

A New Challenge: Digital Preservation of the Cultural Heritage

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Symbol of the city of Iasi, the Palace of Culture from Iasi was built in the Neogothic style, during the Romantic Age, and, in the past, it used to be the Palace of Justice and Administration. In 1955, the Palace became a museum, and presently, it fosters four museums: the Art Museum (Romania's first State Art gallery founded in 1860), Moldavia's History Museum, Science and Technique Museum and Moldavia's Ethnographical Museum.

Due to the amazingly rapid spread of information technology, the preservation of digital heritage has become an international issue. Subsequently, in 2004, we had the initiative to create inside our museum the Office for the Digital Preservation of the Cultural Heritage. Since then, in collaboration with cIMec Institute for Cultural Memory from Bucharest, our specialists have attended specialization courses and have been initiated to a special program called DocPat, created especially for the digital preservation of our cultural heritage. Another important measure adopted for the development of this office was to take pictures to the entire heritage, which means hundreds of thousands of objects.

We made appeal to a specialized photographer which helped us very much and thus created an archive, which seems to be incredibly helpful, especially when we are interested in locating a certain object, either for an expositional use, either for other various use.

From the beginning of the month of April, our museum's doors will be closed to the public for three years due to the beginning of a long restoration process, caused by the precarious state of the building. During this period, one of our main responsibilities is the digital preservation of our cultural heritage.

Taking part to CIDOC 2008 will give me the occasion to present the main obstacles and problems our specialists are confronted to. It will also represent the fortunate chance to become more aware of all the issues related to the curation of the cultural heritage, as well as to come in contact with and take advices from museum specialists who are more familiar to the subject of the conference.