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Summaries

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What should happen to Hungarian digital cultural heritage? Will a national institution be set up to provide services and guarantee long-term retention, based on a standard approach? Is the creation of the „KÉPMÁS” service a feasible alternative? The Hungarian Parliament established the Hungarian National Digital Archive and Film Institute (in Hungarian abbreviated as MaNDA) to digitally archive and provide access to the treasures of Hungarian culture. „It is the main goal of MaNDA ... to take stock of the treasures of Hungarian cultural heritage, as regards especially the works of literature, art, music and audiovisual nature; to capture them digitally, to retain them for future generations in this way as well, and to ensure their wide-ranging accessibility.” The study dated 22 November 2011 bearing the title „The survival of national culture in the age of digital technology” sets out the basic concept of MaNDA, and is identified by its authors as Mandalat version 0.9. The article criticises the study placing it into the context of earlier Hungarian efforts for digitisation, and hopes that, as a result of professional discussions, version 1.0 will provide an up-to-date model for archiving and providing the digital cultural heritage in the long term.

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MaNDA (Hungarian National Digital Archive and Film Institute) serves as an institution aggregating digital information. Its another task of equal importance is to establish and maintain the national name space. The national name space may be realised by uniting existing data files of major cultural heritage institutions in a co-ordinated manner. The creation of name spaces based on national languages has already started in all developed

countries. Name spaces represent a semantically structured system of proper names and common names expressed in the relevant national languages, and are accessible on the web. They comprise much bigger data files than the vocabulary laid down in traditional, monolingual, explanatory dictionaries. The main reason for this is that the national name space includes – in addition to geographical names, names of persons and institutions – professional terms as well. Being accessible for all on the web, the Hungarian national name space is also going to serve Hungarian-language users living outside the borders of Hungary.

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The spreading of digital libraries, the nature of and access to their services has changed the composition of library users and library usage patterns to a large extent. Traditional, first of all physical barriers have ceased. Nevertheless, new barriers appeared as a result of the presence or eventual lack of IT tools – both hardware and software – and IT literacy. The content and its manifestations transmitted to the reading public by digital libraries can be extremely diverse. It is absolutely necessary to provide tools for orientation, information and for evaluating search results, in order to use the services of digital libraries as efficiently as possible. It is the primary objective of the article to present the opportunities offered by selected foreign-language digital libraries for access to the content they are offering. The article also informs about the essential IT knowledge as well as the hardware and software tools that are needed by users to make an efficient use of content in various file formats.