# Canon
of theatre technical history

What is it, what is it all about?

Partners

- Erasmushogeschool Brussel (EhB) Erasmus University of applied science and art, Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema & Sound (RITCS)

- Beuth-Hochschule

- University of Applied Sciences Berlin

- Stockholm University of the Arts

- ETSAB Barcelona School of Architecture

- REAL ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE ARTE DRAMÁTICO

- INSTITUT UMENI - DIVADELNI USTAV (PQ)

- Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performanc

- Academy of Fine Arts Frosinone
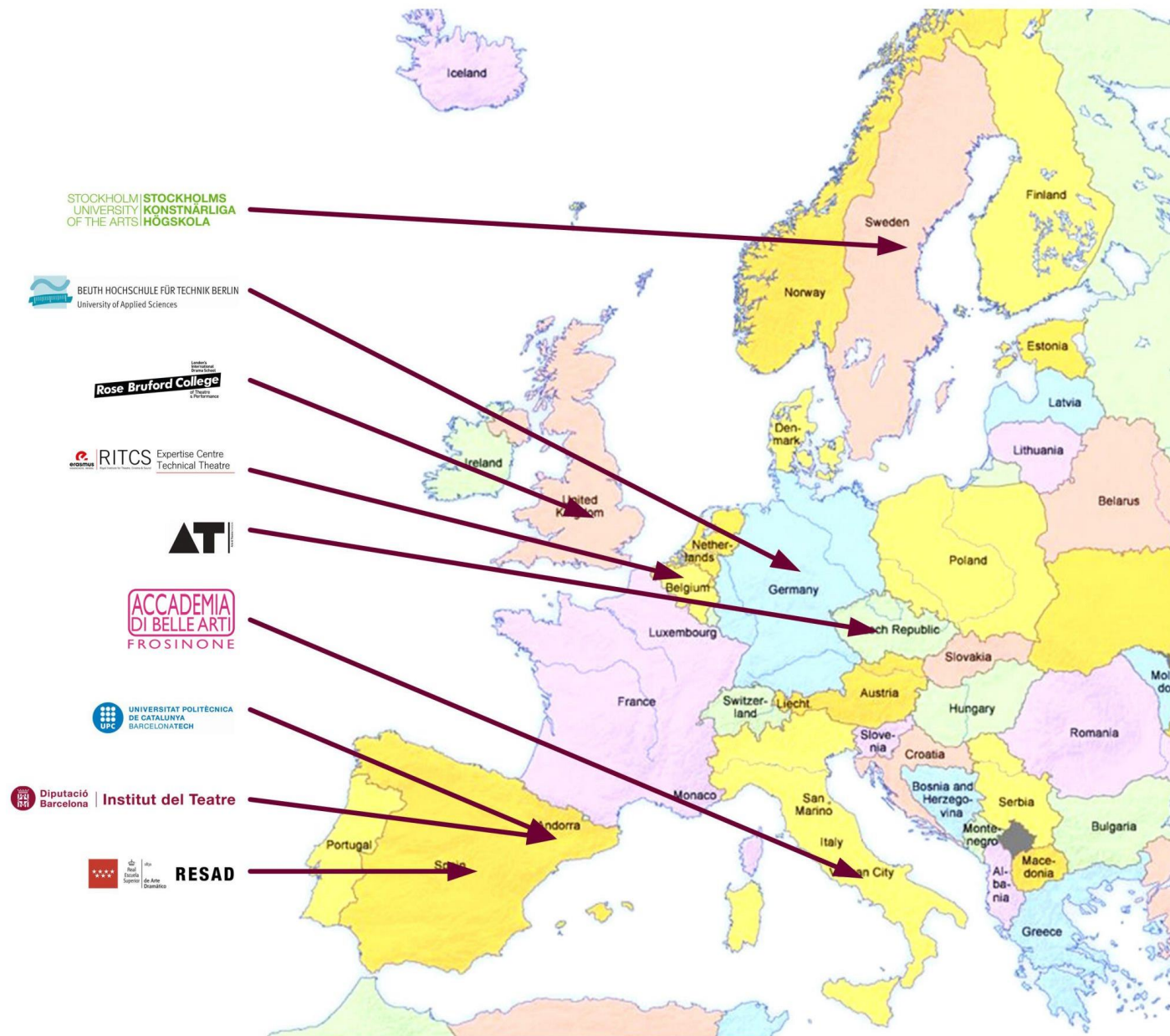
Goal
Obiettivo

increase

awareness and understanding

of the

history of **technical theatre**

in **Europe**

From multiple perspectives

Activities

- Research

- On-line work

- Student workshops

- Teacher workshops

What is heritage? Che cos'è il patrimonio?

- Everything that is not in use anymore

- Everything we want to keep information about

- Everything that has shaped our work

Five parts

- Canon - stories
- Teaching tools
- Methodology
- Timeline
- Network

Canon - stories

- 100 most important stories to tell

- 10 fields

- 10 time frames

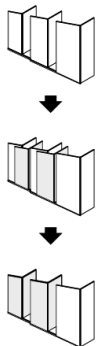|	around Antique	around Middle Age	around Renaissance / Golden Age	around Baroque	around Industrialisation 18/19	around Reform arond 1890-1920	around interwar / war period- 30	around modern (1945-70)	1970-2000	around 2000 until today
linked to theatre technology!	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MECHANICS	Antiquity Machinery (Origin of Elevators, Cassets, Periaktoi, Wagons	Medieval Machinery	Renaissance Stage Machinery	Baroque Stage Machinery	Standardized wooden machinery > Steel (Counter wheight Fly Bars?)	Hydraulics & Motors Revolving Stage, Elevator Stage	Time of no innovation	Spiral Lift	Entertainment Rigging (truss, chain hoists, etc)	Automation (Controlling mechanics), 3D Movement
ILLUSIONS, EFFECTS AND IMAGES	Crains (Fly People)	Blood, hell mouth, Abraham Sustal	fireworks, Pyro technics	traps, flying benches, changing sizes (mechanical scenery effects), Sea / waves	Peppers Ghost, Magic Latern on stage (Illusion)	Cloud machinery, projection	Flying effects (Peter Pan)	Projection, video: "A life of its own": Theatre, Image"	digital media, video, tv screens, green screens	Projected Stages / Hologauze
LIGHT	Daylight: "The 'natural' state and how to control it"	Dancing around Fire	Indoors – up to the renaissance: "Theatre comes indoors – light as spectacle"	The Baroque mechanised stage: "Light as Transformation"	Directional light – limelight, carbon arc (19th century): "Living Light" (Mixed light)	Electric light (late 19th century onwards): "Naked Trashiness": theatre goes electric	Spotlighting: (inter-war period onwards) "Painting with light: multi-lantern complexity"	Electronic control (1960s onwards): "Dynamic light"	Automated lighting: "Total control: changeable everything"	LED lighting (2010 onwards): "The end of the age of incandescence"
SOUND	acustics (antique), echaea (first amplifier), Thunder plates (found footage which produces sound effects	Live Sounds (Musicians)	Sound effects (look at Sabbatini)	Sound machines (rain- and windmachines)	Teatrophone (First Streaming) first important Edison cylindar 1880	wireless telephonograph, 1900, Tube Amplifier: Triode 1906	first sound reinforcement systems (first Magnavoxelectroacoustic P.A. systems, 1920?), Tape from 1930, Microphones on Stage (Jesus Christ	Transistor technology replaces tube technology Microports / Lavalier	"Power and control": Speaker systems, high power amplification, controlled directivity (controlling the dispersion of sound in the room)	Digital audio technology / IP-based audio networks, radio frequencies
ARCHITECTURE (referring to technic/stage relation/safety)	Theatre Epidaurus (greek /> roman theatres)	Valenciennes (market place) simultanean stage	Corral / Globe (open air), shakespearan. Farnese > Teatro Espagnol	Baroque Teatre (Drottningholm, Cesky Crumlov, Burla machiery)	Opera Garnier, Semper Burgtheater Wien	Hellerau (Salzmann / Appia / Decroize) - Reformstage	Bauhaus > Nazi	Theatre in the round, democratizing the stage	Schaubuehne (flexible space, mechanics, movements, rebuilding existing buildings)	Oslo / (iconics / guggenheim effect) theatres (Taiphee Performning Arts Centre) Rem Koolhass
SCENOGRAPHY	Agatharchos, Scena	temporary, Mystery plays	Perspective-Illusion, Olimpico Vicenza, Italian,	Permanent indoors, Kulissenbühne, Backdrop Stage	Gebrüder Brückner (Vorlagen, fertige Sets), Plafond	Infinite Stage: Cupola & Cyclorama	Utopian Theatre Ideas: Total Theatre Gropius, Kiesler Raumbühne, Weininger Kugeltheater	performances / non-theatre spaces (site specific)	"A New Reality - the end of illusion": the use of real materials (wood, steel, glass) to represent themselves.	Immersive Technologies (Virtual Stages)

Teaching tools

- Drawings to understand technologies

- Sabbattini translation + 3D model

- Video of Di Somi dialogues

- …

Sabbattini
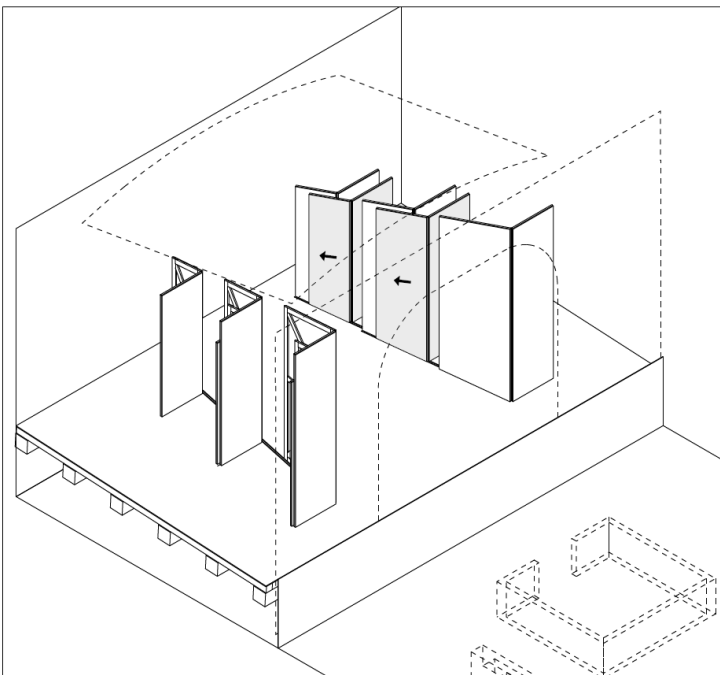
B2CH06-A
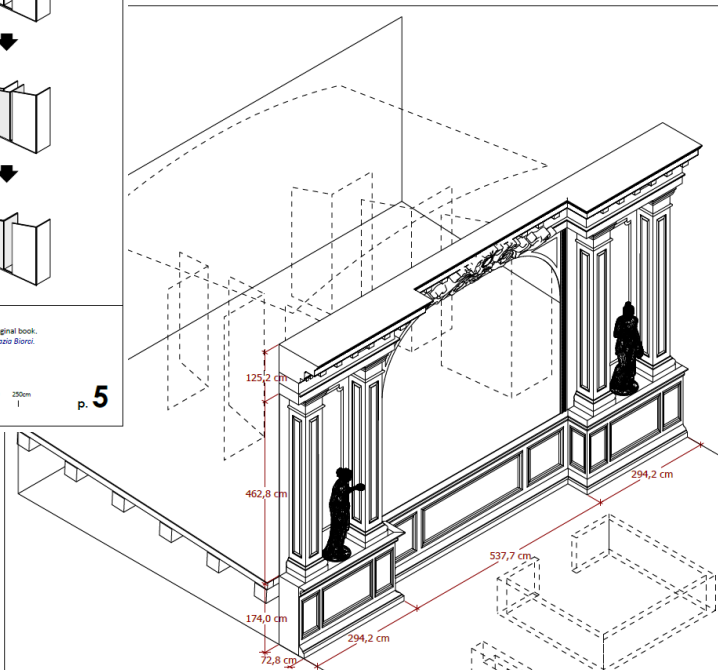
[WITHOUT SUPERIOR GUIDES]

- Houses 8.7cm apart to allow the secondary houses to slide between them.

- Secondary houses built with the same measurements as the houses they have to cover.

- Guide placed on the pavement. Width 5.8 cm and length as much as the sum between the house to be covered and the preceding one.

Excerpted from Sabbattini's original book.
Excerpted from the book by Grazia Biorci.
Interpretation by the authors.

SCALE: 1/50

0 25 50   100   150   200   250cm

p. **5**

B1CH35

- Square made of wooden slats with a square section *(12x12cm)* with a diagonal in the center to avoid buckling. The joints between the different slats will be made with wooden blocks so that they are well attached. The squares will be placed in the room every 174cm along its walls.

- Small square made up of wooden slats with a rectangular section *(12x6cm)* 52.2cm high and 34.8cm wide. Union made by nails.

- *2cm* thick wooden plank that is placed on top of the small squares to serve as a seat.

- This method allows to make seats for the public without perforating the floor of the room or its walls.
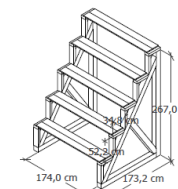
Excerpted from Sabbattini's original book.
Excerpted from the book by Grazia Biorci.
Interpretation by the authors.

SCALE: 1/100

0 50 100   200   300   400   500m

p. **14**

B2CH03

- To avoid having to leave the front part of the first houses fixed and to allow a total change of scene, a proscenium with columns, statues and an arch at the mouth of the scene can be built.

- *An image taken from the Povoledo Fund on the Teatro della Pergola in Firenze from 1658 has been taken as a reference.*

Excerpted from Sabbattini's original book.
Excerpted from the book by Grazia Biorci.
Interpretation by the authors.

SCALE: 1/50

0 25 50   100   150   200   250cm

p. **2**

Methodology

- How do we teach?

- Can we teach in a different way?

- Adapt to our core audience!

- Practical inspiration guide

Timeline / database

- Gathering information
- Visualising information
- Spreading information

- Collaborating
- Safeguarding

Harvesting information Raccolta delle informazioni

- There is a huge amount of information
- But it is hard to find

- Existing list of theatres
- Digital theatre words
- Magazines from professional organisations
- Pictures
- On-line sources
- Esiste un'enorme quantità di informazioni
- Ma è difficile da trovare

9 734 theatres
1978 terms

Example: PQ
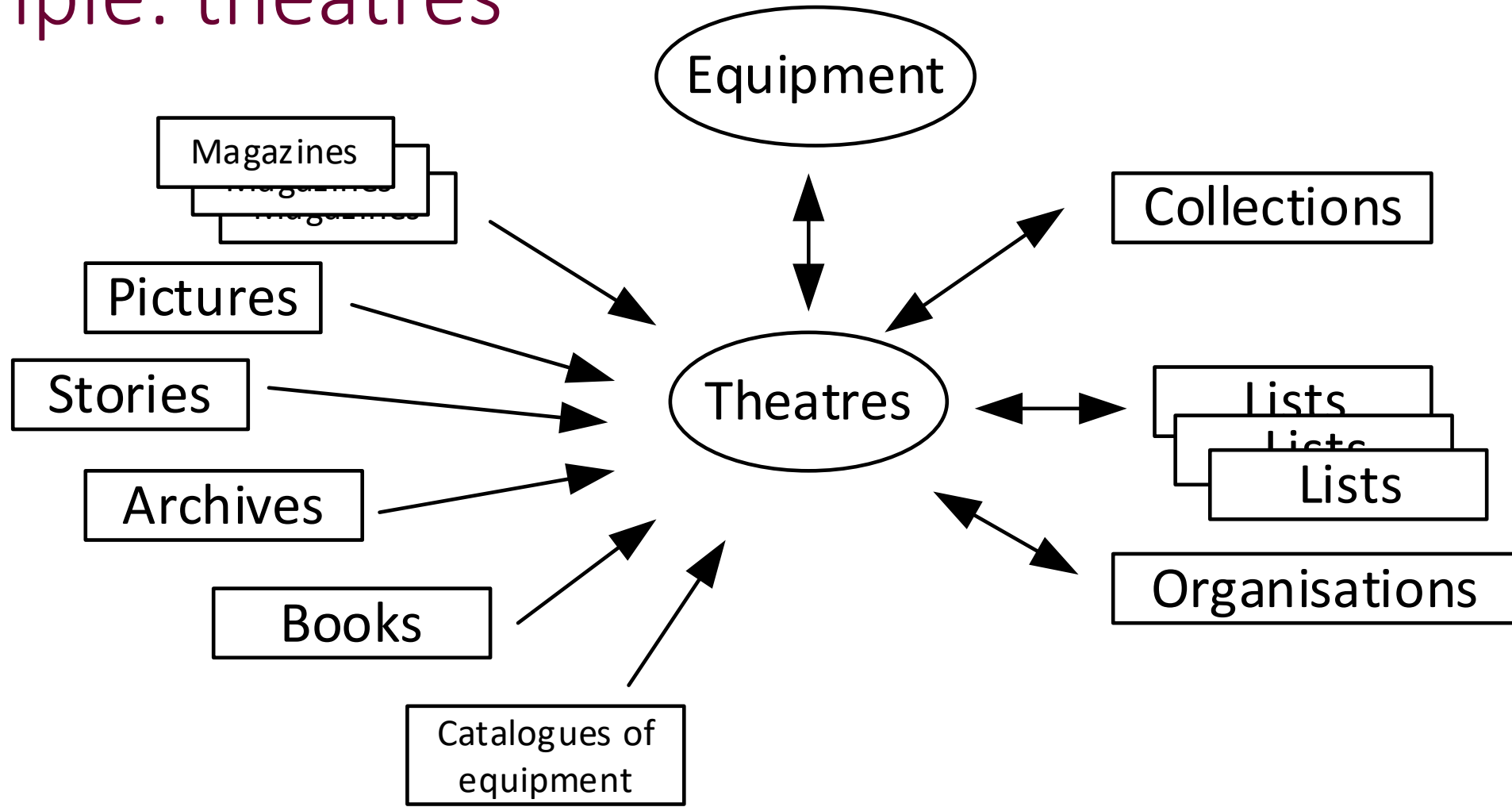
Magazines
Magazines
Magazines

Pictures

Stories

Archives

Books

PQ

People

Organisations

Example: theatres

Theatres
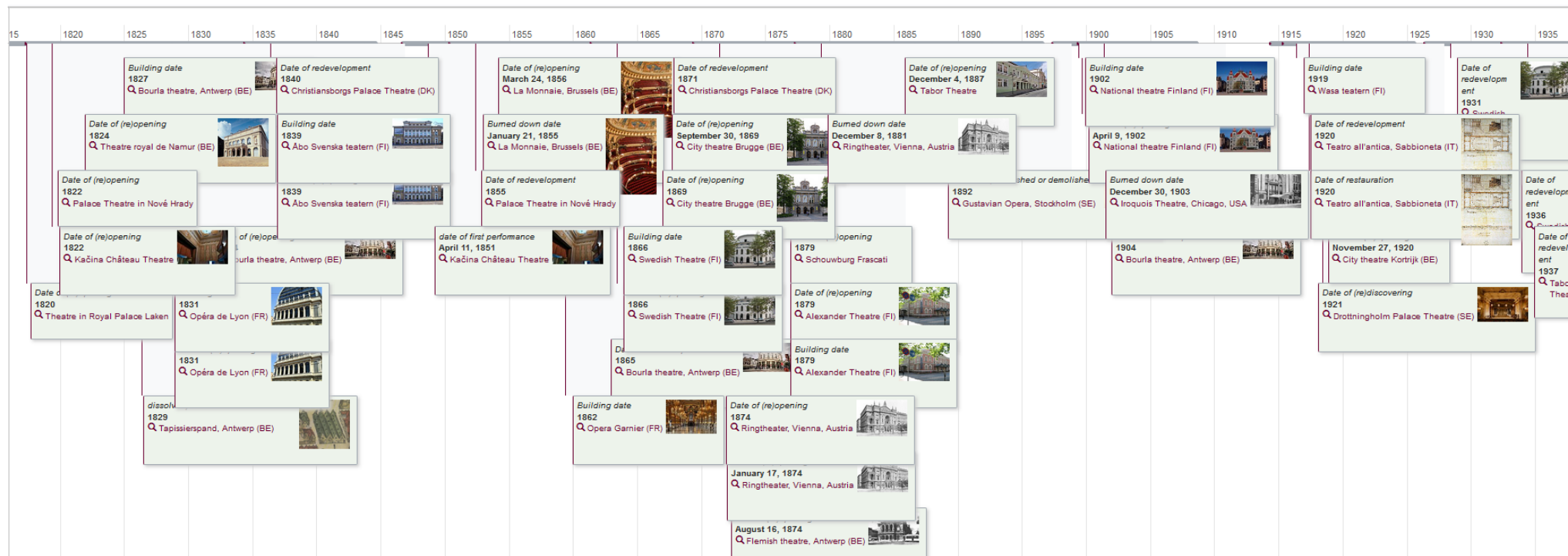
Theatres

Country - city

Example: Equipment

ADB Europe C203 (Q13120)

▾ In more languages

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	ADB Europe C203	No description defined	
Dutch	No label defined	No description defined	
French	No label defined	No description defined	
German	No label defined	No description defined	

has instance of equipment	ADB C203S (TEAD 0004)
Field	lighting and projection
Type of information	equipment type of equipment PC
Manufacturer	ADB
is mentioned in	ADB Europa series catalogue French French
	ADB Europe series specifications PC and Fresnell French French
	ADB Europe PC en Fresnel schijnwerpers specificaties Dutch
	Europe Prism-convex and Fresnel Lens Spotlights manual French, German, Dutch, English

Example: Equipment

- First use?
- Where?
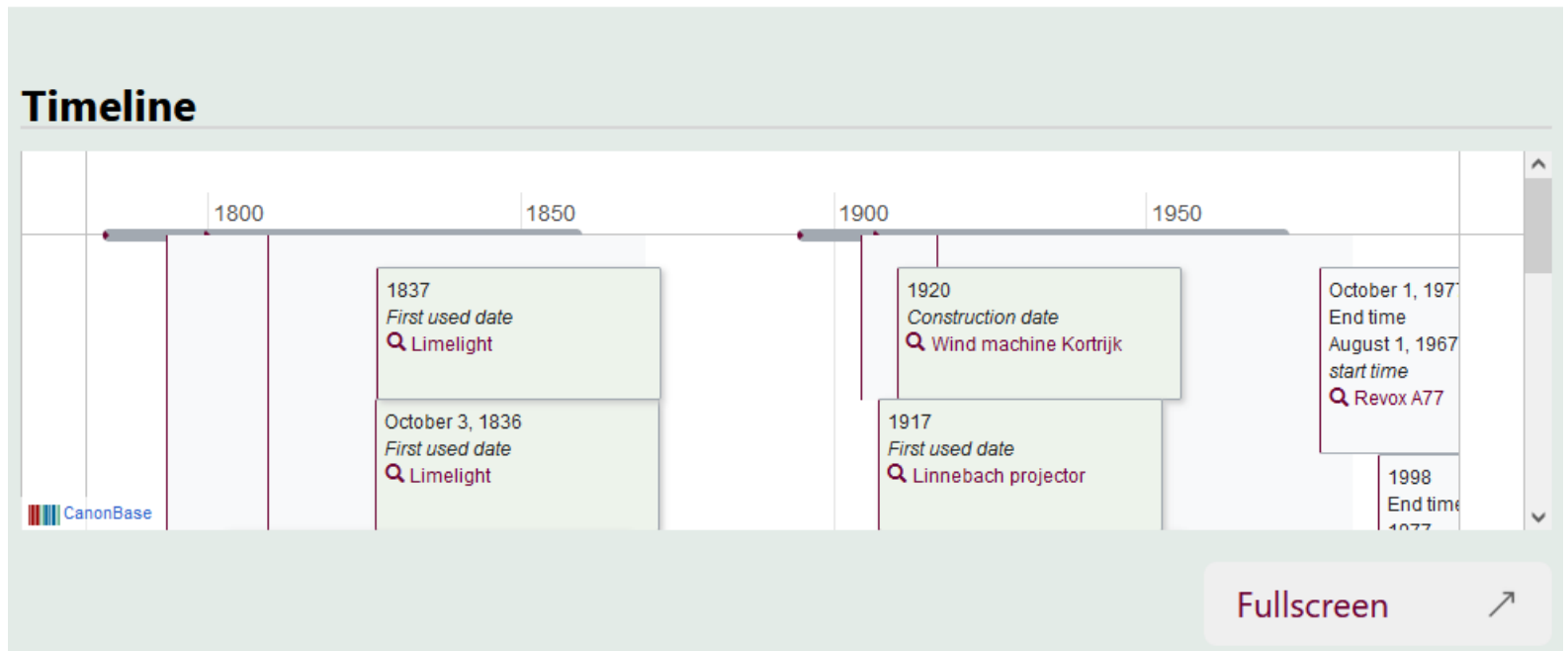
A "controlled language"
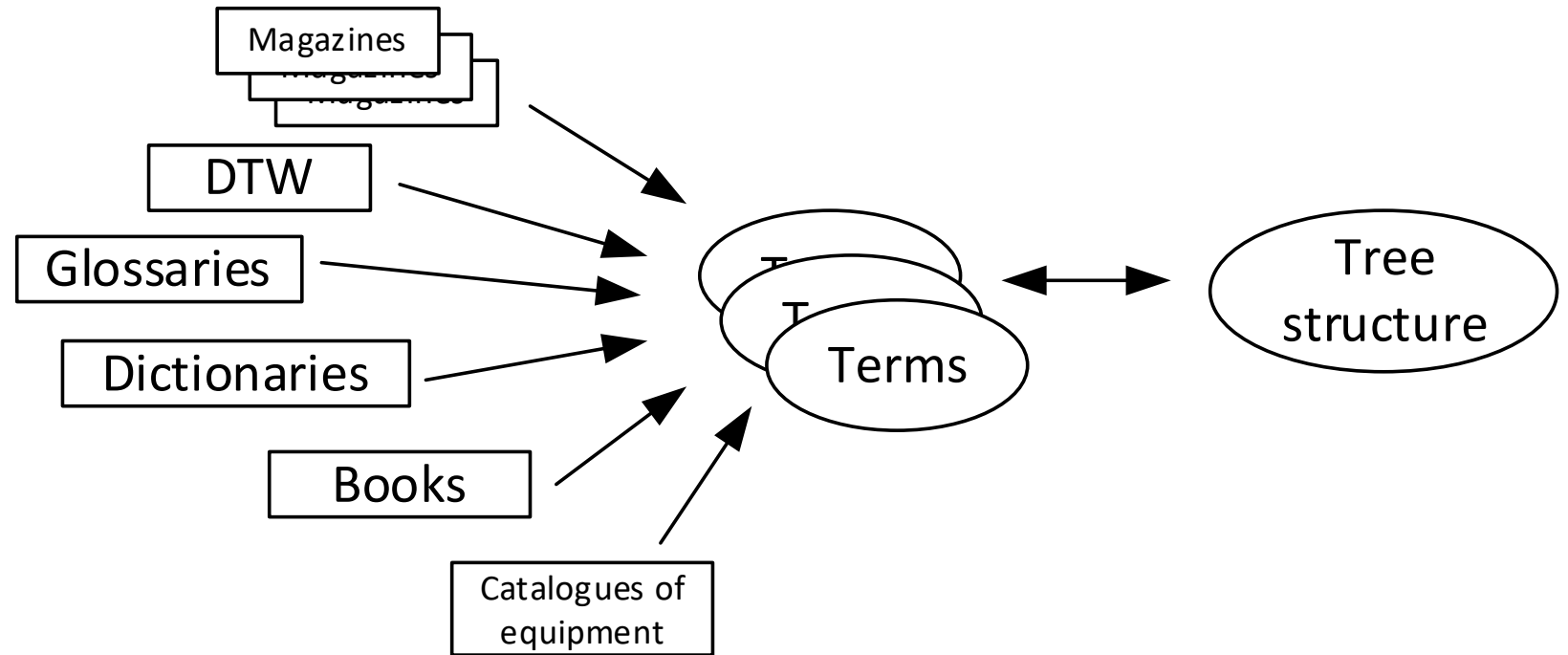
Old Theatre Words Parole del teatro antico

Chariot (Q19399)

▾ In more languages

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Chariot	No description defined	
Dutch	No label defined	No description defined	
French	Chariot	No description defined	
German	No label defined	No description defined	

historical term	Chariot (French)		
	point in time	1860	
	Source	Parallèle des principaux théâtres modernes de l'Europe et des machines	
	historical term	Support ou base des faux châssis qui portent les feuilles de décorations latérales. Le chariot est garni de roulettes ou poulies en cuivre ou en fonte, roulant sur les lames de fer encastrées dans les sablières. Pl 9, 21 et suivant. (French)	

Sources

Safeguarding the information

- Link with
  - Wikidata
  - Collection methodologies

- Linked open data

- A controlled vocabulary

Network

- Creating awareness

- Bringing interested parties together

- Reaching out to other initiatives

- A collaborative tool

Interested?

Contact us!

info@canon-timeline.eu

Web: www.canon-timeline.eu

Web: https://canonbase.eu