

MIMO - a new tool for musicological research

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The MIMO (Musical Instrument Museums Online) project brings together through the Web ten major European musical instrument museums, creating a single access point for their digital content and information on their collections. This digital content includes images of 45,000 instruments and related objects with descriptions, 1800 audio files and 300 video clips giving impressions of the instruments' sounds. These materials, which reflect 40% of Europe's heritage of historic musical instruments in museums, will be harvested through the Europeana website and will thus be freely available to everyone worldwide. The two-year MIMO project has been funded through the European Union's *eContentplus* program with a total budget of 3,197,870 Euros, and has been completed in August 2011. The University of Edinburgh is the lead partner.

MIMO has been designed not only for the general public and education at all levels, but also to offer significant new resources for scholars. This paper describes how the MIMO partners work together and outlines the resources which will be made available, which include not only the public interface but also professional standards for organological terminology in six languages, and the photography and documentation of musical instruments. The standard for photography is the first of its kind, and has been created with the aim of facilitating the comparison of images coming from different institutions but showing comparable objects. As part of the work on information management, the widely-used Hornbostel-Sachs classification of musical instruments has been revised and updated, providing a tool with potential for wide application in many areas of musicological research.

Not only we described the output of the project with live demonstrations, but also discussed how a large project involving partners in different countries and speaking different languages has been managed, and how problems have been overcome.