization, licensing and publication of digital content, could be explored and presented in order to provide quality information for members of institutions that have a lot of valuable content for digitization, as well as born-digital content, which they want to make publicly available on web with non-restrictive rights statements.

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