

# The Technical Chamber of Greece Digital Library : The Vision of a Special Organisation to Save and Disseminate its Information Work through the Network

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This presentation discusses the creation of a digital library which contains scientific work produced by the Technical Chamber of Greece and disseminated to its members through post or library services. The Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE) is the technical consultant to the Government as well as the professional organisation of greek engineers (numbering more than 60.000). Among TEE activities, it conducts studies and organizes various meetings on technical and related aspects, like architecture, town planning, environment, information technology, chemical engineering, naval architecture, civil engineering and so on.

It publishes three professional periodicals : the weekly information bulletin "Enimerotiko Deltio" which is sent free to all members and contains news, comments and activities of TEE, the bimonthly journal Technika Chronika, containing studies, reports and articles on general technical subjects and the scientific publication Technika Chronika, published in five separate sections addressed to the various engineering fields, with scientific and research articles in Greek including an extended summary in English. In addition, TEE publishes scientific and technical books and translations of foreign specifications.

All above works are used heavily by engineers as well as by other scientists and students. They are disseminated through the Documentation and Information Unit of TEE in Athens as well as the libraries of its 15 regional sections connected to a network through a virtual library system.

The Data Bank of TEE is an information system, which provides online access by subscription to a great amount of information and services interesting engineers, such as engineers' registry, rewards, firms data, cost of products and services, bibliographical information, legislation, electronic mail, competitions, TEE activities.

Although the scientific production of TEE is high and attracts the interest of a large number of interested parties, there is a great demand from engineers all over the country not only to get informed on what's on in technical fields in Greece and what

is the participation of TEE but also to get that primary information resources on his/her desk, without having to visit one of its libraries.

A pilot TEE digital library has already been created in a computer of TEE with the cooperation of the ICS-FORTH, using the Dienst software. The electronic address of the digital library is: <http://www.central.tee.gr/dlib>. It contains in digital form scientific work produced by TEE, aiming to serve primarily its members all over the country but also any other interested in technical aspects. The documents that TEE hold include material mainly in greek, but in english as well.

More specifically, the library contains the periodicals published by TEE, the proceedings of meetings and the reports produced by working groups and scientific committees of TEE as well as other miscellaneous works. Besides these, the digital library will eventually contain other collective work of general interest conducted by TEE. As an example, the work conducted in the 70's on the traditional places and buildings in Greece, with photos and designs from particular buildings is presented here. All this work is kept now in paper files in the library of Athens and is not easily accessible by the end-users. Among the benefits of the digital library are saving of physical space, promotion through the Internet, dissemination and awareness, ease of access, search and retrieval, availability.

During the pilot phase, separate contacts with people working at TEE have taken place in order to get the digital material. It has been noticed that the greatest difficulty is to organise and manage the collection of the various scientific works in digital form. The production of above works and the organisation of meetings are responsibility of different people referring to different members of the Executive Committee of TEE. The need for coordination and integration is stressed in order to achieve the best results. A technical problem with word processing during data entry and compatibility with Unix environment has been solved. Some other issues to be taken into consideration are the cooperation with the computer department, the familiarity of library staff with the new type of application, the management and maintenance of the service.

A very important issue is to make the digital library an element of the integrated information system of TEE. One way to achieve this task is to link the records of the bibliographic database to the relevant resources of the digital library using the Unimarc tag 856. Some examples are presented here.

The special support required by the organisation is necessary in order to ensure the continuous operation of the digital library. The successful operation in Athens could lead to the extension of the application to corresponding work produced at the regional sections and which is much less accessible by engineers, especially in the rest of the country. This task will complement the virtual library system of TEE operating with the cooperation and coordination of all its libraries.