

The Language Archive: Latest Developments

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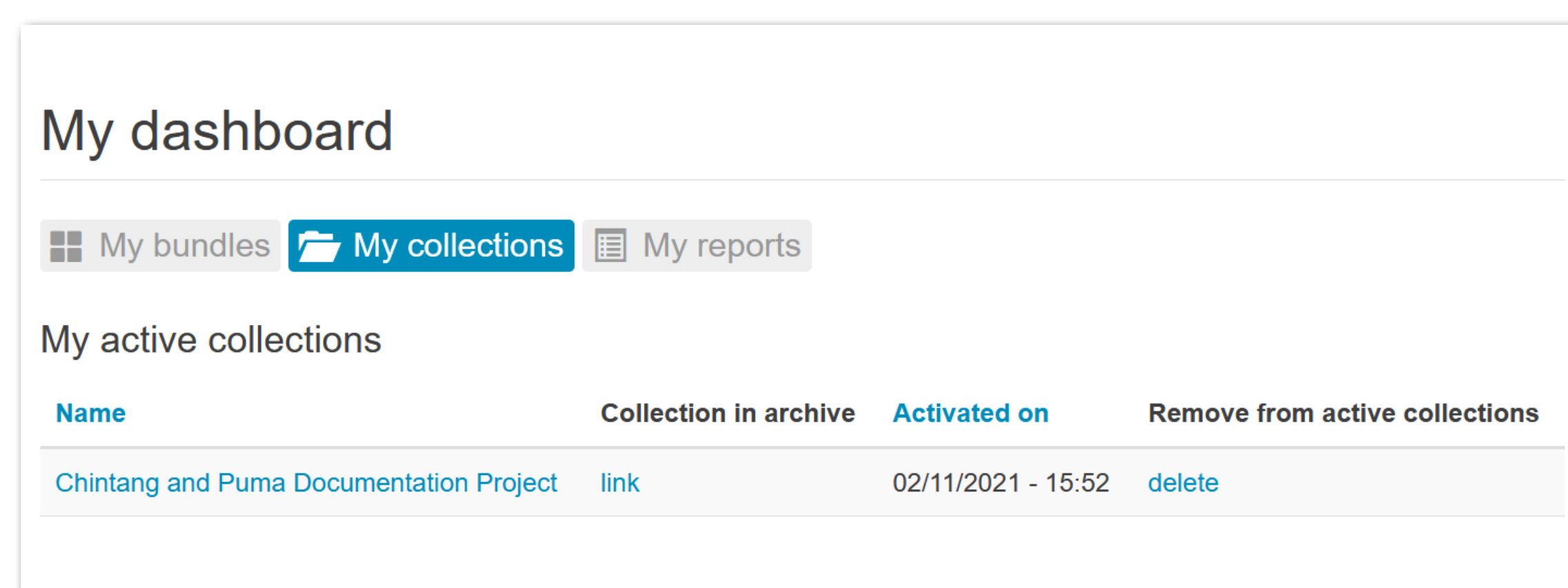
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Introduction

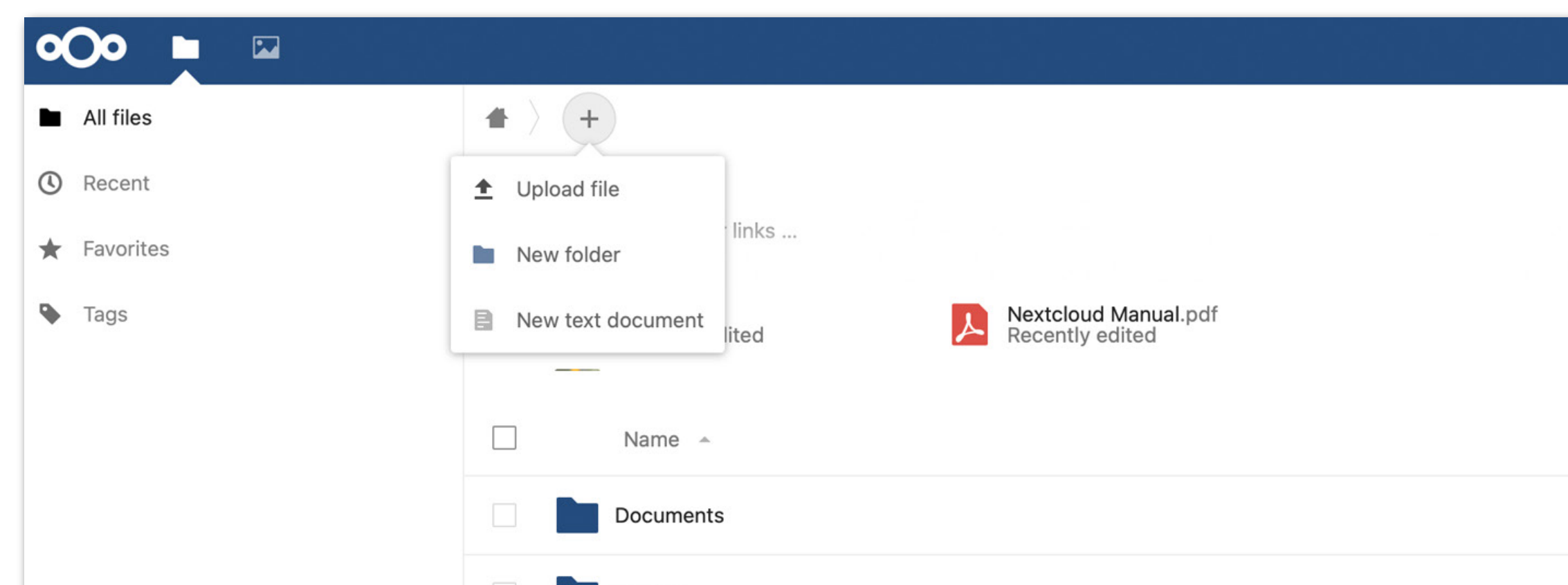
The Language Archive exists since the late nineties and contains over 350 collections covering over 250 different languages from around the world. 64 collections were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2015. The archive had been using an in-house developed repository system until early 2018, when it migrated to a system that is based on the existing Islandora solution. Islandora is an open source repository system that consists of a Fedora Commons repository, a Drupal content management system, and a set of Drupal modules to interact with Fedora Commons and to display the content. This migration was done for two main reasons: to reduce software maintenance costs and to create a better and more up-to-date user experience for users and depositors. Initially, this migration also meant that some of the extensive functionality of the previous repository system was no longer available. During the past two years however, the team has worked to bring back and in some cases even enhance those missing features.

Web-based deposit tool

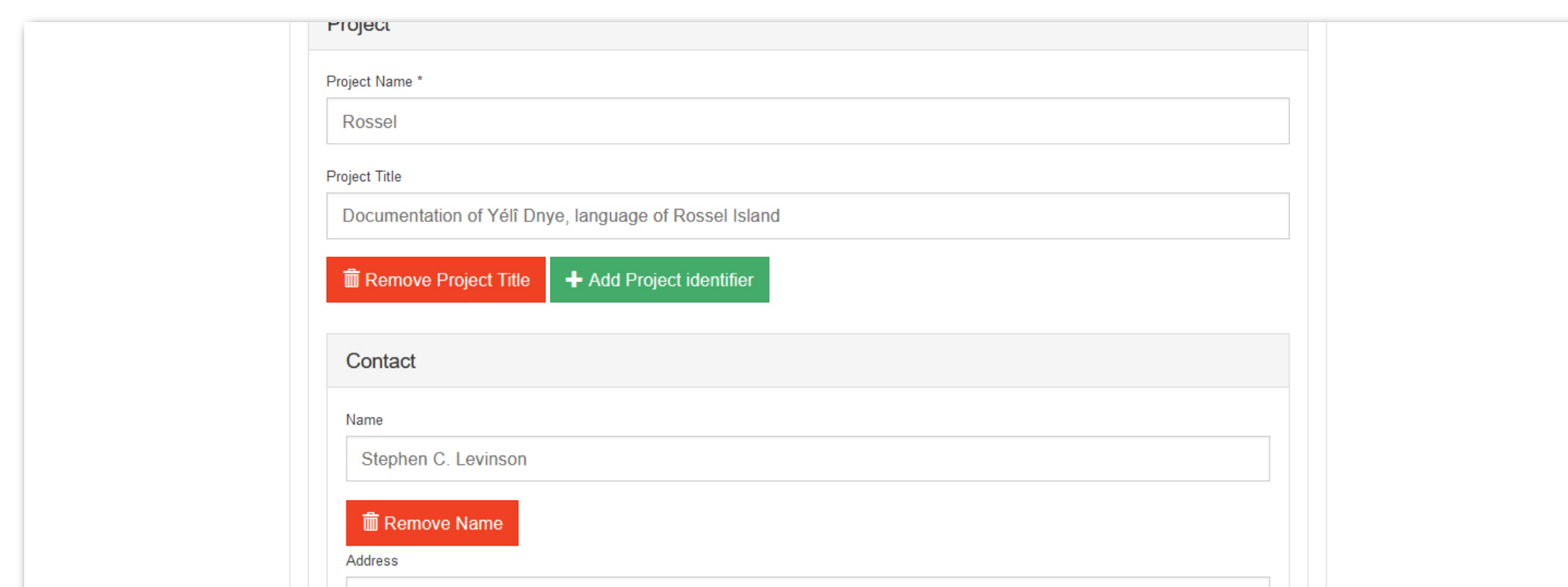
A new web-based deposit tool, to allow depositors themselves to upload and manage materials in their collections. The new tool has a much-improved user interface and more straightforward workflow.



To enable easy and reliable file upload, an instance of the Nextcloud open source cloud software is used.



Web-based forms are included for entering metadata.



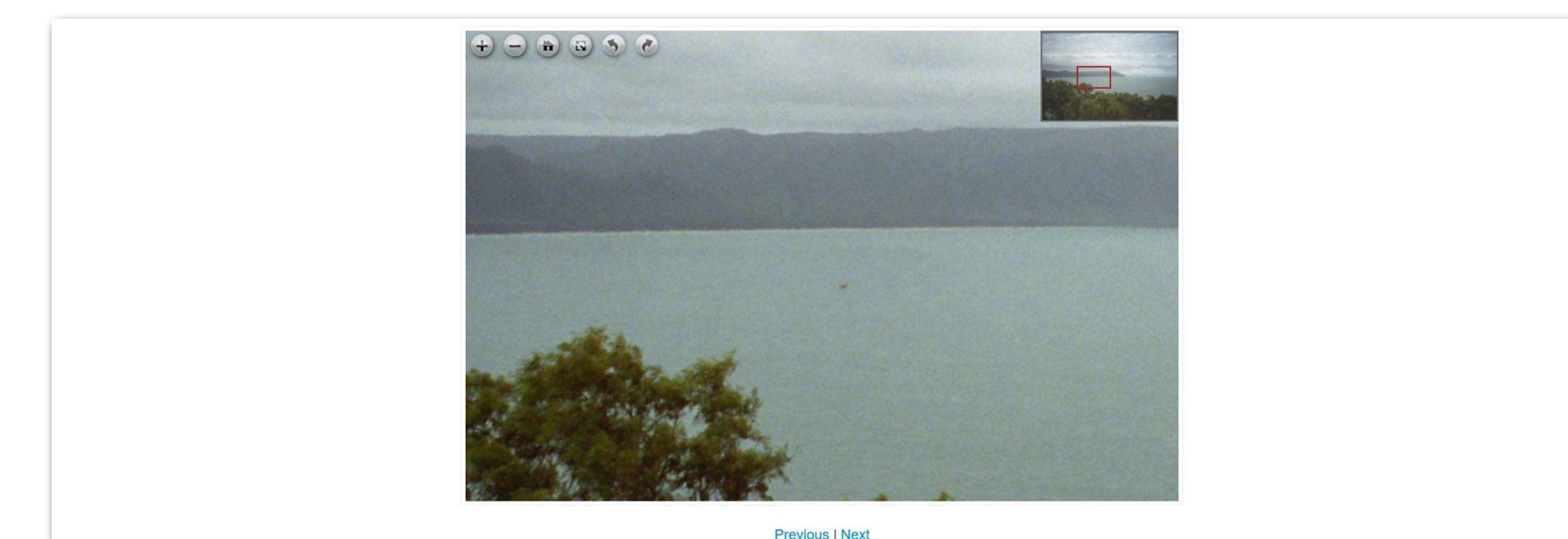
Annotated media viewer

A new annotated media viewer. The previous system featured an extensive tool for online viewing of time-aligned annotated media. This tool however required Adobe Flash to be available on the user's computer, which has become obsolete. Early 2019, a new viewer was made available that makes use of modern web standards and does not require additional browser plug-ins. The first version of this tool includes a viewer that displays annotations in a table, in sync with the audio or video. Further viewing modes such as a timeline are planned for the future.



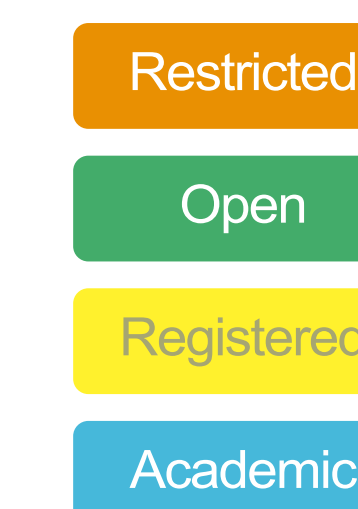
Image gallery

A new image gallery, making use of the OpenSeadragon viewer. This viewer allows for very fast zooming and navigating in high-resolution TIFF and JPEG images in a standard web browser.



Colour-coded access labels

New colour-coded access labels as well as an access level "filter". A new "academic" access level was introduced for granting access to academic users.



Division of the archive

A division of the archive by creating two "portals" which each focus on different types of collections.



Improved user assistance

New manuals, online screencasts, and new user support forums.

