

DIGITIZED COLLECTION: NEW APPROACHES IN CURATORIAL PROCEDURES

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At the Viena-2007 Conference I and my colleague Ludmila Morozkina stated on paper the Russian Way in Museum Collection Digitization: from the Machine catalogue – through the Data Bases (Text, Image, Local, Net) – up to the Integrated Museum Collection Managing Systems¹.

In the paper I'd like to find time for the know-how in curatorial practice in Russian museums, based on the computerization in all (or about all) the curatorial procedures and documents. The main idea is to unite all the procedures in a single whole. New System versions, implementing the latest technological decisions, covers actually all main museum activities. In place of a couple local workstations the integrated system is being created. The System of such kind could be a reasonable solution for a wide range of museum problems: registration and fund work, restoration, exhibitions and expositions activities, etc.

Some versions of Typical Museum Collection Managing System are in use now in Russian Museums: AIS-Museum, Nika-Museum, KAMIS-Oracle. I'll demonstrate the Typical System main features with the example of KAMIS-Oracle.

By means of KAMIS:

- A through inventory of loans in and out and movements of museum objects is maintained.
- Logbooks are kept (of accessions, temporary deposits, and inventories).
- Search and references on accounting information are provided.

¹ Lev Noll, Ludmila Morozkina. Digital collections in museums: tendencies in technical solutions. ICOM-CIDOC 2007, Viena

- Collations of museum collections are carried out.
- Museum collection databases are developed, including texts and images (card systems of objects, authors, exhibitions and literature, terminological and topical thesauruses).
- Quick search and extraction of data by various attributes and their combinations are provided.
- Inventory cards, scientific passports, various kinds of lists and catalogues are prepared.
- All outgoing documents such as Acceptance of deposit, Loan record, Transfer record, General inventory, Acquisition register, Inventory cards, Catalogue (short and complete) etc, can be generated. both in the text format and in the form of Word documents.
- Electronic on-line publications in the HTML format are prepared.
- The necessary data can be passed to regional and federal information centers, or be presented in Internet.

KAMIS is a flexible adjustable system. This enables to:

- Adapt the system to the use at museums of different types and sizes.
- Develop an automated document turnover technology being handy for museums.
- Differently describe objects from different funds forming a card with the necessary set of any attributes.
- Develop thesauruses needed for the description of objects and their classification.
- Design formats of lists, cards, catalogues and registration documents.

KAMIS is based on an advanced Oracle DBMS in client-server architecture, and ensures automation of all essential aspects of a museum's informational activities. It is intended for mediums-size, large-size, and specialized museums.

KAMIS is rather simple System for use. Nevertheless the Museum staff needs special training to work. Special seminars and workshops are organized for the Museum staff to apply the System.