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## NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

The DAVID project has a new e-mail address: david@stad.antwerpen.be. The old e-mail address will still be valid for a while, but you are advised to use the new address from now on.

## UPDATED WEBSITE

The DAVID website has been given a complete face-lift:

- The website has been linked to the Documentum docbase of Antwerp City Archive. The documents placed in the docbase can now be consulted online.
- NEW 'XML-DTD' page: here you will find full details about Antwerp City Archive's use of XML in digital archiving. The model DTDs and the DTDs can be downloaded from this page.
- NEW 'Seminar' page: in October 2000 a seminar on 'electronic archiving' was held at the Faculty of Law of the University of Leuven (K.U. Leuven) as part of the 'law and computer science' section taught by Prof. Dumortier. Of the many formal requirements laid down by law for innumerable documents, the students studied the requirements governing the signature. Together they wrote a text about the new law of October 20<sup>th</sup> 2000, which brings the legal recognition of the electronic signature into force in Belgium. They also produced a report on the international status quo of digital archiving with links to the relevant web pages.
- The page with links has been updated and added to
- You can now automatically subscribe to the DAVID Newsletter or remove your name from mailing-list
- The English-language site has gone online

## **THE DIGITAL ARCHIVING OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTER**

At the end of January the report entitled 'The digital archiving of the electoral register' went to press. In this report an archiving strategy is developed for the electoral register. It also examines the legal background and the question of whether it is legally permissible to archive the electoral register digitally.

Antwerp City Archive has since put that archiving strategy into practice. On January 30<sup>th</sup> 2001 two cd-roms were made over to the City Archive. Each cd-rom comprises four files: the XML file of the electoral register, the DTD, the metadata and the parsing log file.

F. BOUDREZ and S. VAN DEN EYNDE, The digital archiving of the electoral register, Antwerp-Leuven, Antwerp City Archive – ICRI, 2001. You will find the full text of the report on our website. There is also a summary of the report in English.

## **THE DIGITAL ARCHIVING OF DATA FROM THE MUNICIPAL REGISTER**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> 1999 the population register office of the City of Antwerp switched to a new software application (BEAM). The data from the old population register were converted to BEAM with the exception of the data relating to those inhabitants of Antwerp who had been removed before 1983. The data relate to approx. 80,000 inhabitants and were placed in a database on mainframe. The database consists of 15 segments. The segments are optional and can appear several times. Each segment consists of a fixed number of fields.

XML was the chosen file format for the digital archiving of these data. Antwerp City Archive drew up a DTD and cluster 1 of Telepolis added the beginning and end tags to the segments and data fields. The XML files take up approximately 4 gigabytes, which means they need to be divided up into smaller files. Before the file was converted to XML, the names were sorted alphabetically. The files are archived on CD-ROMs. For further information and for the DTD used, go to <http://www.antwerpen.be/david>. Work to convert the file to XML and its transfer to the City Archive will be completed during the next few weeks.

## **AGENDA**

### *Reports*

F. BOUDREZ, Typology of the digital governmental documents (February-March)

S. VAN DEN EYNDE, Digital archiving: the legal status quo (February-March).

### *Newsletter*

Next Newsletter: end April 2001