The Agora project aims to develop a social platform in which objects from cultural heritage organisations are presented in an explicit historical context. The historical context is provided by events, that are used as a flexible model to identify semantically relevant relationships between objects in diverse cultural heritage collections such as those of the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision and the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam. We present our first steps in creating this platform by showing how objects are linked to events and the integration of the event model with the collection presentation.

**Research Questions:**

1. How to model historical events and how to interpret events time-lines & narratives using semantics to derive/explain views, biases, contradictions, opinions and emotional reactions?

2. How to use domain knowledge (historical events), to improve search in semantically interoperable collections?

3. How can semantic web techniques allow for meaningful access to distributed collections?

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