

Europeana, Open Metadata and CC-0

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Europeana.eu is an internet portal that acts as an interface to millions of books, paintings, films, museum objects and archival records that have been digitised throughout Europe. More than 2,000 institutions across Europe have contributed to Europeana. These range from major international names like the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the British Library and the Louvre to regional archives and local museums from every member of the European Union

Europeana currently stores the metadata of more than 20 million cultural objects. Last September during the OKFestival, Europeana officially announced that they will apply the the CC0 waiver on all of their metadata, making it for everyone available for reuse.



Europeana's move to CC0 is a step change in open data access. Releasing data from across the memory organisations of every EU country sets an important new international precedent, a decisive move away from the world of closed and controlled data. Joris Pekel of the Open Knowledge Foundation will discuss the importance of this step and what new possibilities this gives for users and developers, as well as cultural institutions.