ACCESS TO CULTURAL HERITAGE DATA

A challenge for Digital Humanities

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ACCESS TO CULTURAL HERITAGE (CH) DATA

- **Cultural Heritage data:**
  - Digitized resources (scanned artifacts)
  - Attached metadata
  - Annotations
  - Further enrichments
- **Access to high quality** Cultural Heritage data and metadata: condition for reliable computational research
- **Issue: lack of institutional connection** between local GLAM Institutions (e.g. Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums), infrastructures and research

INVOLVED ACTORS

Researchers

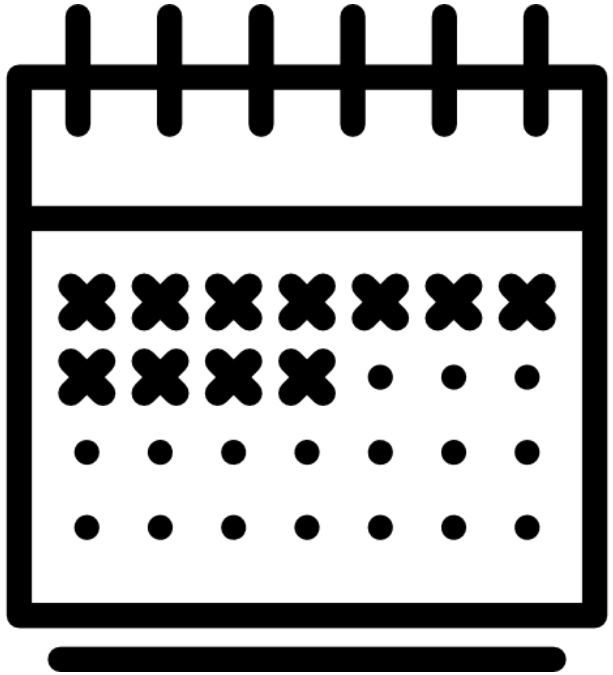
Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs)

Data Centers (at large)

REAL LIFE SITUATIONS (BASED ON TRUE STORIES)

A historian browses an archive catalog and finds interesting digitized documents he/she would like to reuse (create a digital edition).

- Find the information about reuse and the relevant contact point
- Make a first request…



Two months later…

From: reuse@archives.org
To: researcher@univ.ed

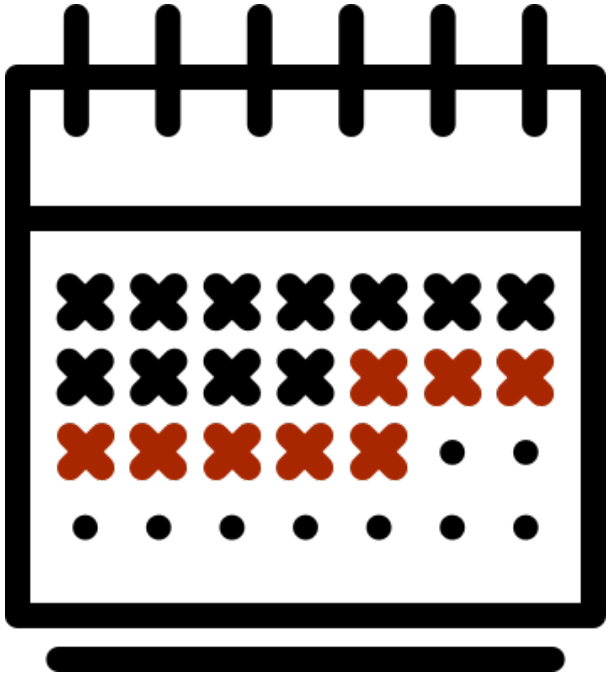
Subject: Your request...

Dear Sir/Madam,

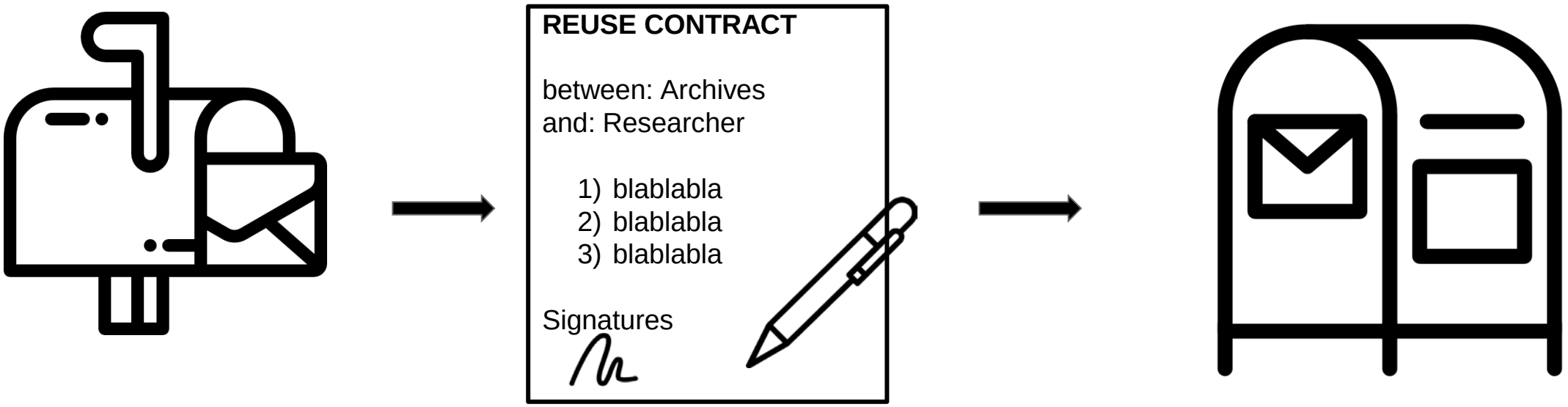
Please specify your request blablabla

Best regards

Archive



Four months later…



Sign the contract and send it back … Now it's possible to reuse the data !!!

LOST IN TRANSACTION…

Duplicate

Republish

Quote

Disseminate

DESIGNING A SOLUTION:

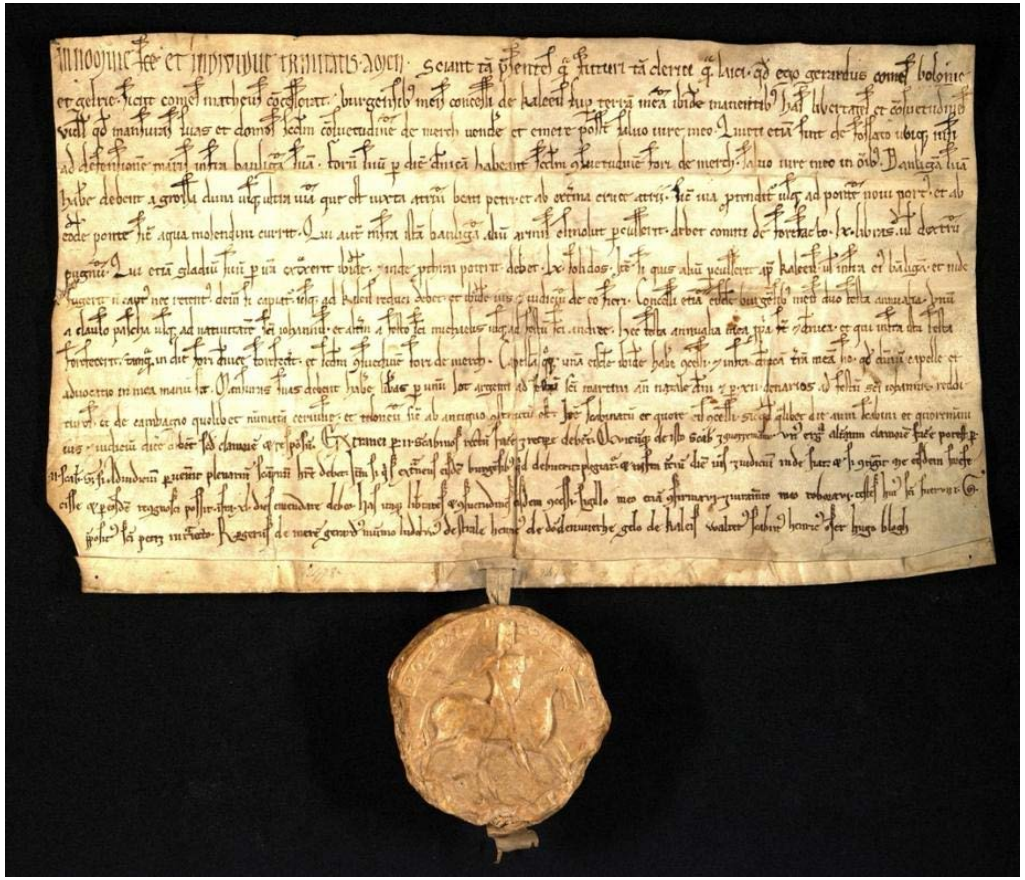
THE *CULTURAL HERITAGE DATA REUSE CHARTER*

FACILITATING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE INVOLVED ACTORS

- Several supra-national infrastructures and projects involved in the CH domain (members of the **Steering Committee**):

- Developing a common online environment : the **Cultural Data Reuse Charter**

WHAT IS A CHARTER?



Charte de coutumes et privilèges accordée aux bourgeois de Calais par Gérard, comte de Boulogne et de Gueldres (before 1180), AD Pas de Calais

Definition : "A charter is the grant of authority or rights, stating that the granter formally recognizes the prerogative of the recipient to exercise the rights specified."(Wikipedia)

Etymology : c. 1200, from Old French *chartre* (12c.) "charter, letter, document, covenant," from Latin chartula/cartula, literally "little paper," diminutive of charta/carta "paper, document" (The Online Etymology Dictionary)

PUTTING THE USER AT THE CENTER

- Survey launched towards **researchers** to learn more about their :
  - Behaviours/Practices
  - Goals
  - Good and bad experiences

- Workshops with **CHIs and data centers**
  - Technical constraints (data formats, storage, …)
  - Differences between countries' legal systems
  - Keeping in mind the variety of institutions (size, collections types, …)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Steering Committee is currently working with six core principles:

Example: RECIPROCITY

Principle: Both Cultural Heritage Institutions and Researchers agree to share content and knowledge equally with each other, making use of data centres and research infrastructures.

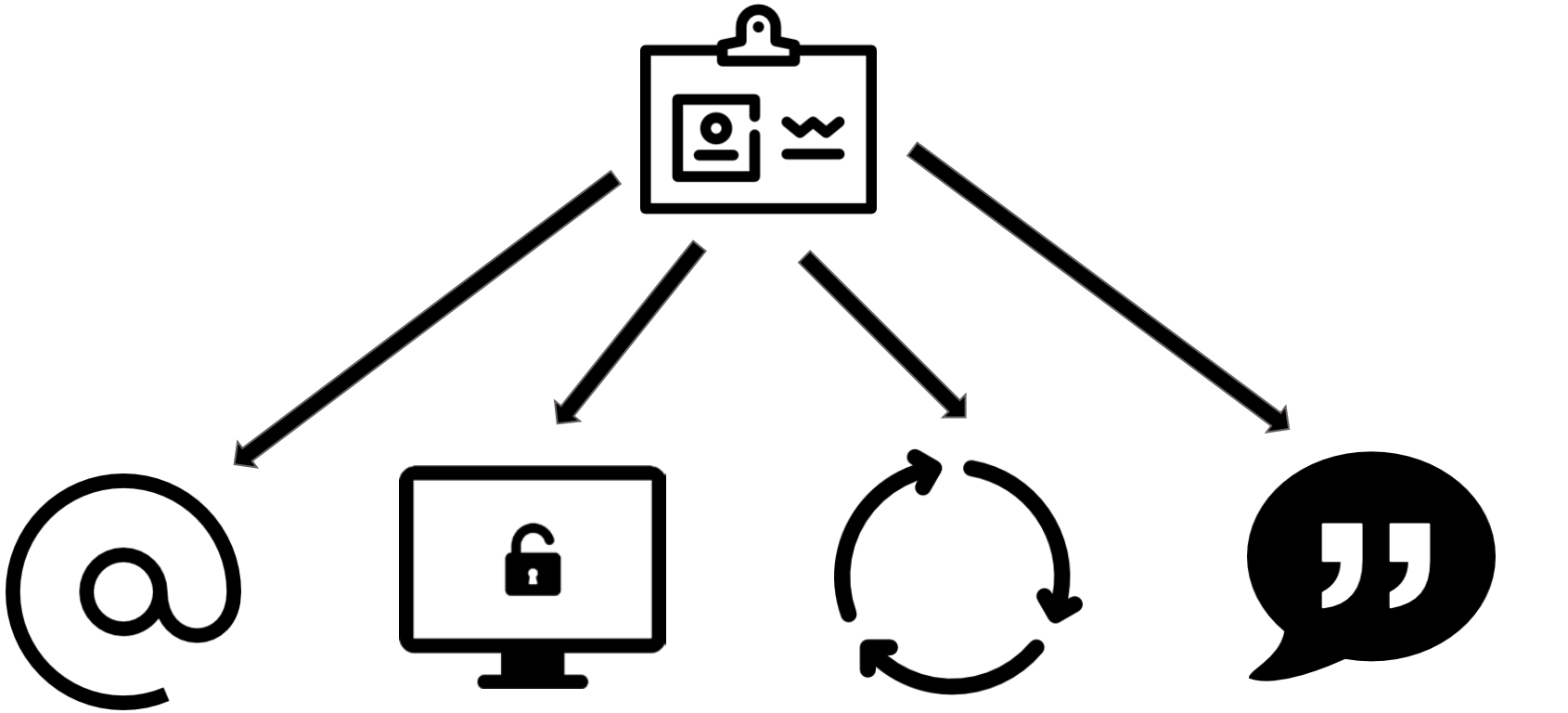
Commitment: A Cultural Heritage Institution grants Researchers and/or Research teams full access to both their digital and non-digital assets, for use in accordance with the rights statement attributed to them. Researchers and the institutions hosting their research data agree to offer to the originating CHI any output or enrichment of the source material.

TOWARDS A SHARED WEB PLATFORM

- Still in the design phase
- Technical requirements should allow users to:
  - Abide by the **Mission Statement**
  - Retrieve information on **licensing**, **citation**, **reuse** of specific datasets or of full collections
  - Contact the **person responsible** for specific datasets more easily
  - Publish information on data sets **manually as well as automatically**

ACCESSING A DATASET WITH THE CHARTER

A dataset is identified by metadata



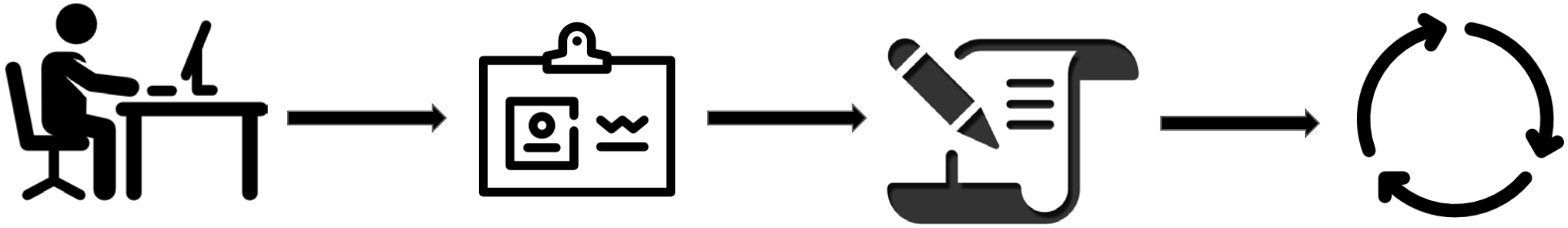
Contact

Access procedure

Reuse conditions

Citation model

ACCESSING A DATASET WITH THE CHARTER



A researcher finds a dataset

Reference metadata: contact + reuse conditions

She/he signs the charter

She/he is authorized to reuse the dataset

No waste of time ! Immediate answers !!

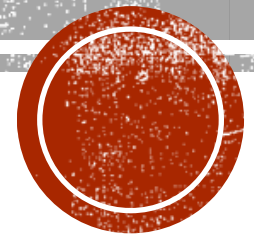
THE CHARTER IN A NUTSHELL

- Offers a practical **implementation of the best practices** for the Cultural Heritage Research, integrating not only data, but also actors
- Developed as a **complement to other existing initiatives** with similar goals (FAIR data, PARTHENOS guidelines, Europeana Data Model, rightsstatement): strong synergies
- Benefits from the **work done by IPERION-CH and E-RIHS** in terms of building the community of Cultural Heritage Research
- Integrated in **a long-term vision of Open Science and Open Access**-based high quality research on high quality data (DARIAH, CLARIN)
- Potential to **improve CHI and scholars work** on CH data.

STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS

We need your feedback! Please answer our survey on the Mission Statement:
https://sondages.inria.fr/index.php/593568/lang-en

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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