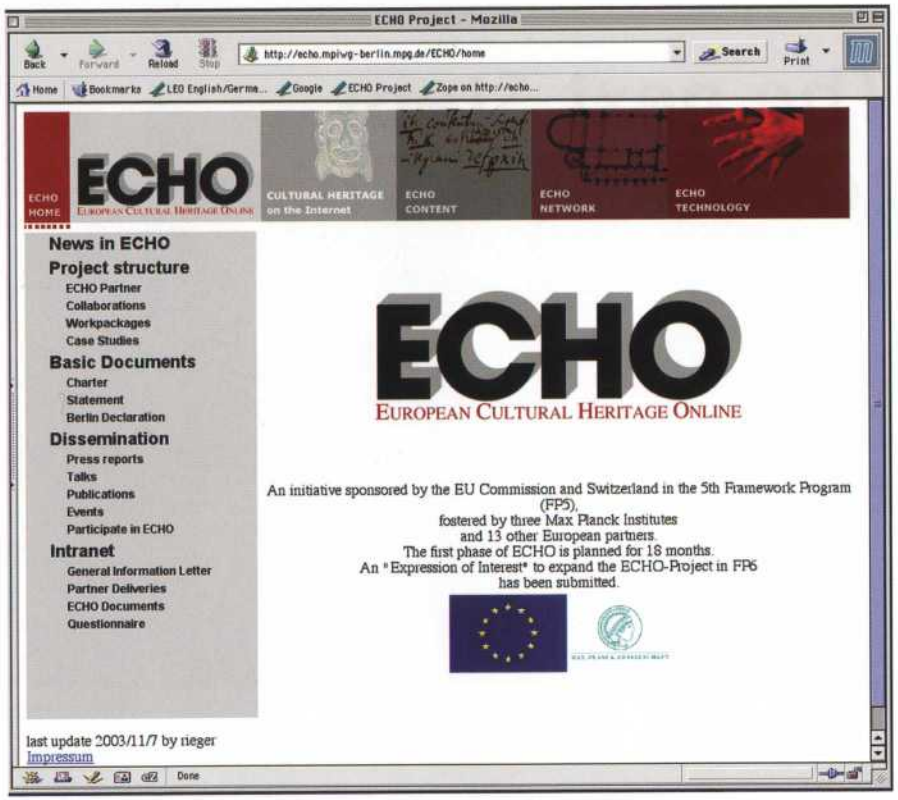
Chapter 4

# The next Steps towards the Vision

# 4.1 How to join the ECHO Initiative

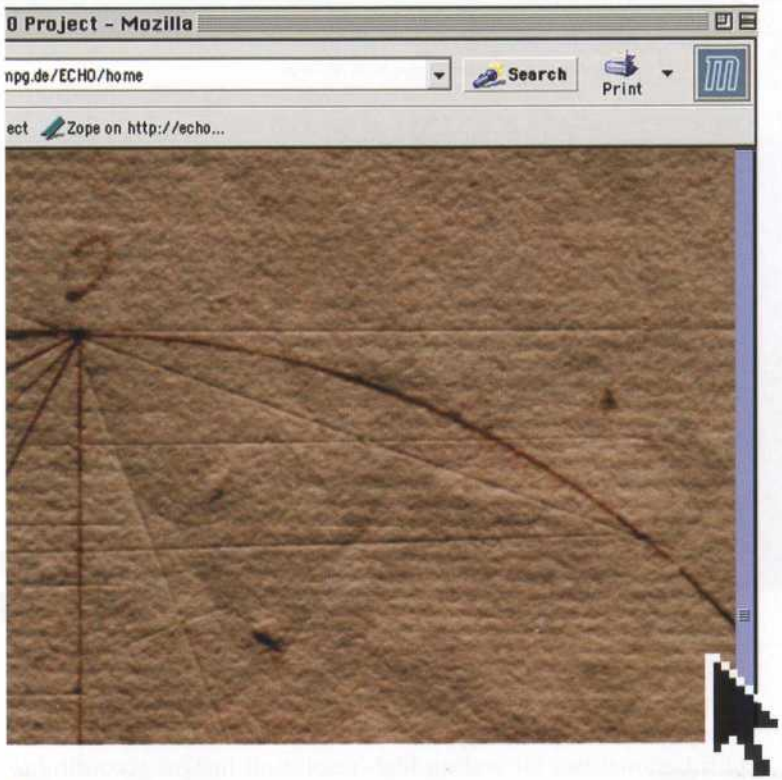



The ECHO Initiative has started during its pilot phase to build up an open infrastructure which allows for a growing number of institutions beyond those who started the initiative to join the endavour. Already in this phase several new collections have been incorporated into the seed collections of the first phase by projects and institutions who have joined the initial partners of the ECHO Initiative in the course of this phase, and several others have expressed their intention to participate. This immediate response demonstrates the potential of existing activities which urgently need a stable infrastructure that guarantees the interoperability, long-term availibility of the results of their work. The rapid accumulation of new seed collections also demonstrates the ease with which an adequate infrastructure can achieve results without high costs, without extensive support, but with highly motivated institutional and personal engagement.

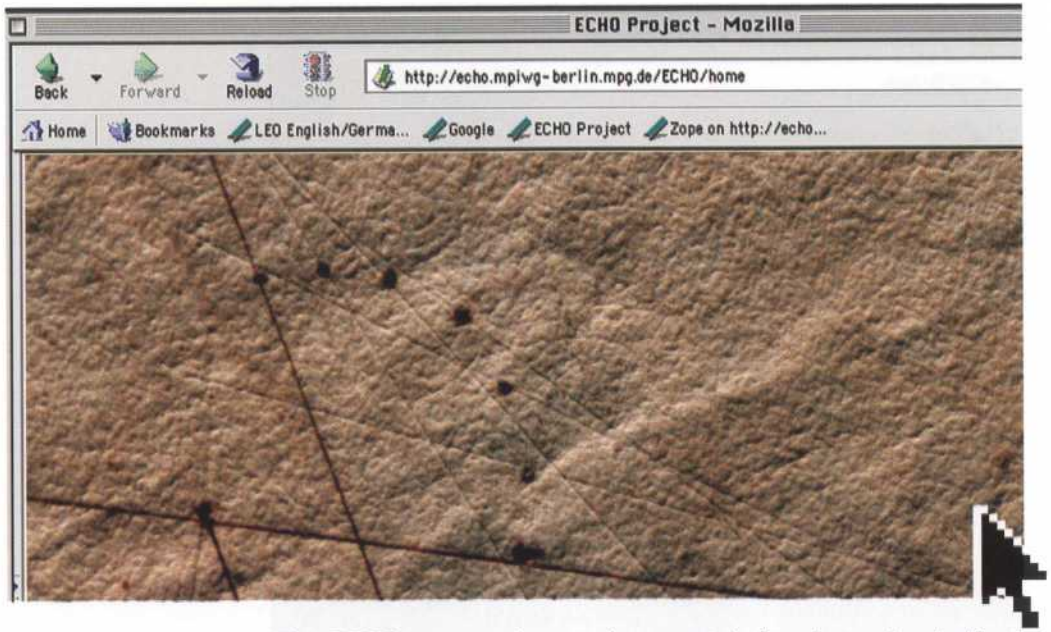
The seed collections which have been made freely available on the Web in the first ten months since the founding of the ECHO Initiative comprise sources on the origins of writings, a collection of cuneiform tablets, a collection of books and manuscripts on natural philosophy and mechanics by authors ranging from Aristotle to Einstein, photos of construction details of the Florentine Cathedral as well as texts and images in the field of life sciences, video sequences demonstrating the intuitive physical knowledge of children, a comparism of European sign languages and ethnological collections.

### Current content and tool providers of the ECHO network

- Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany
- Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- University of Lund, Department of Linguistics, Sweden
- University of Bern, Department of the History and Philosophy of Science
- Institute and Museum of the History of Science, Florence, Italy
- University of Athens, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Greece
- Joint Research Unit of the Centre for Scientific Research and School for Advanced Studies in Social Science, Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l'Océanie, Paris. France
- Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History, Rome, Italy
- Catholic University of Nijmegen, Faculty of Arts, The Netherlands
- Hungarian Academy of Science, Institute of Ethnology, Budapest, Hungary
- Museum of Ethnography, Budapest, Hungary
- University College London, Department of Anthropology, United Kingdom
- The National Museum of Ethnology of the Netherlands, Leiden, The Netherlands
- Joint Research Unit from the Centre for Scientific Research and University Paris Sorbonne, Centre de Recherches sur la Pensée Antique, Paris, France
- Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- Archivio di Stato Venezia, Italy
- Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence, Italy
- Kunsthistorisches Institut Florenz - Max Planck Institute, Florence, Italy
- Göttingen State and University Library, Germany
- Biblioteca Nazionale di Firenze, Italy




- Lower Saxony State Library Hannover, Germany
- Jewish National and University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Archives of Poincaré, Nancy. France
- Fondacion Canaria Orotava de Historia de la Ciencia, Teneriff, Spain
- University of California Los Angeles, USA
- State Library Munich, Germany
- Akademie der Wissenschaften Heidelberg, Germany
- Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- The Norwegian Institute of Paleography and Historical Philology, Norway




The ECHO presentation environment is based on standardized XML formats. It serves as a tool for presenting materials such as those described above. The environment allows for the coordination of texts and images and offers an image viewing tool with powerful functionalities for scaling high-resolution images according to constraints set by the browser and for referencing specific parts of these images. Thumbnails of such images help navigating through books and manuscripts much like browsing in a physical copy. For several languages, digitized texts are automatically analyzed upon uploading by means of language technology and linked to available dictionaries. Moreover, this application of language technology makes it possible to search for all morphological forms of words and word combinations. A powerful tool is being developed for editing and semantically analyzing texts in XML format.

The growing network of institutions and projects using these opportunities will in the future be supported and maintained by a number of innovation centers to be founded. Their task is to offer advice concerning the digitization of sources, to provide server and storage facilities, support the integration of projects into the ECHO presentation environment, and support the creation and implementation of open-source software utilized within the ECHO Initiative. Such centers should provide the resources to generalize and disseminate tools developed within the ECHO community.

At present, as long as such centers do not exist, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, coordinating the pilot phase, serves as contact for all proposals directed at realizing this infrastructure. In particular, support within the framework of presently available resources will be provided to make sources and tools freely accessible on the Web.

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# 4.2 How to sign the Berlin Declaration

The Berlin Declaration emphasises the need for new institutional boundary conditions required for fostering the transition of the sciences and the humanities to the Internet Age. It was signed on October 22, 2003 by the President of the Max Planck Society Peter Gruss together with representatives from other large, German and international research organizations. In signing the Berlin Declaration the research organizations advocat consistently using the Internet for scientific communication and publishing. Their recommendations in favor of open access are directed not only at research institutions but also and to the same extent at institutions of culture. The initial signatories have expressed their hope that their initiative will be joined by other representatives of leading organizations and institutions since only a global implementation of the open access paradigm will be able to ensure that the Web of the future will be a Web of Culture and Science.

Governments, universities, research institutions, funding agencies, foundations, libraries, museums, archives, learned societies and professional associations who share the vision expressed in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities are therefore invited to join the signatories that have already signed the Declaration.

***Please contact:***
***Prof. Dr. Peter Gruss***
***President of the Max Planck Society***
***Hofgartenstraße 8***
***D-80539 Munich***
***Germany***
***e-mail: praesident@gv.mpg.de***

*„Every thoughtful man who hopes for the creation of a contemporary culture knows that this hinges on one central problem: to find a coherent relation between science and humanities."*

**Jacob Bronowski and Bruce Mazlish,**
**Scientists and Journalists**

Chapter 5

# Public Reactions and more

# 5.1 Public Reactions

*„We are ready to participate actively in the ECHO project by contributing to the methodologies used and to be developed (e.g. concerning science archives) and to the case studies. We could also contribute additional case studies."*

**Gerhard Budin, Institut für Wissenschaftstheorie und Wissenschaftsforschung der Universität Wien, Austria:**

*„I really believe in the effort to bring cultural heritage accessible and understandable to the general public all over the world and to make contents freely available on the Internet through 'user-friendly' techniques."*

**Annamaria Ciarallo, Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei, Italy**

*„As participant SUB Göttingen supports the aims of the ECHO initiative as they are expressed in the Statement of Purpose and Charter of the ECHO initiative."*

**Elmar Mittler, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany**

*"The ECHO initiative, from the perspective of American institutions engaged in cultural heritage capture, represents more than an effort to wed information technology with the humanities in Europe; we see this Lucia Sandri, Istituto degli Innocenti of Florence, Italy: 'Having taken note of the scope of the ECHO expressed in the Statement of Purpose and in the Charter of ECHO, we declare that we wish to take part in it by putting the Catalogue of the Historic Archive of the Istituto degli Innocenti of Florence online.' "*

**Robert K. Englund, Director, Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative, University of California, Los Angeles**

*„We would be extremely honored to take part in the Echo project. We feel that web technologies, produced and run by scholars, will guarantee the dissemination of primary and secondary sources throughout the student and scholarly community worldwide, and will represent an important factor in the democratization of access to learning. More particularly, our field of interest, the history of science and of technology in its relation with cultural, social, and political contexts, will enhance citicizens sensitivity and informed awareness of the issues raised by science and technology in the modern world."*

**Pietro Corsi, Centre de Recherche en Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques, Cité de sciences et de l'industrie, Paris**

*„We agree with the general goals of Echo as expressed in the Statement of Purpose and the Charter of Echo and like to participate in its efforts to make accessible Europes cultural heritage to the general public trough new technologies and media."*

**Alfred Schramm, Forschungsstelle und Dokumentationszentrum für österreichische Philosophie, Austria**

*„Having read the general goals of ECHO, this is to state that I fully share them and, therefore, would like to participate." initiative also as a collaborative effort that promises European partnerships for research projects active in the United States and elsewhere."*

**Konstantinos Giakoumis, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania**

# 5.2 Addresses

**For the ECHO Initiative,** the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, coordinating its pilot phase, serves as contact for all proposals directed at enriching the ECHO infrastructure with sources and tools to be made freely accessible on the Web. (See the Website of the institute http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de, and, in particular, the Web site of the ECHO initiative
http://echo.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

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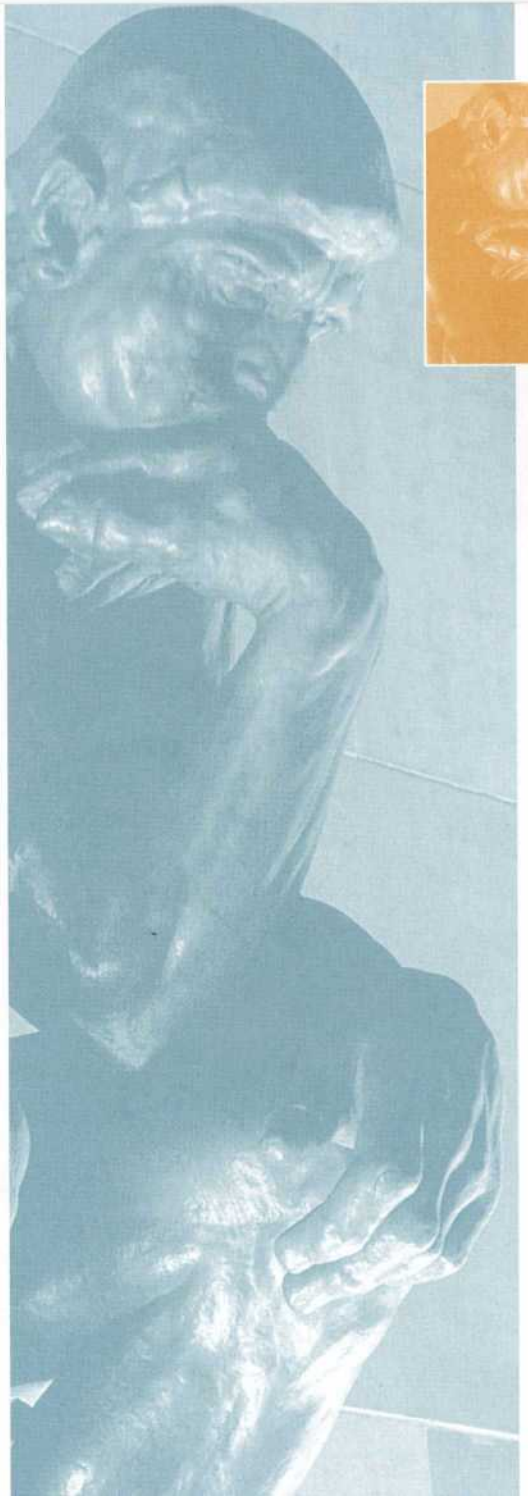
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