DIEA IT Infrastructure

The Documentary Institute in Eastern Africa -DIEA - is a production and research centre, hosting a visual archive, intending to become a resource for institutions, filmmakers, researchers, undergraduate and graduate scholars studying film in the EAC. It is an autonomous organization based in Nairobi, at the British Institute in Eastern Africa headquarters. It is managed by BIEA itself in collaboration with Jux Tap Entertainment.

The DIEA intends to contribute to the creation of a dynamic and sustainable documentary film industry in the East African region. A network of documentary filmmakers covering the Partner States of the East African Community will be established with the support of BIEA and national universities. Their access to regional and international markets will be improved through an online archive for the storage, distribution and promotion of their work, as well as building a database of contacts that enables targeted and sustained communication about new productions and proposals to international industry contacts.

The core of the DIEA project is **"The Visual Archive of Eastern Africa".** By using the latest technology for conservation, whether that means the archive as a physical location or the digital frontier, will produce, collect, restore, investigate, conserve and distribute various visual contents. By preserving the audiovisual heritage of the Partner States of the East African Community, it will contribute to the diffusion of art and creative expression in a global context. During the time, the acquisition of increasingly important material, will attract individuals, public and private organizations, filmmakers, photographers and experts to entrust DIEA their own collections. In following this program, the Visual Archive of Eastern Africa, will have a solid stand in the region, hosting a wide selection of visual resources for preservation and access for study and research.

The DIEA IT Infrastructure is conceived as a virtual space hosting the Visual Archive of Eastern Africa which enables assigned persons working in different areas within the DIEA project and the partner entities to exchange informations and collaborate actively. It consists of two main structures: **The Cloud Platform and The Web Portal**

Cloud Platform

The **Cloud Platform** serves as a database for:
- **Archiving** - *material/footage* (access: rights owners/producers, researchers and broadcasters)
- **Pre-production -** a working space for content development, promotion, funding pitching and networking activities (access: producers, filmmakers to their dedicated project space)
- **Production -** a virtual workshop for the production of documentary films and multimedia contents. (access: producers, editors, researchers, universities and filmmakers to their dedicated project space)
- **Education -** an e-learning platform for training activities within the university network and BIEA webinars (access: researchers and students)

Digitization Process for Archiving

Video master tapes and film reels are converted to digital video files.

The file is encoded to a format suitable for **archiving**, ingested and stored on a **physical server**. The server, optimized for secure data backup, protects all content from hardware damage, data theft and file corruption. Contents selected for **distribution** are encoded to desired format and uploaded to a **web-based cloud server.** At the end of the digitization process the master tapes and reels are returned to the owner with a digital copy. On request, the Archiving facility can store the masters in a secure vault (a yearly charge and insurance costs apply).

The Web Portal

The Web Portal is built on a CMS (Content Management System) consisting of a dedicated **Front-end**, visible online to all users, and a **Back-end** visible to administrators and portal's managers.

Front-end

The Front-end is structured as a **Video Gallery** where the content is organized into categories and subcategories. Content is catalogued with metadata to facilitate identification and research within the archive. There are different levels of access and pricing of the content according to user and client (commercial, research, education, non-profit), including open source, pay-per-view, subscription etc.

Front-end dedicated to other related portals

The DIEA allows associated client and partner entities (museums, archives, universities etc.) to host on their own website a dedicated **Video Gallery**. The gallery is published in the associated entity's portal via a link leading to a dedicated URL, the domain name of which is decided by the entity. The graphic interface, content management and distribution are provided by the DIEA.

AV Production Facility, Seminar and Event Spaces

At the Front-end The DIEA publishes the online reservation system for the AV Production Facility, for the adjacent Seminar and Event Spaces at BIEA Nairobi.

Back-end

The Back-end is the file management interface within the **Web Portal**. It allows to name, post, tag and publish video files. Access of the Back-end is limited to DIEA administrators.

DIEA IT Infrastructure Graphic Model

Footage

Digitization

.h264

.h264

Server

DIEA Cloud

Workshop

Content development

E-learning

Web Portal

DIEA interface
in the institution's portal

AV Facility