



NARRATE

Needs for Digital Recording and Documentation of Ecclesiastical Cultural Treasures in Monasteries and Temples



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The purpose of NARRATE project is to codify the actual recording and documentation needs for the ecclesiastical cultural treasures, through a systematic study of the users' needs.

Consortium partners



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WP2 – R2.7 The conceptual design of the NARRATE framework

Abbreviations

CH	Cultural Heritage
WP	Work Package



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Executive Summary

The EU Erasmus+ “NARRATE: Needs for Digital Recording and Documentation of Ecclesiastical Cultural Treasures in Monasteries and Temples” (2022-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000089867) aims at identifying and promoting the needs and priorities concerning ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage (CH) documentation.

The current study is being performed to codify the actual recording and documentation needs for the ecclesiastical cultural treasures, through a systematic study of the users’ needs. NARRATE reflects an emphasis on documenting ecclesiastic CH treasures in ways that will enable stakeholders to narrate their intertwined histories, functions, and spiritual importance throughout time.

This document reports the conceptual design of the NARRATE framework that identifies the key characteristics, functionalities affordances, and modalities of the digital tools NARRATE will develop.

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1. Introduction

The role of this document is to report the conceptual design of the NARRATE framework that identifies the key characteristics, functionalities, affordances, and modalities of the digital tools NARRATE will develop. The conceptual design of the NARRATE framework incorporates the insights gained from the fulfillment of earlier objectives outlined in Work Package (WP) 2, such as, the needs verification, which identified the actual needs, opinions, and expectations of the involved stakeholders and end-users regarding the documentation of ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage (CH) treasures, as well as the conducted thorough review that identified the best practices in the field of CH documentation through digital means. The specification and conceptual design of the framework specifies the functionalities of digital platforms and applications in the light of needs analysis, as well as strategies for training and dissemination. The outcome of this report constitutes the basis for the following activities: *i)* development of the NARRATE framework and the digital tools that will provide; and *ii)* summative evaluation user study of the NARRATE framework.

2. The Conceptual Design of the NARRATE Framework

2.1 High-Level Representation

This section describes the conceptual design of NARRATE framework, which is illustrated in **Figure 1**. At a high-level, the framework consists of the following four main components: *i) Database*; *ii) Ecclesiastical Treasure Management*; *iii) Account Management*; and *iv) Knowledge Repository*. In the following subsections, we describe each component and its underlying operations and responsibilities.

2.1.1 Database

The *Database* component is responsible for storing the data of the end-users' accounts, as well as the data of the ecclesiastical treasures. Regarding the data of the end-users' accounts, the following information is stored: email, password, name, surname, organization, and role. Regarding the data of the ecclesiastical treasures, three types of media are stored: *i) images of the ecclesiastical treasures*; *ii) videos of the ecclesiastical treasures*; and *iii) text information that describe the ecclesiastical treasures*. Regarding the text information of ecclesiastical treasures, we implemented underlying data models and reference ontologies, which are based on the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model¹ and informed the design of the database tables. A more detailed description can be found in the published report *R5 - Production of a framework for best practices guides*.

¹ CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model - <https://www.cidoc-crm.org/>

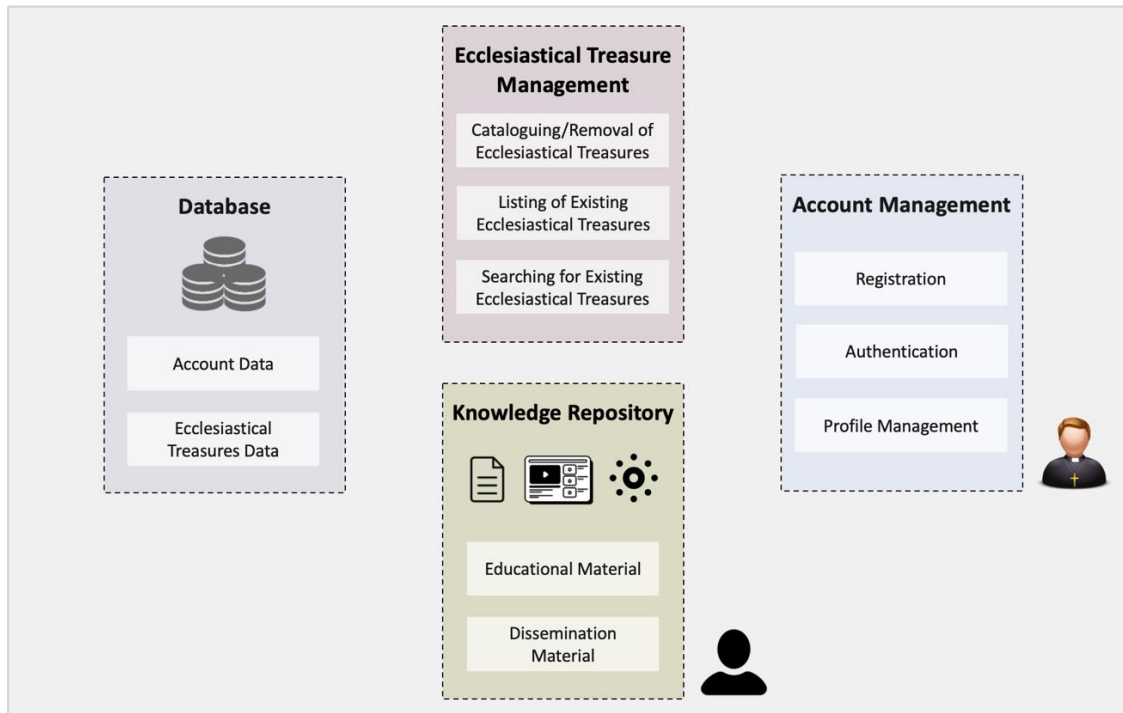


Figure 1: High-level representation of the NARRATE conceptual framework.

2.1.2 Ecclesiastical Treasure Management

The *Ecclesiastical Treasure Management* component is responsible for the management of operations related to the ecclesiastical treasures. Example operations supported by this component include: *i) Cataloguing/removal of ecclesiastical treasures* by enabling end-users to either fill in information that describe the new entry to be catalogued to the NARRATE platform or select which ecclesiastical treasure to be removed from the platform. Regarding cataloguing, the information is grouped at higher levels of abstraction, such as, Name and Description, Characteristics, Documentation and Conservation, Objects and Collection, and Content/Photos/Videos; *ii) Listing of existing ecclesiastical treasures* by displaying all the available entries that had been previously catalogued in the platform; and *iii) Searching for existing ecclesiastical treasures* by allowing end-users to perform search operations and accordingly filter the results that will be displayed to them.

2.1.3 Account Management

The *Account Management* component is responsible for the management of operations related to the end-users' accounts. Example operations supported by this component include: *i) Registration*, which allows end-users to sign up to the NARRATE platform and get access to the supported functionalities (*i.e.*, cataloguing, removal, and listing of the ecclesiastical treasures); *ii) Authentication and authorization*, which involves all the necessary security measures for verifying end-users during login to the platform, as well as to what resources and operations they have access to; and *iii) Profile management*, which enables end-users to view and update their account's information, set/update their profile picture, and manage their password (*i.e.*, update, reset).

2.1.4 Knowledge Repository

The *Knowledge Repository* component serves as the hub for the project's educational and dissemination material regarding the digital recording and documentation of ecclesiastical treasures. Example resources available through this component include: *i) Course material*, which offers curated content to support knowledge acquisition; *ii) Training material*, which provides a systematic approach to learning and aims to ensure competence; *iii) Recorded webinars*, which offer in-depth insights and expertise; *iv) Demonstration videos*, which provide practical demonstrations and aim to enhance understanding and acceptance of the digital tools; and *v) Dissemination material*, which acts as the channel for sharing insights and expertise, promoting collaborations, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and knowledge exchange.

3. Design Mockups of NARRATE Platform

This section presents the NARRATE platform's design mockups, offering a preview of the layout, colors, and visuals. These mockups embody the user-centered approach and aesthetic choices, giving insights into our design vision and user experience.

3.1 Homepage

The landing page of the NARRATE platform is illustrated in **Figure 2**. This page allows end-users to sign up to the platform, login to access the supported functionalities of cataloguing, displaying, and removing ecclesiastical treasures, or reset their password.

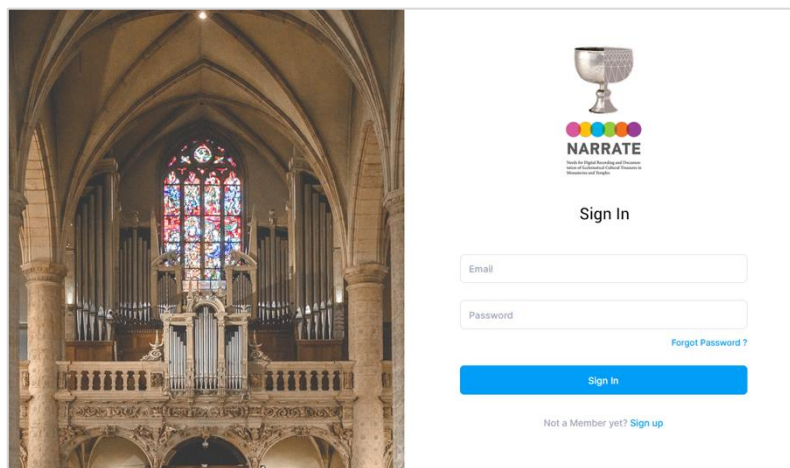


Figure 2: Homepage of the NARRATE platform.

3.2 Ecclesiastical Treasure Management

The dashboard page is illustrated in **Figure 3**, in which the end-user is redirected after login to the platform. This page displays all the catalogued ecclesiastical treasures and enables end-users to perform search operations either by entering free text queries or by using specific filters related to ecclesiastical treasures, such as, name, code, and kind of the object to be found. Also, it includes the "Create New" button that allows end-users to catalogue a new ecclesiastical treasure.

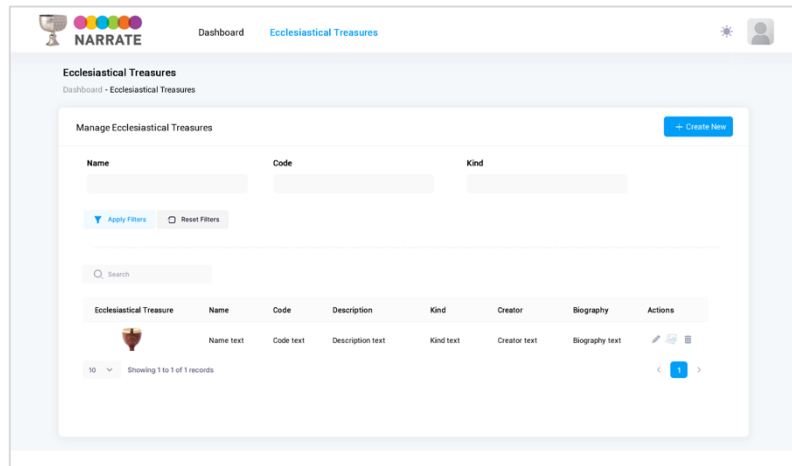


Figure 3: Dashboard page displaying all catalogued ecclesiastical treasures.

The first step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure is illustrated in **Figure 4**. Through this page, the end-users are able to enter the data related to the treasure's name and description, including the fields of *name*, *additional names*, *code*, *short description*, and *extended description*.

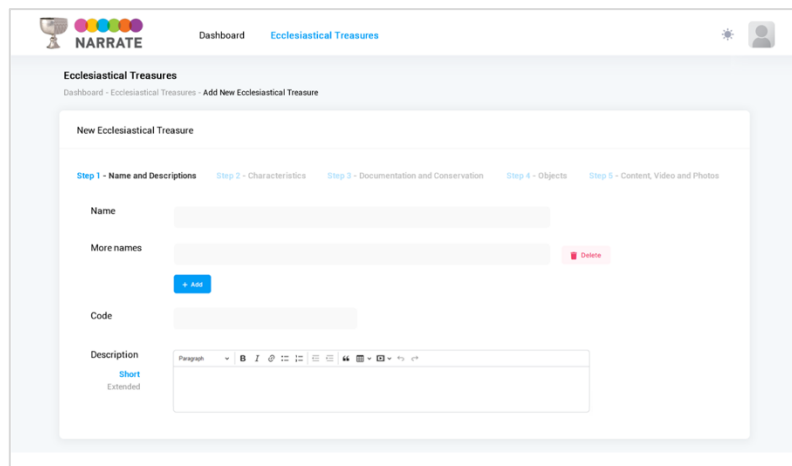
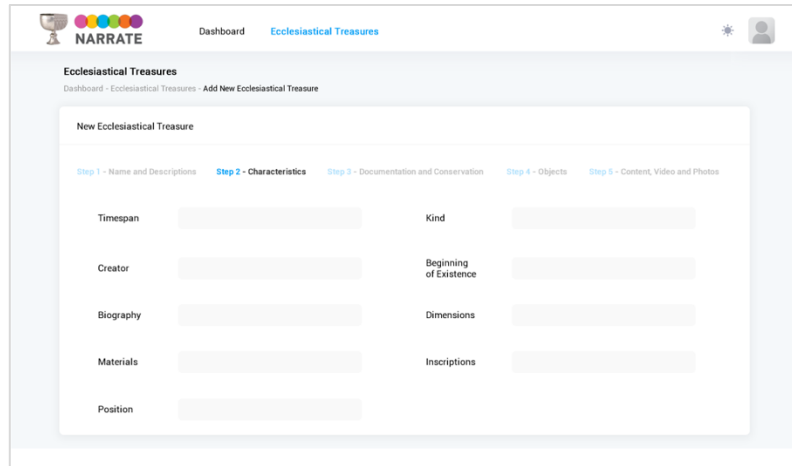


Figure 4: First step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure, enabling end-users to add information about the treasure's name and description.

The second step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure is illustrated in **Figure 5**. Through this page, the end-users are able to enter the data related to the treasure's

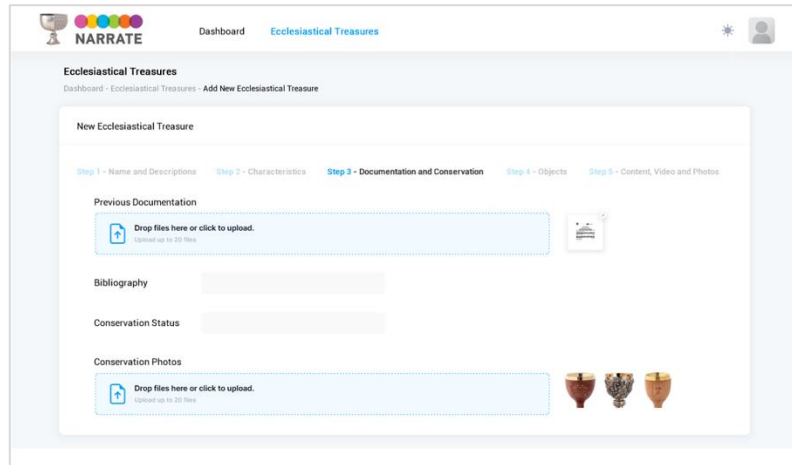
characteristics, including the fields of *timespan*, *kind*, *creator*, *beginning of existence*, *biography*, *dimensions*, *materials*, *inscriptions*, and *position*.



The screenshot shows the NARRATE web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NARRATE logo, a 'Dashboard' link, and an 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' link. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' and 'Add New Ecclesiastical Treasure'. A progress bar indicates the current step is 'Step 2 - Characteristics'. The form contains several input fields for characteristics: Timespan, Kind, Creator, Beginning of Existence, Biography, Dimensions, Materials, Inscriptions, and Position.

Figure 5: Second step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure, enabling end-users to add information about the treasure's characteristics.

The third step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure is illustrated in **Figure 6**. Through this page, the end-users are able to enter the data related to the treasure's documentation and conservation, including the fields of *bibliography* and *conservation status*, as well as to upload files and photos regarding *documentation* and *conservation*.

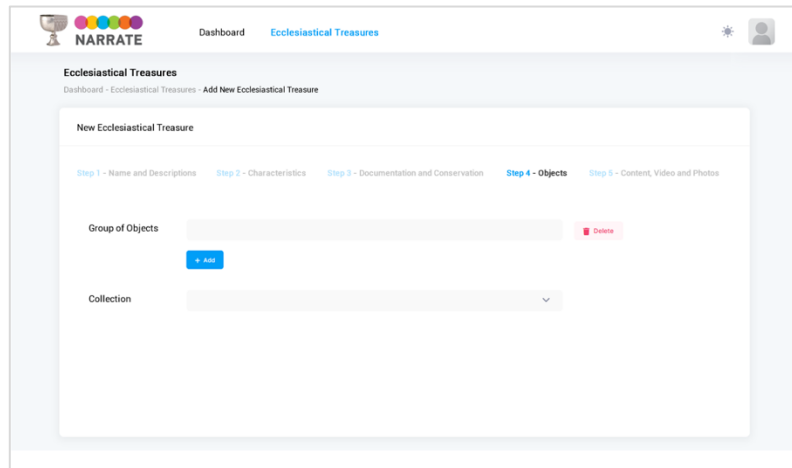


The screenshot shows the NARRATE web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NARRATE logo, a 'Dashboard' link, and an 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' link. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' and 'Add New Ecclesiastical Treasure'. The form is divided into five steps: Step 1 - Name and Descriptions, Step 2 - Characteristics, Step 3 - Documentation and Conservation (currently active), Step 4 - Objects, and Step 5 - Content, Video and Photos. The 'Step 3' section includes a 'Previous Documentation' area with a file upload button and a text input field. Below this is a 'Bibliography' section with a text input field. The 'Conservation Status' section has a text input field. The 'Conservation Photos' section has a file upload button and a text input field. The form is styled with a light blue background and white text.

Figure 6: Third step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure, enabling end-users to add information and files/photos about the treasure's documentation and conservation.

The fourth step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure is illustrated in **Figure 7**. Through this page, the end-users are able to enter the data related to the treasure's objects, including the fields of *group of objects* and *collection* it belongs.

WP2 – R2.7 The conceptual design of the NARRATE framework



The screenshot shows the NARRATE web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NARRATE logo, a 'Dashboard' link, and an 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' link. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' and 'Add New Ecclesiastical Treasure'. A progress bar indicates the current step: 'Step 4 - Objects'. The form contains two main sections: 'Group of Objects' with a text input field and a '+ Add' button, and 'Collection' with a dropdown menu. A 'Delete' button is also visible next to the 'Group of Objects' input field.

Figure 7: Fourth step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure, enabling end-users to add information about the treasure's objects and collection.

The fifth step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure is illustrated in **Figure 8**. Through this page, the end-users are able to upload data related to the treasure's *content, photos, and videos*.

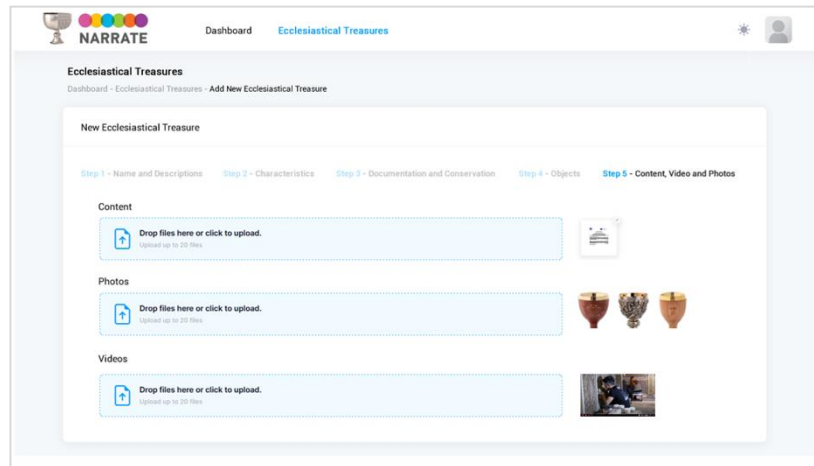


Figure 8: Fifth step of cataloguing a new ecclesiastical treasure, enabling end-users to add photos and videos associated with the treasure.

3.3 Account Management

The profile overview page is illustrated in **Figure 9**. Through this page, the end-users are able to see an overview of their profile information. Also, it includes the “Edit Profile” button that allows end-users to get redirected to the edit profile page through which they can update any editable information.

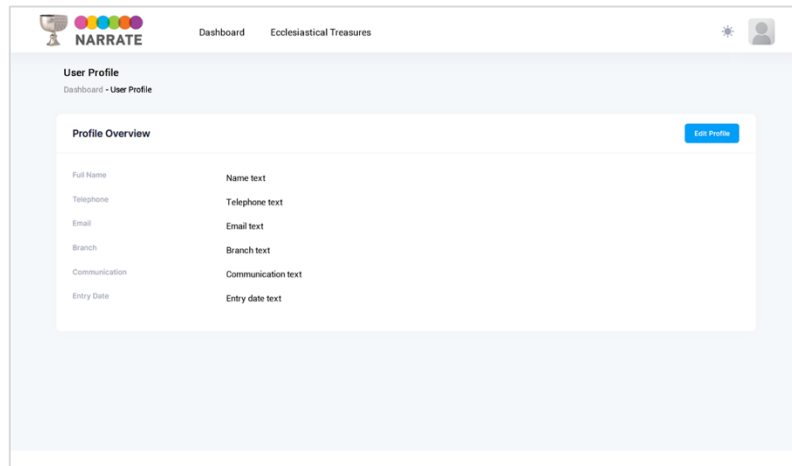


Figure 9: Profile overview page which allows end-users to see their profile information and get redirected to the edit profile page.

The edit profile page is illustrated in **Figure 10**. Through this page, the end-users are able to update editable profile information, as well as to set or update their profile picture.

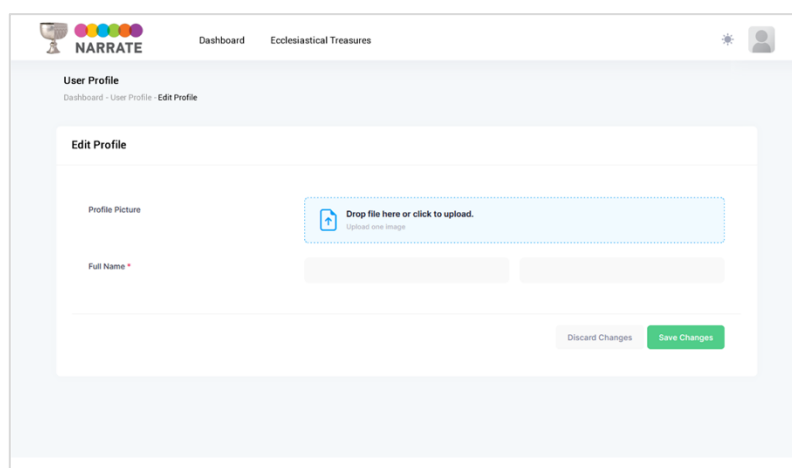
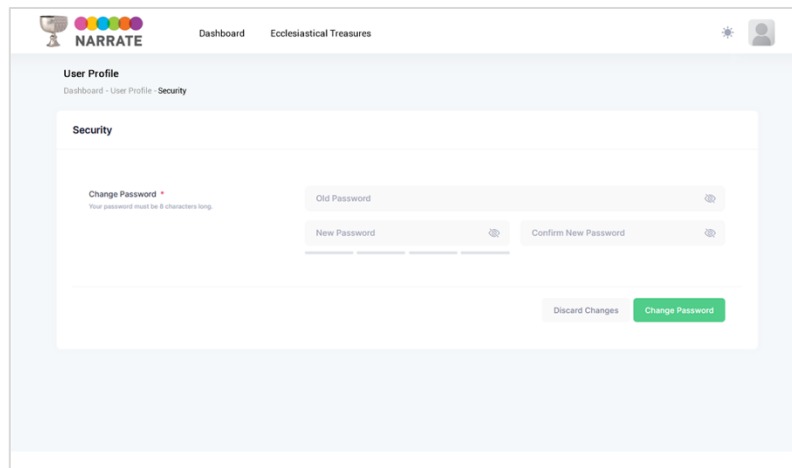


Figure 10: Edit profile page which allows end-users to update any editable profile information, as well as to set or update their profile picture.

The account security page is illustrated in **Figure 11**. Through this page, the end-users are able to change their account's password.



The screenshot shows the NARRATE web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NARRATE logo, a 'Dashboard' link, and an 'Ecclesiastical Treasures' link. A user profile icon is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the page is titled 'User Profile' with a sub-header 'Dashboard - User Profile - Security'. The main content area is titled 'Security' and contains a 'Change Password' section. This section includes a note: 'Your password must be 8 characters long.' There are three input fields: 'Old Password', 'New Password', and 'Confirm New Password'. Each field has a password strength indicator icon to its right. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Discard Changes' and 'Change Password'.

Figure 11: Security page which allows end-users to change their account's password.

3.4 Knowledge Repository

The knowledge repository page is illustrated in **Figure 12**. Through this page, both the end-users and visitors can access the educational material and dissemination material. The page serves as the hub for the produced material regarding the digital recording and documentation of ecclesiastical treasures, including course material, training material, recorded webinars, demonstration videos, and dissemination material.

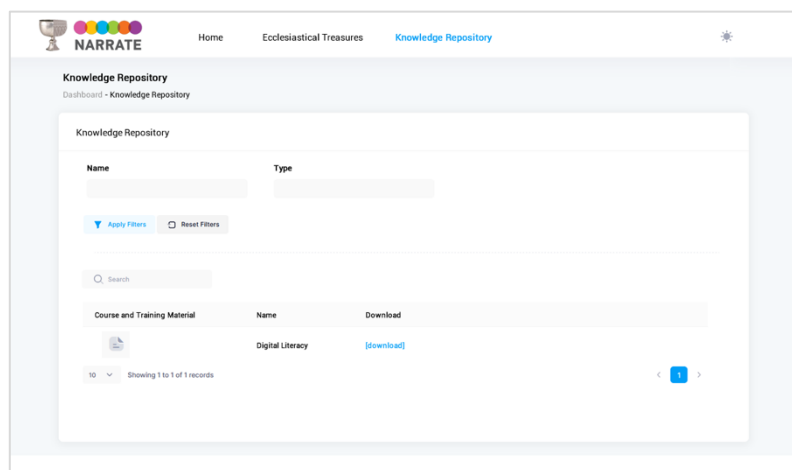


Figure 12: Knowledge repository page which allows end-users and visitors to access educational material and dissemination material.

4. Conclusions

The aim of this report is to present the conceptual design of the NARRATE framework, detailing its primary features, functionalities, capabilities, and operational methods, which will guide the development of digital tools under NARRATE framework. The conceptual design of the NARRATE framework incorporates the knowledge and insights acquired from the fulfillment of previous objectives outlined in WP 2, such as, the needs verification and the comprehensive review on best practices in digital documentation of CH. The specification and conceptual design of the framework specifies the functionalities of digital platforms and applications in the light of needs analysis, while also detailing approaches for training and dissemination. The outcome of this report serves as the foundation for the subsequent tasks of developing the NARRATE framework and its associated digital tools, as well as conducting a summative user study to evaluate the NARRATE framework.