



PANEL SESSION:

“FROM DIGITIZATION TO PRESERVATION, CREATIVE RE-USE OF CULTURAL CONTENT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION”

Description of the content

The amount of digitized cultural heritage in Europe is impressive and has a great potential of impact on the society, by making the cultural heritage more accessible for the citizens, students, researchers and by generating benefits to the content owners. Even if already amounting to several tens of millions of digital items, only a tiny percentage of European cultural heritage is digitized, and nowadays more and more attention is paid to those collections, hitherto unknown or not fully acknowledged, that are preserved in those European States that relatively recently joined the Union. Furthermore, certain kinds of cultural heritage, such as early photography, are not preserved by memory institutions but are in the hands of private citizens, who should be invited to share their holdings with the whole community. For these reasons it is necessary that digitization activities go ahead in the coming years, and acquire a more participative approach: smaller archives, private collectors, individuals should have the possibility to access digitization facilities and to get support, training and services.

Once these data are in digital format, the next challenge is how to ensure their long-term preservation. In order to do that, memory institutions have to make conformance tests before ingesting the files in their archives, to verify that they have been produced according to the specifications of a standard file format, and hence that they match the acceptance criteria for long-term preservation established by the memory institution.

Further, digital cultural data need then to be re-used at best, to unlock their business potential in terms of fostering economic growth. The creative industry is certainly the key stakeholder to leverage on the digital cultural data for creating new tools and services to be placed in the real market, thus generating new employment and economic rewards; but, to achieve this goal, a bigger dialogue should be fostered with the cultural institutions, in the light of developing public-private partnerships for the benefit of both.

Next to this, it is also important to assess the sociological impact of digital cultural heritage and technologies: how do they participate in the community building processes and social cohesion of the “new” European society, that is living a moment of great change? How can digital cultural heritage help the cultural institutions to renew and re-invent their role in the society? How can cultural heritage become closer to its audiences of innovators, skilled makers, curators, artists, economic actors? Finally, how can the EU citizens, alone or as part of a community, play a vital co-creative role and how can citizens participate in the research on cultural heritage and digital humanities?

This panel will offer an overview of initiatives and EU projects that try to provide answers: Europeana Space, RICHES, Civic Epistemologies, PREFORMA and Photoconsortium. Relevant speakers, from the key institutions



in Europe which are involved in the scenario of digital cultural heritage, will foster a debate to understand the path towards a more advanced society, that makes use of the full potential of digital technologies to foster cultural and societal progress. The panel is also an unmissable occasion for sharing knowledge and best practices: cultural managers, ICT experts, researchers, service providers and other EU projects are warmly invited to attend, for cross-dissemination and networking.

Featuring (in alphabetical order):

Mauro Fazio – Italian Ministry Of Economic Development

Mauro Fazio received the degree in Economics at the University of Rome in 1984 and the Banking specialization in the same year. Since 1985 he has been with the previous Ministry of Communications, where from 1996 he has been director of the Statistics Office. From June 2009 he has been director of the Head of Department Office at the Ministry of Economic Development – Department of Communications. Mr. Fazio has been involved in international telecommunications activities for more than twenty years, with increasing responsibilities gained over the time. He has represented the Italian Administration at ICCP working group meetings (WPIE, WPIIS, WPCISP) from 1999 as also at ITU and UPU Council sessions. He also represented Italy at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010 in Guadalajara and in 2014 in Busan. He is the coordinator of Civic Epistemologies project.

Neil Forbes – Coventry University

Neil Forbes is Professor of International History at Coventry University, and Co-ordinator of the FP7 RICHES project - Renewal, Innovation and Change: Heritage and European Society. His research interests and publications lie in the following fields: conflict heritage, contested landscapes and the memorialisation of war; creative archiving and cultural heritage; the processes of financial stabilisation in Europe after the First World War; Anglo-American relations and the rise of the Third Reich; the interaction of foreign policy formulation and diplomacy with the business practices of multinational enterprise during the interwar years. He has played a leading role in a number of EU and UK research projects, including a £1m digitisation project in association with BT and The National Archives.

Antonella Fresa – Promoter srl

Director at Promoter S.r.l., small engineering company in Pisa (Italy). Since 2002, Technical Coordinator and Communication Manager of numerous European projects in the domain of digital cultural heritage, digital preservation and digital humanities, smart cities, creative re-use of digital cultural content, citizen science, crowdsourcing, and e-Infrastructures. Previously, Project Officer at the European Commission, multimedia



development manager at Tower Tech S.r.l. in Pisa, video controller development manager at Olivetti Advanced Technology Centre in Cupertino (CA), engineer at Olivetti Pisa and Ivrea.

Börje Justrell – Riksarkivet

Dr. Börje Justrell is Director and Head of Operational Support at the National Archives of Sweden and the Coordinator of the PREFORMA project. He has since 1989 been responsible for technical matters at the National Archives. Justrell has been teaching archival science at the University of Stockholm for many years and also been a member of international committees within the archivists' professional association, ICA. He has been representing Sweden in expert groups on digitisation and digital preservation within the European Commission and also worked (and still do) in a number of EU projects like Minerva, MinervaPlus, Linked Heritage, DC-NET and DCH-RP. He was the coordinator of the EU project PROTAGE on digital preservation in the 7th framework programme and between 2003 – 2009 responsible for an advanced international training programme for developing countries conducted by the Swedish National Archives and sponsored by the SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation.

Frederik Truyen – KU Leuven

Frederik Truyen is programme director for the MA in Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven. He publishes on E-Learning, ICT Education, Digitisation and Epistemology. He is in charge of CS Digital, the mediaLab of the Institute for Cultural Studies and is involved in many projects on Open Educational Resources (such as Net-CU, OCW EU and LACE) and in the digitisation of Cultural Heritage, such as RICH, EuropeanaPhotography and Europeana Space. Prof. Truyen is the President of Photoconsortium association.

Sarah Whatley – Coventry University

Sarah Whatley is Professor of Dance and Director of the Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE) at Coventry University. Her research interests include dance and new technologies, dance analysis, somatic dance practice and pedagogy, and inclusive dance practices. Her current AHRC-funded project is 'InVisible Difference; Dance, Disability and Law'. She is also coordinator of the EU-funded project EuropeanaSpace, which is exploring the creative reuse of digital cultural content and is researching the impact of digital technologies on dance and performance-based cultural heritage in the EU-funded RICHES project. Working with leading cognitive psychologists, she is also researching dancer imagery as part of a Leverhulme Trust funded project. She led the AHRC-funded Siobhan Davies digital archive project, RePlay, and collaborated with the University of Surrey to create the Digital Dance Archives portal. She has published widely on archival practices in dance and performance. She is Academic Advisor: Digital Environment for The Routledge Digital



Performance Archive. She is also Editor of the Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices and sits on the Editorial Boards of several other Journals.

Target audience

The panel session is addressing professionals, projects and initiatives in the domain of Digital Cultural Heritage, digitization, digital arts, digital performances, digital humanities and digital preservation. Objective is to showcase the latest progress on the research on the theme of digital cultural heritage, trying to understand what happens to cultural heritage after it is digitized, and what to do with this mass of digital cultural data. Being the theme so important, inter-disciplinary and multi-faceted, fostering reciprocal awareness and cooperation is the key to cope with the common challenges: cultural managers and researchers are warmly invited to attend.