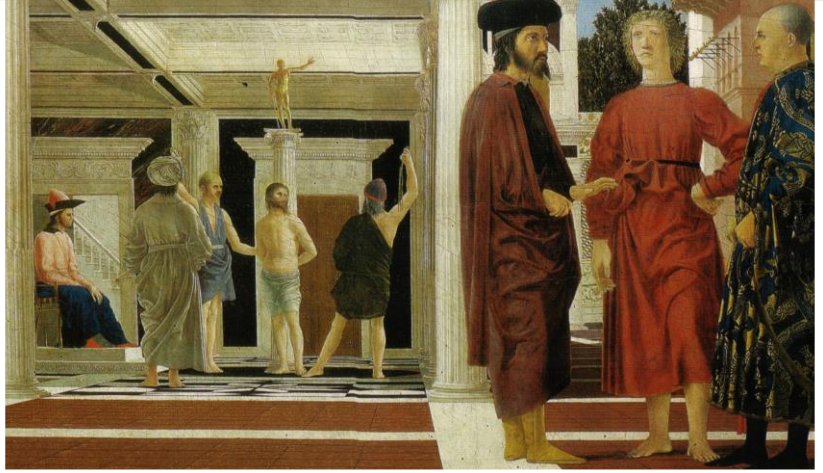

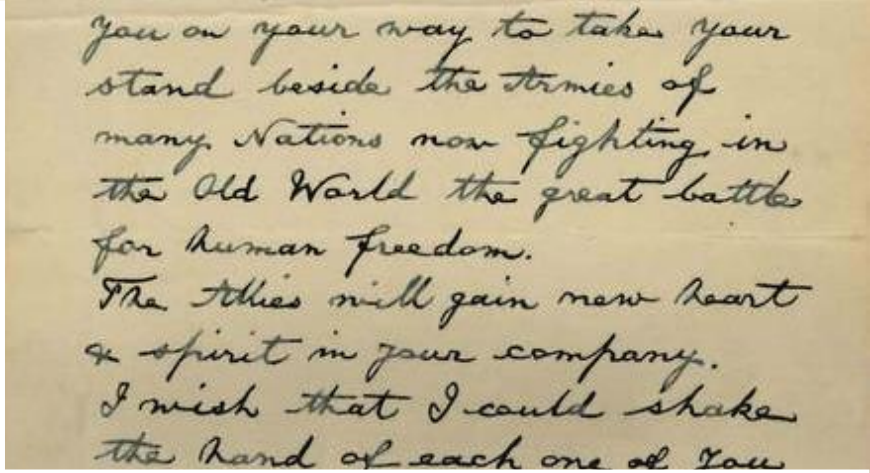

19th International Conference on Open Repositories (OR2024), Göteborg, Sweden

Rethinking Digital Libraries Paradigms

Moving Digital Cultural Heritage Collections to DSpace 7/8

Presenting Author: Claudio Cortese

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DSpace 7: moving repositories to the next level

- New REST APIs
- New UI developed with ANGULAR
- Support for IIIF
- Extensible data model

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DSpace 7: moving repositories to the next level

Before:

- was considered very effective for the creation of institutional repositories for managing research outputs or for implementing CRIS systems

- was considered a much less viable solution for digital cultural heritage management

DSPACE

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DSpace 7: moving repositories to the next level

Before:

the lack of viewers for navigating images, audio and video files and the difficulty of extending the data model made it possible to manage such content only through demanding customizations.

DSPACE

DSpace 7: ready for Cultural Heritage

Several institutions are structuring their digital libraries from scratch using DSpace 7, whereas others are working at migrating from previous versions of DSpace.

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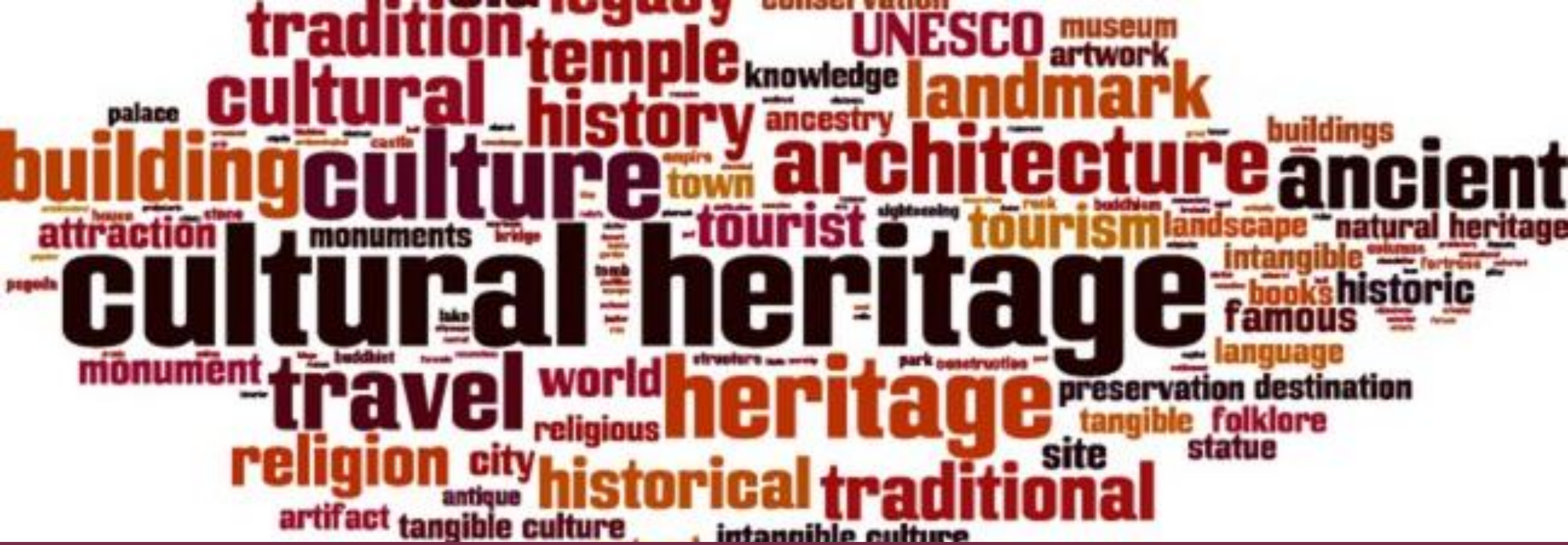

Moving Cultural Heritage Collections to DSpace 7

The need for a data model able to map the complexity of the Cultural Heritage domain

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Digital Libraries in the 21st century

- Digital Libraries should not be considered as mere lists of items grouped into collections

- They are tools allowing the definition of relationships on different scales and according to different variability dimensions, in order to reconstruct digital cultural landscapes

- Within such landscapes, a document can be explored and analyzed in relation to other documents and to all the information helping to define its context, or rather its different contexts (historical, geographical, cultural, etc.)

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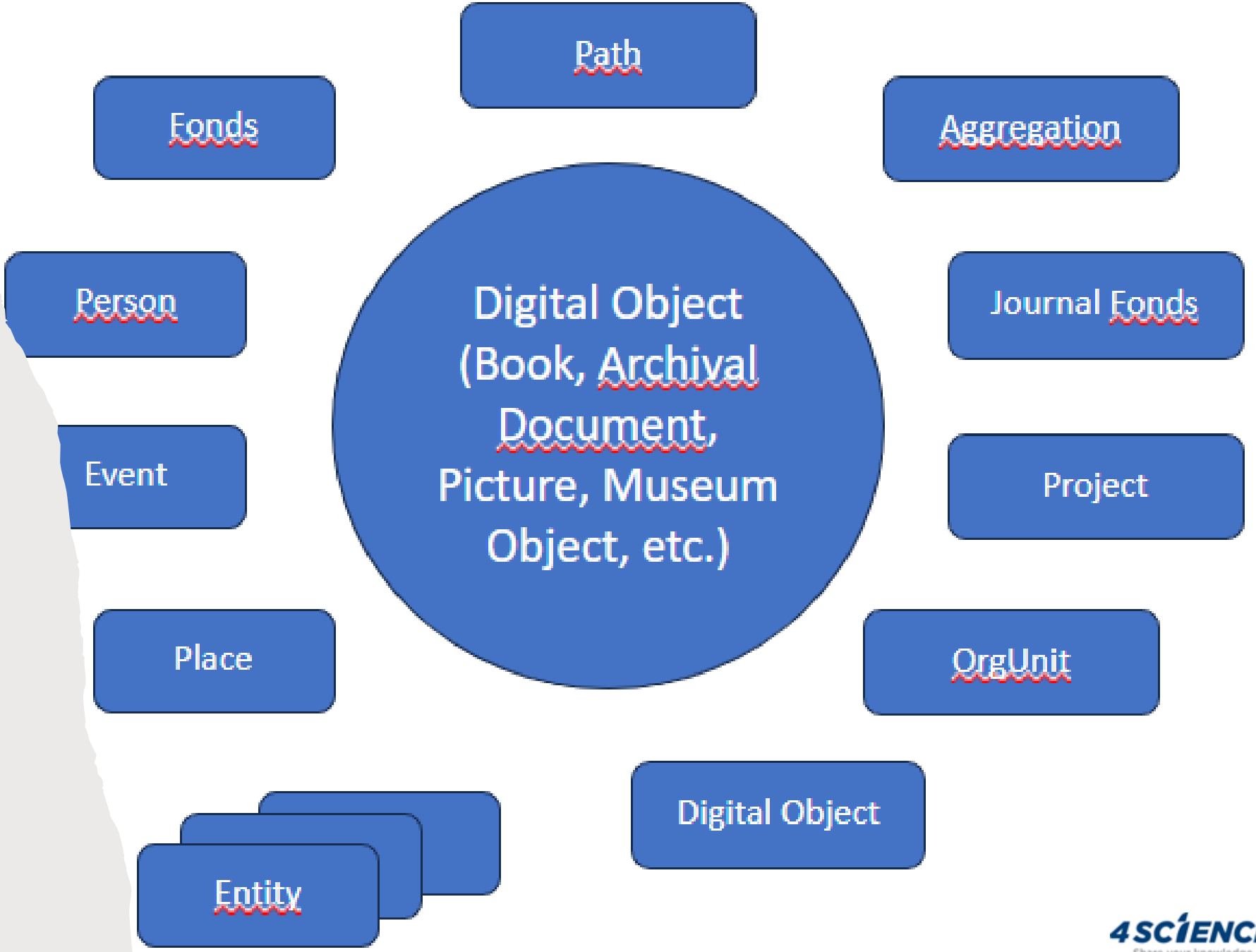
Extending the data model



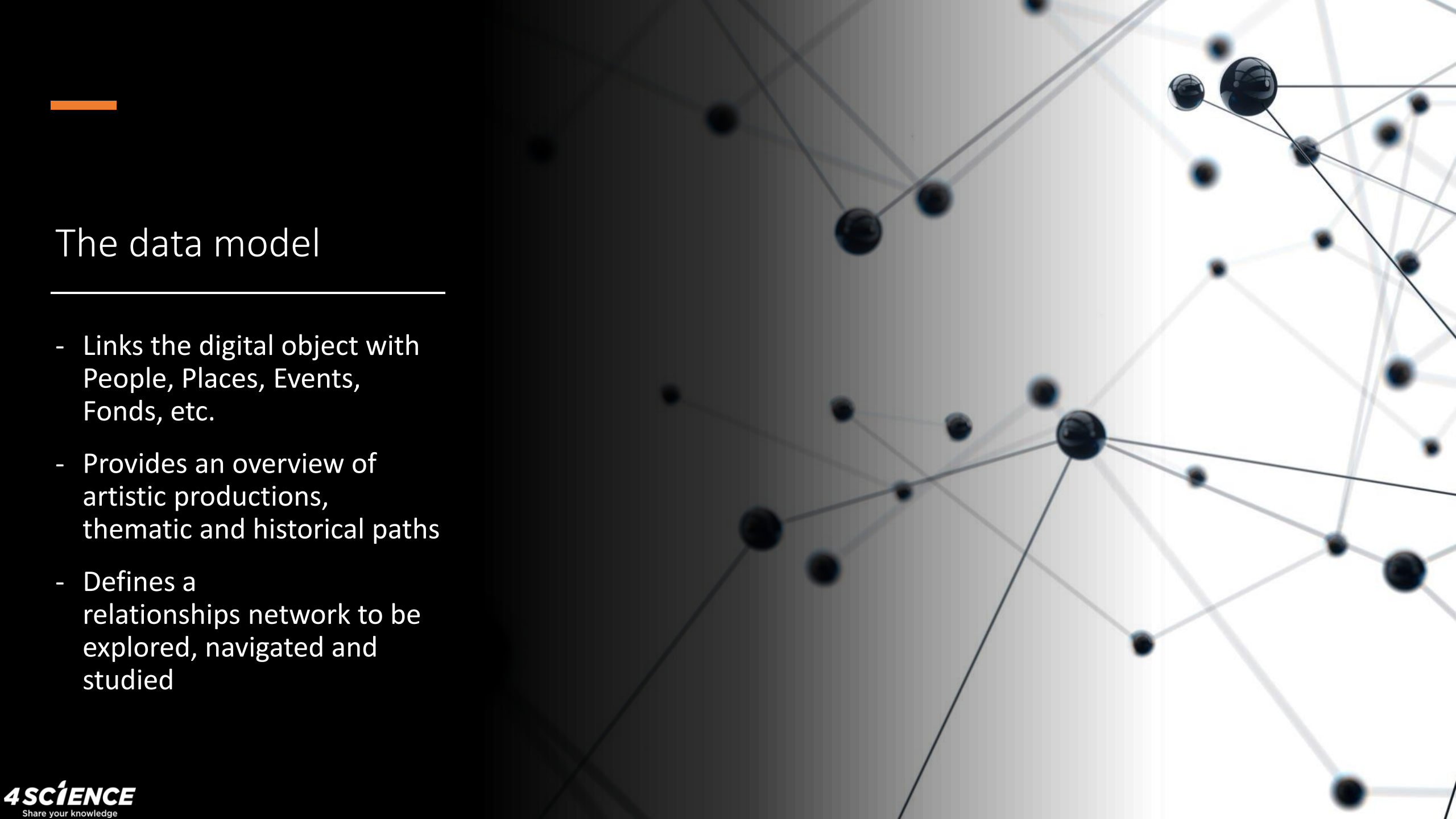
Managing Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums

Ancient and modern books, archival fonds, journal fonds, museums objects, documents, audio, video, maps …

Cultural Heritage materials are explored in an integrated way, without loosing domain metadata standards granularity

The data model

- Links the digital object with People, Places, Events, Fonds, etc.
- Provides an overview of artistic productions, thematic and historical paths
- Defines a relationships network to be explored, navigated and studied



Migrating Cultural Heritage collections to DSpace 7

- Converting legacy DSpace items into Entities
- Creating new Entities instancies starting from metadata values
- Creating relationships among Entities
- Managing different bitstream types (PDFs, images, audios, videos, etc.)

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Opening new perspectives for Digital Collections

Moving to DSpace 7 (or DSpace 8) is a great opportunity to provide new tools and services to the users.

We are extending DSpace for managing the GLAM domain and to open original perspectives for digital collections and libraries not only by means of object relationships, but also using "views" and logical aggregates allowing to inform new audiences about cultural heritages.

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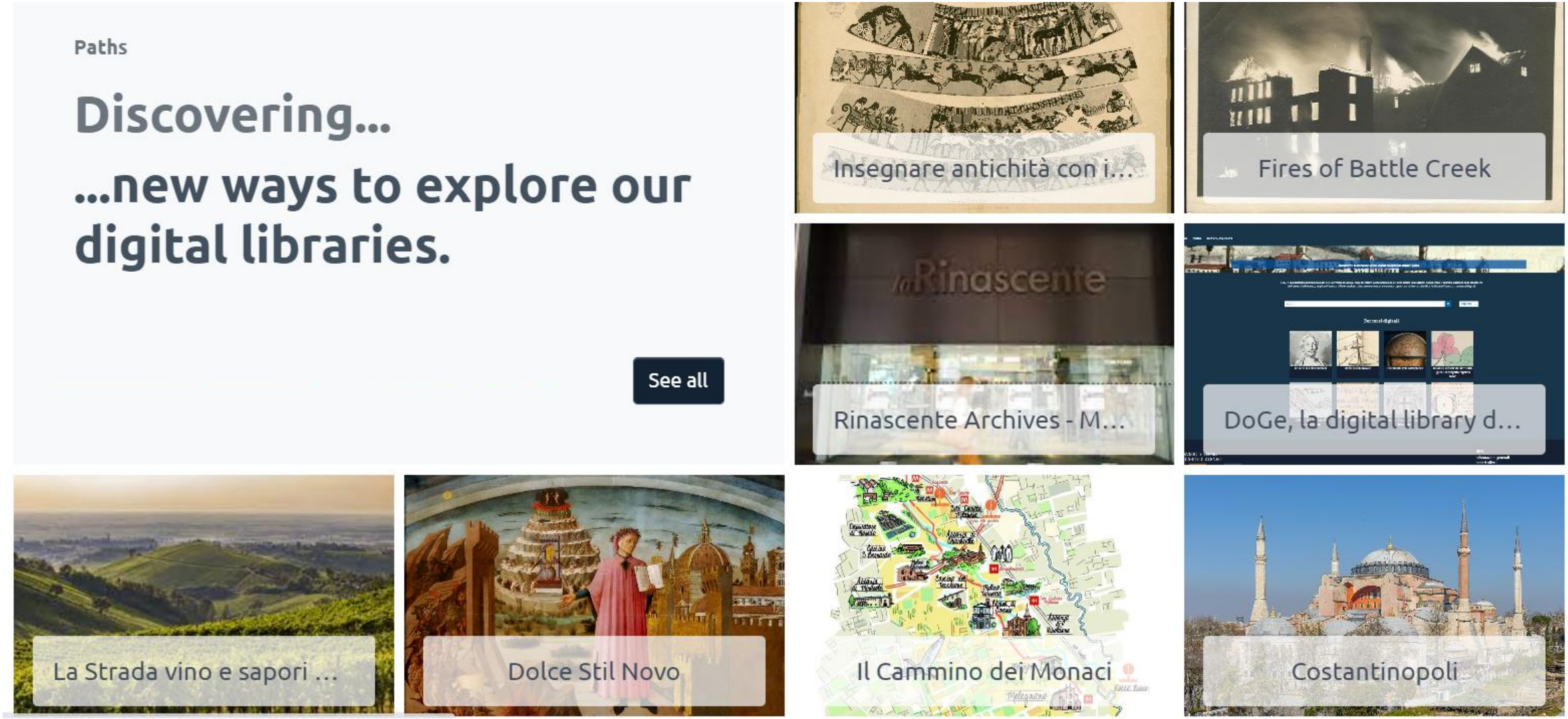

Cultural Paths and storytelling

Creating Cultural Paths

Paths tell "stories"

Path modeling is a way of relating different entities (Documents, Pictures, People, Events, Places, etc.), using both text and images, in order to highlight contexts and to structure virtual exhibitions, itineraries, etc.

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Paths creation and storytelling

Greater interaction between text and digital resources makes it possible to build real narratives around cultural heritage within DSpace 7

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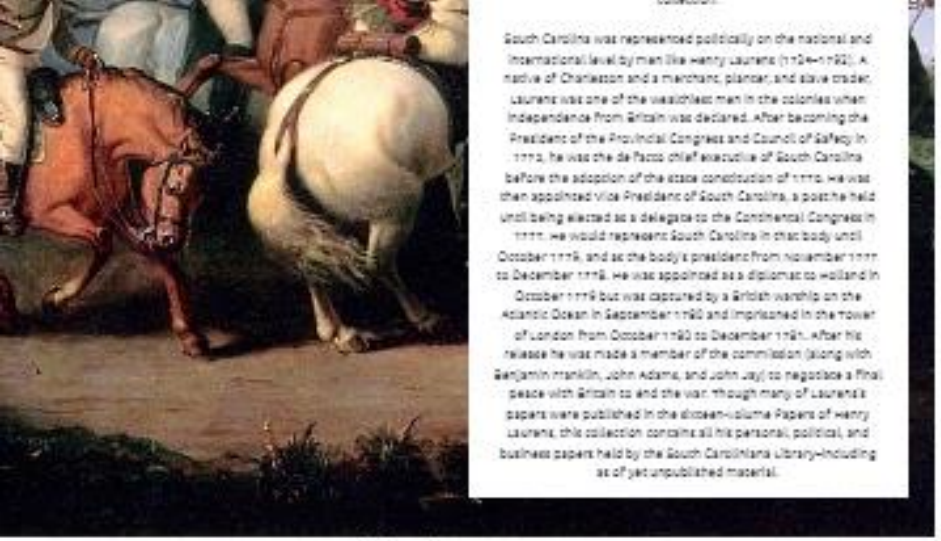
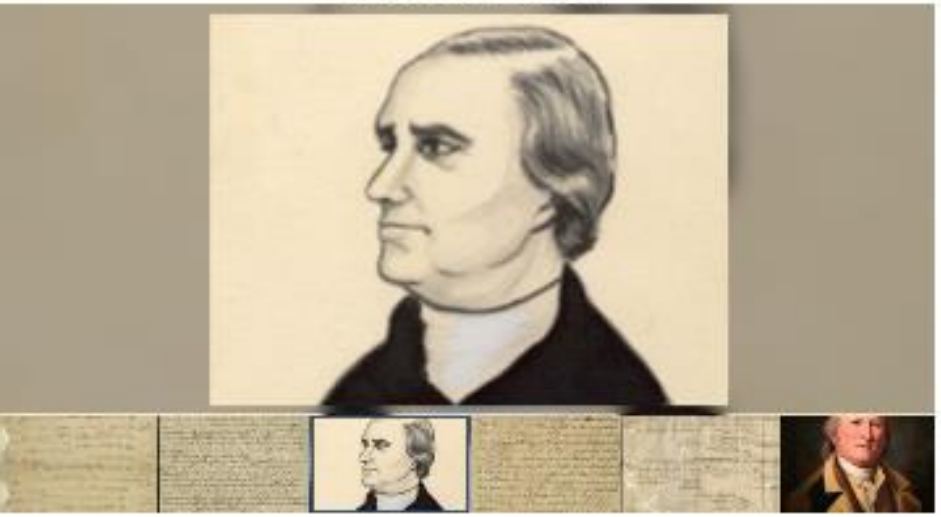


South Carolina was represented politically on the national and international level by men like Henry Laurens (1724–1792). A native of Charleston and a merchant, planter, and slave trader, Laurens was one of the wealthiest men in the colonies when independence from Britain was declared. After becoming the President of the Provincial Congress and Council of Safety in 1775, he was the de facto chief executive of South Carolina before the adoption of the state constitution of 1776. He was then appointed Vice President of South Carolina, a post he held until being elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1777. He would represent South Carolina in that body until October 1778, and as the body's president from November 1777 to December 1778. He was appointed as a diplomat to Holland in October 1779 but was captured by a British warship on the Atlantic Ocean in September 1780 and imprisoned in the Tower of London from October 1780 to December 1781. After his release he was made a member of the commission (along with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay) to negotiate a final peace with Britain to end the war. Though many of Laurens's papers were published in the sixteen-volume Papers of Henry Laurens, this collection contains all his personal, political, and business papers held by the South Caroliniana Library–including as of yet unpublished material.

Digital Resources



Hart, Oliver

Clergyman. Oliver Hart was born in Warminster, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1723. He was one of the most influential religious, social, and political leaders of the pre-Revolutionary war South. He began his adult life as a carpenter, though he was also licensed to preach by the Philadelphia Association (Baptist) in 1749. In 1749, after receiving a request from the Charleston Baptist Church for help in locating a pastor, the association encouraged Hart to answer the call and ordained him to the ministry. The Charleston church accepted Hart's unannounced arrival as a sign from God and installed him as minister in 1750, despite his meager education. He would hold that position for thirty years, leading the church in the Regular Baptist tradition. The church's cruse was well placed. After educating himself, Hart became a leader not only to his congregation but to Baptists in the entire region. His Regular Baptist heritage inspired him to recruit worthy young men, including Richard Furman, to enter the ministry and to challenge the Charleston Association and the Charleston Religious Society to raise the funds needed for the education of these ministerial prospects.

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A Historical Path: “American Revolution in South Carolina"

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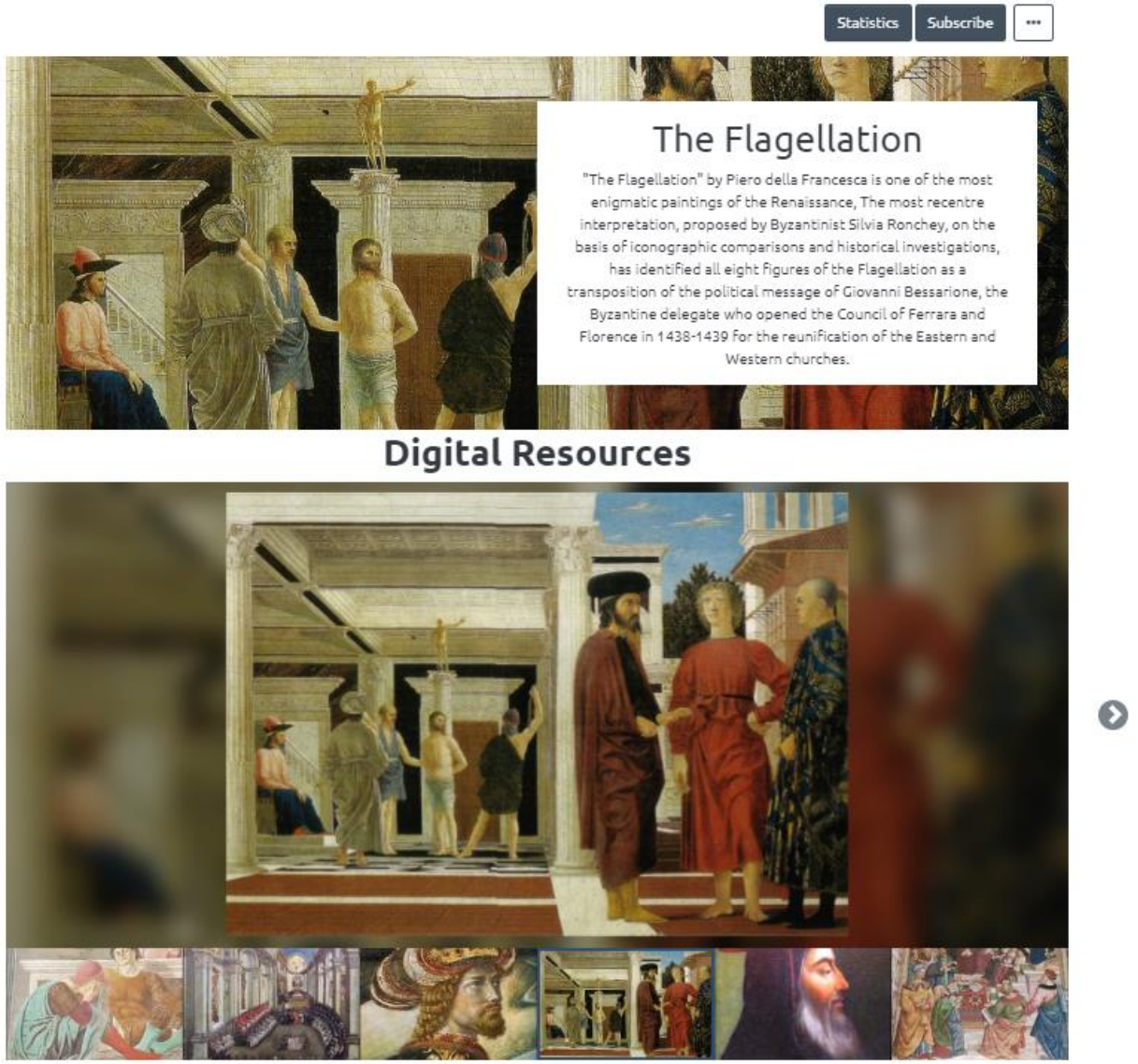
A Historical Path: "The Flagellation"

Related Digital Resources



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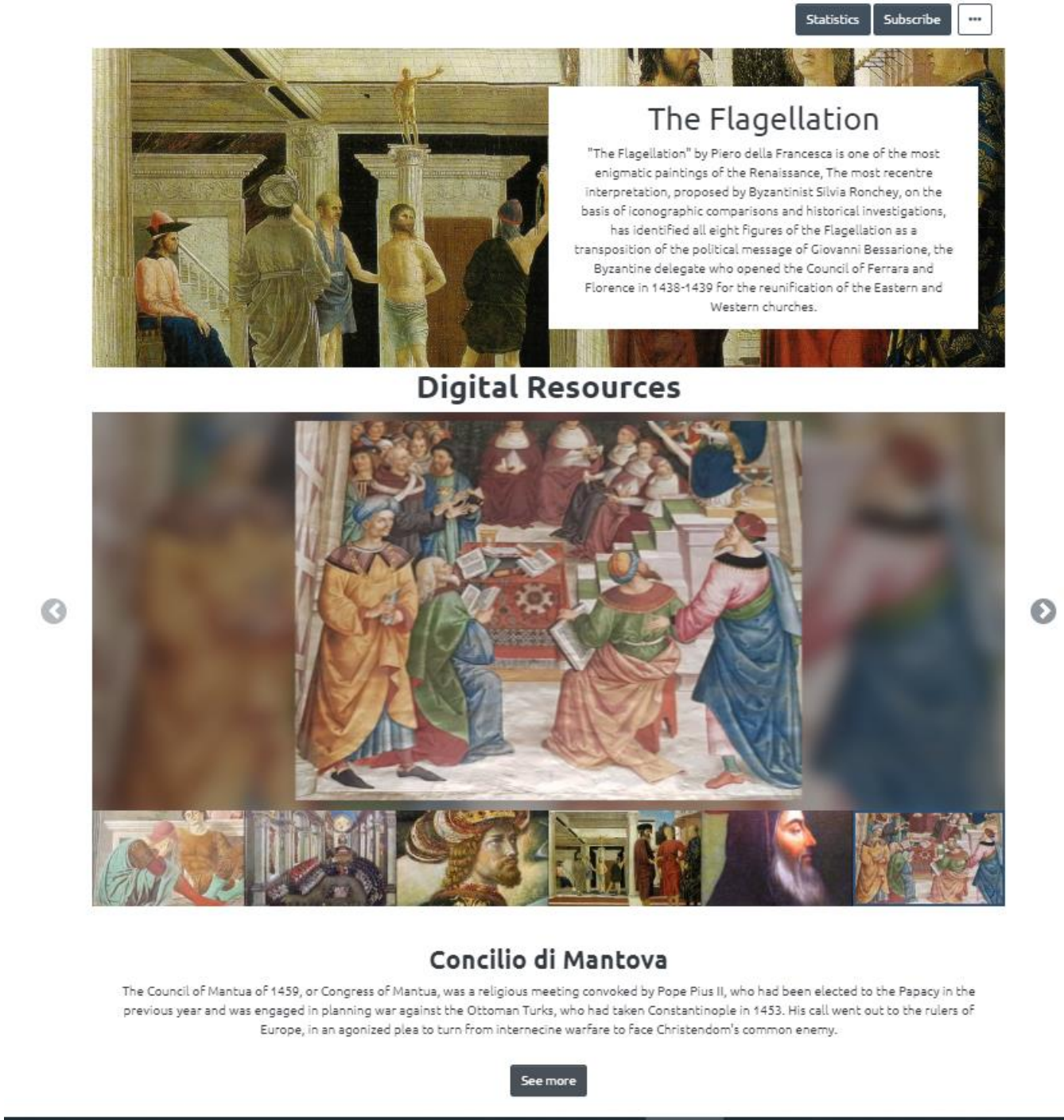
Related Digital Resources



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Related Digital Resources

Digital Resources

John VIII, Palaiologos

John VIII Palaiologos or Palaeologus (Greek: Ιωάννης Παλαιολόγος, romanized: Iōánnēs Palaiológos; 18 December 1392 – 31 October 1448) was the penultimate Byzantine emperor, ruling from 1425 to 1448. As the eldest son of Manuel II Palaiologos and Helena Dragaš, he was co-emperor with his father before 1416 and took sole control in 1425. During his rule, he defended Constantinople from a siege by Murad II but conceded the loss of Thessalonica. To secure protection against the Ottomans, he visited Italy twice and consented to the union of the Greek and Roman churches, a move which was ultimately unsuccessful due to opposition in Constantinople. Before his death in 1448, John VIII named his brother Constantine XI as his successor. He was married three times but had no children. Notably, John VIII was the last reigning Byzantine emperor to die of natural causes and was depicted by several painters during his visit to Italy.

See more

Each digital object and each concept (Docunent, Person, Event, Place, Path, etc.) is a node in a single semantic network

A Digital Library many audiences

- Today Digital Libraries have to increase their ability to enhance and make digital cultural resources accessible through different consultation channels, also according to the needs of different types of audiences:
  - specialist, related to research and university studies
  - belonging to the sphere of school learning
  - tourists
  - citizens, who wish to acquire information on facts, places, objects
  - etc.

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Moving to a new paradigm

Moving Digital Cultural Heritage to DSpace 7 (or 8) is much more than an upgrade

It is a transition to a new paradigm

Moving to a new paradigm

Going beyond the traditional boundaries of the Digital libraries

Structuring a complex system of relationships and building new narratives through the interdisciplinarity and the coexistence of different domains, with all the critical issues - but also the benefits - it entails.

Come on! Join the GLAM side of DSpace

Image from https://www.charactour.com/hub/characters/view/Yoda.Star-Wars-Series used for non commercial purposes

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Thank you!