

## **New Europeana Collections site brings people closer to culture**

Europeana is the EU digital platform for cultural heritage, collecting and providing online access to tens of millions of digitised items from libraries, archives, audiovisual collections and museums across Europe.

A new site called Europeana Collections offers visitors a richer cultural experience. Its new design makes it easier to navigate.

Improved search and filters, including colour searches (try this one for 'Dark slate blue') and quality searches (find our very best maps of Paris), mean finding what you're looking for is simple.

Better, bigger previews, a zoom function for high resolution images and documents (get really close up to this Monet), direct play for video (try this silent film) and audio (listen to this Maria Callas aria) and a new download option mean less time clicking and more time engrossed in cultural content.

Clear copyright information shows you what you can and can't do with the treasures you find.

See Europeana Collections for yourself with this quick demo.

The name is new too - 'Europeana Collections' lets visitors know that Europeana brings digital culture from diverse sources across Europe together. Europeana Collections is a doorway to Europe's rich digital heritage and a showcase for the Europeana digital platform.

Bruno Racine, Chair of the Europeana Foundation and President of the National Library of France, says:

"Europeana Collections gives everyone access to tens of millions of cultural items and artefacts and the new site presents in dazzling detail those given to us in high quality by our 3,500 partners. Nearly 3 million of our higher quality items are also openly licensed, which means people can use them for their own purposes. The range of this open material is breathtaking - from the unique and iconic like a painting by Edvard Munch, or handwritten notes and diagrams by Leonardo Da Vinci, to the unexpected like an allegorical and plundered painting of the Habsburg Emperor Rudolf II or a personal account of the First World War."

Europeana Executive Director, Jill Cousins, says:

"In just the first few weeks of its test phase, Europeana Collections saw more than 15,000 items being downloaded, demonstrating that the new site is answering a genuine audience desire for high quality, downloadable content. The growing number of high quality and openly licensed content is helping this and helps our partners to improve their international visibility, audience growth, outreach and engagement. We still have many more improvements to make but feel that our new Europeana Collections is a significant step in the right direction."

Also new for 2016 are curated collections on popular interest topics. Europeana Music Collections and Europeana Art History Collections are available as test versions now and will launch officially in early 2016, with other themes including fashion and newspapers to follow.

Discover Europeana Collections at [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu) and find news and updates on Facebook, Twitter and Google+.

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