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## **Publishing WWII aerial photographs within geographical and library information systems**

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The Library of the Dutch Wageningen University and Research Centre houses a collection of aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force mainly between 1944 and 1945<sup>1</sup>. This collection is subject of a project that aims to publish these items in a user friendly manner in order to disclose this collection to a wide audience. This paper describes the nature of the collection and its particular requirements for publication, as well as the design and development of the collection presentation application. The geographic characteristics of this collection have been decisive for the requirement that the collection should be presented in combination with other geographic material such as digital historical maps and actual aerial photos. To achieve this, technologies from geographical information management were combined with technologies from library automation. This involved mainly metadata specification and management and user interface design.

The European standard for metadata for geographic information (ISO19115) is legally embedded in the European INSPIRE directive. This directive regulates that common implementing rules are adopted by member states in a specific areas such as metadata, data specifications, network services, data and service sharing and monitoring and reporting. Geographic metadata provides specific information that is not generally relevant to objects archived in a library system, such as the geographic extent, the spatial and temporal schema and spatial reference for definition of the map projection. In the project we have designed a custom metadata management format and metadata management procedure that satisfies both the standards for exchange (i.e. search and discovery and publishing/harvesting) of geographic information on the one hand and library systems on the other.

The enormous number of photos (95.000 approximately) scattered over a large area of The Netherlands demanded for a creative design of the presentation of the collection. This involved solving not only performance issues but also presentation challenges. We designed an interface that is a balance between on the one hand presenting the whole collection (tens of thousands of objects in one screen, sometimes positioned on top of each other) and on the other hand guaranteeing the usability of the presentation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://library.wur.nl/speccol/aer-phot.html>