

Partner search

Culture sub-Program

Strand/category Large scale Cooperation projects

Deadline October 2018

Cultural operator(s)

Name The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is the independent charity that cares for the world's greatest Shakespeare heritage sites in Stratford-upon-Avon, and promotes the enjoyment and understanding of his works, life and times all over the world.

At the heart of all things 'Shakespeare', the Trust holds the world's largest Shakespeare-related library, museum and archives open to the public, with over 1 million documents, 55,000 books and 8,000 museum objects. The Trust runs a world-class, award winning programme of formal and informal educational programmes and literary lectures, to encourage the appreciation and study of Shakespeare's works, and the advancement of Shakespearian knowledge on an international scale.

Short description

In recent years the Trust has coordinated and led on a number of projects on a national and international scale. For example, since the Trust launched [Shakespeare Week](#), our national celebration of Shakespeare in primary schools, in 2014, five million children have been introduced to Shakespeare's stories, characters and language, with more than 12,000 schools signed up to participate in the project. On the international stage, the Trust has cooperated on projects like [Shakespeare Documented](#), a free and publicly accessible online exhibition that provides a rich portrait of Shakespeare. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, British Library, the National Archives and the Folger Shakespeare Library have contributed over 70% of the materials to this multi-institutional collaboration between over 30 partners in the United States and United Kingdom. Since 2016, the Trust is a partner organisation in the ErasmusPlus funded multilingual learning project [CultureShake](#), where Shakespeare's plays are the medium to investigate multilingualism and multiculturalism in European classrooms.

If you would like to get an in-depth idea of the Trust and all its activities, please feel free to explore our website: <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/>.

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Project

Field(s)

Heritage, Literature, Digitisation

Description

Activating Literary Collections Online

Many cultural organisations that look after literary collections have made good progress in recent years to digitise their collections and make these resources available online. However, too often these resources unfortunately remain underused. *Activating Literary Collections Online* wants to take digitisation of literature-focussed collections one step further to bring online resources to life for the general public and educators to enjoy and use, and to open up digital collections from a number of access points for our audiences to connect with the object/text.

Possible activities and work areas within the project

- *research into audience needs and impact of the project* : investigate the needs around useful literary collections in your country (for educators but also for the general public); ideally combined with an element of audience participation (focus groups; participation in selecting collection items for the project, etc)
- activating literary collections online:
 - *identify collections items* that fulfil audience needs
 - *develop digital toolkit* (based mainly on Open Educational Resources (OERs) and freeware) to activate items
 - *develop underlying principles for online engagement with collections items* (on a national as well as international level), which could be disseminated throughout the sector, e.g. as a handbook or guide
 - *disseminate* activated collection items: create online platforms (could be connected to online collections management tools), develop and run online teacher CPD courses, etc
- Europe-wide element: *connect the individual writers/literary movements with each other*, e.g. through online courses for teachers that introduces all writers/literary movements represented in the project, or a touring exhibition to all partners and associated organisations (e.g. libraries) that points to the online resources, or creation of a European Literature Trail that promotes the idea of a shared European literary heritage (e.g. leaflet leading to online resource)
- *digital up skilling of partner organisations*: sharing of best practice and acquiring new skills to create active online resources in-house and without the need for high profile tech companies' support

Partners searched

Countries

Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia

Profile

cultural organisations:

- significant literary collections (e.g. based on a writer or literary movement on the national school curriculum)
- substantial progress in digitising their collection (so that there already is something to build on)
- enthusiasm for a project of this scope and focus
- financial and operational capacity; ideally already with experience of international project work

technology partners:

- creative agencies
- distance learning specialists

Other

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We already have partners from Germany, Denmark and Hungary signed up for this project.