



Музей антропологии
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Documentation as a Tool for Modernization over 300 years: Case of St. Petersburg Kunstkamera

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Past, Present, and Future Issues in Documentation. CIDOC 2017 Conference.

Tbilisi, Georgia. 25-30 September 2017

PAST

Kunstkamera – 1714

Russian Academy of Sciences – 1724

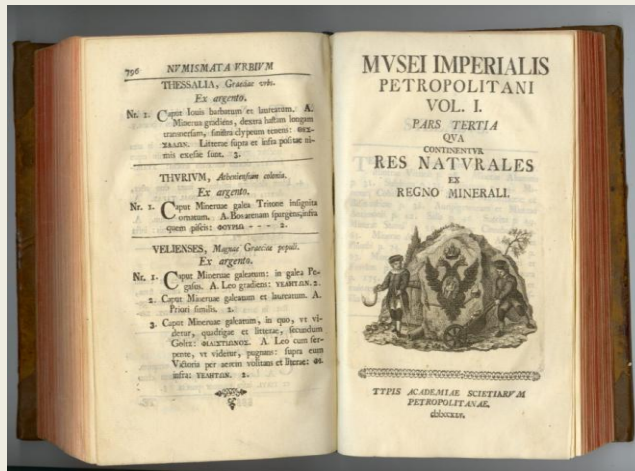
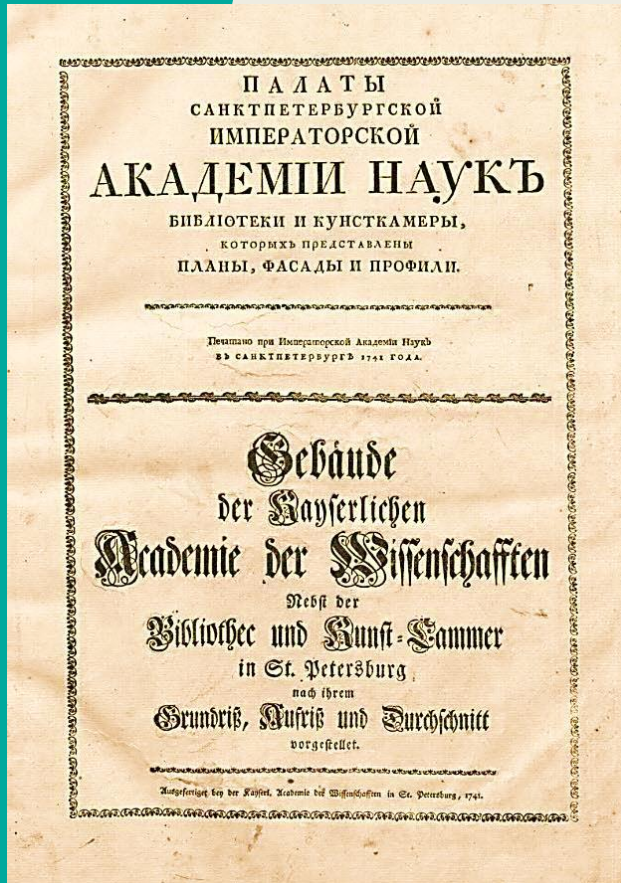


"Everything has to be in order, the collections of the Library and the Kunstkamera have to be cataloged».

From the Regulations of the Academy of Sciences. 1724

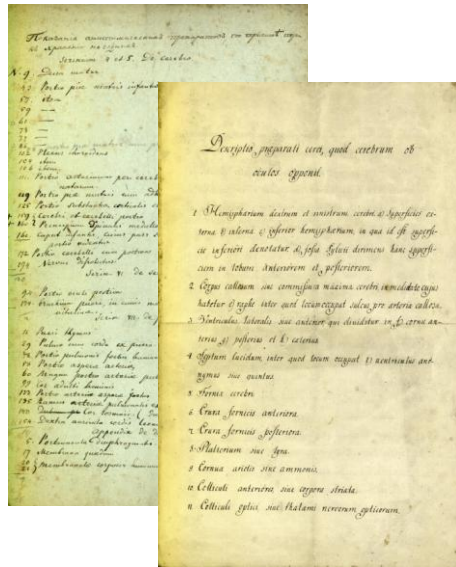
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Kunstkamera Catalogues of the 18th century



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Museum Documentation 18th - mid of the 19th century



- Lists of collection items
- Lists of field collections
- Catalogs, guides
- Text labels
- Numbering from the end of the 18th century

**Combined search is impossible
Collection keepers – “alive catalogues”**



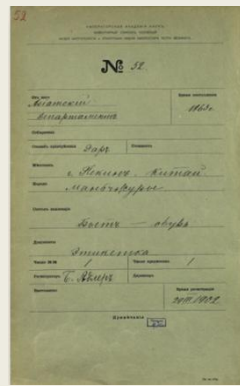
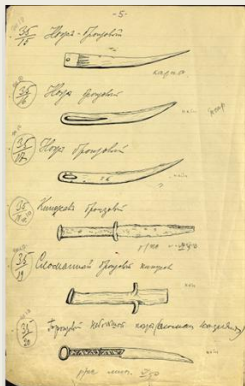
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“Gold Era” : Museum produced science, science formed museum



Academician Vassilii Radlov

1846–1865 – collection keeper
1894–1918 – Director



- Number of collections increased from 28,000 to 130,000 items
- Extension of expositions
- Active publication program
- Active expedition activity
- Selection and training of qualified personnel
- Exchange of collections with other museums

Registration and documentation – the basis of museum reform

- Since 1890's - Copenhagen registration system:
 - Units of registration - collection and subject;
 - Journal of acquisitions;
 - Inventory of collections;
 - Item cards.
-
- One collection is registered under the same number in the order of acquisition
 - The ability to correlate a collection item with an inventory, map and monitor the location of each item

Regulation on the field ethnographic collecting | 1895
Regulation on documentation of collections | 1916

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Professionalization and Computerization. 20th century



1930 – Storage Department

1940 – Documentation Department

1950s – Storage and Documentation Department

1978 – the position of Chief Collection Manager



1990 – first computer

1997 – museum web-site

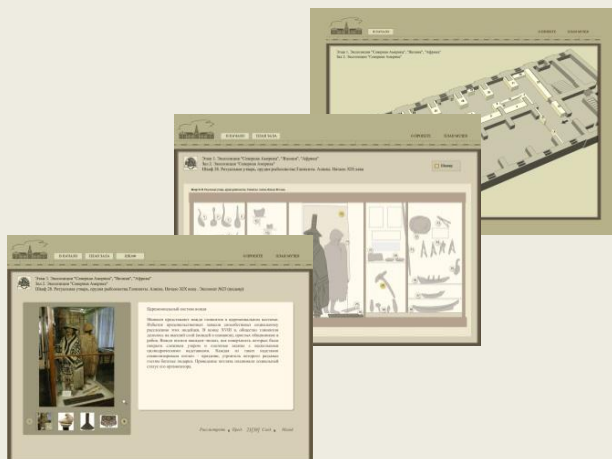
2001 – first server

1997-2006 – Group of Information Development

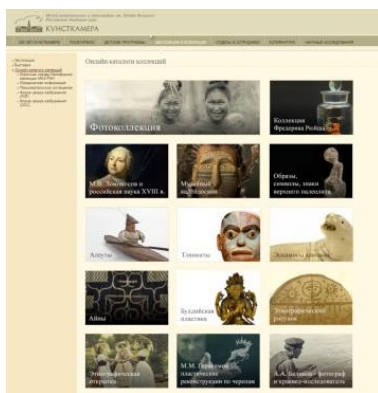
2006 – Department of Information Technologies

2015 – Department of Communication

2005 – 2007 - Multimedia Information & Exposition Complex



- Collection and image database
- Standards of descriptions and CIDOC-CRM
- Registration and documentation
- Topographic exposition guide
- Database as Information base for the multimedia exhibition complex



2007 – Digitalization Program

2009 – Virtual Kunstkamera – on-line collections

2017 – New web-site and SMM program

On-line catalogues are developed by the museum staff with use of the museum collection database

Collection Database:

- 501 301 items
- 3,5 Tb of images and media objects
- 6700 personalities
- digital copies of 21000 register documents

- 8000 items – exhibited in the museum
- 5000 items – Multimedia Exhibition Complex
- 57 000 items – published on-line
- 1,2 mln items I the museum collection



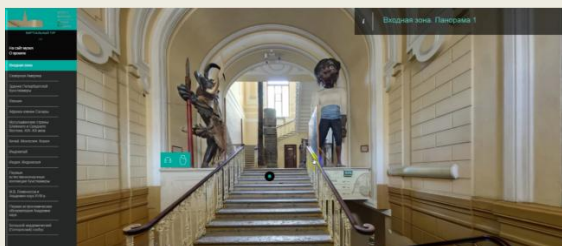
**One of the largest in Russia
museum information complex
with strong and rich on-line
presentation**



**Need to use the museum
database as a basis
for museum communication**

PRESENT

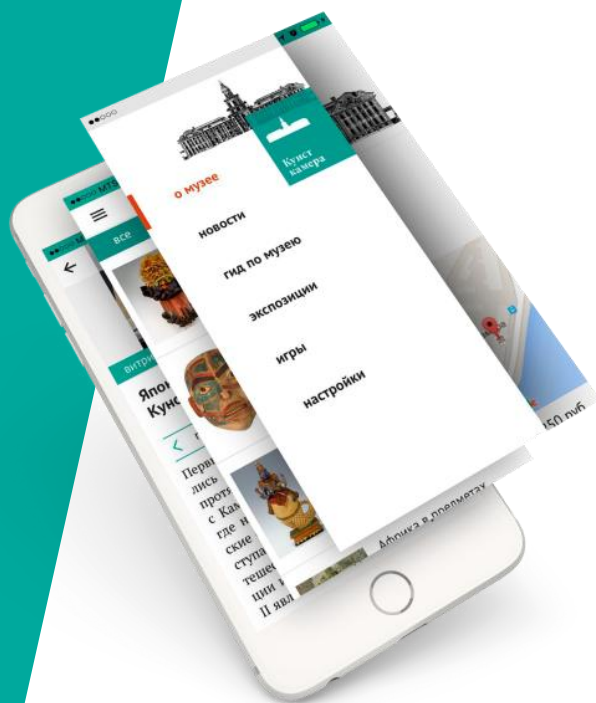
Kunstkamera of the 3d millennium 2015-2016



- **Virtual 3D tour for the museum website**
- **Mobile application "Kunstkamera. Guide" for smartphones and tablets**

KAMIS multimedia applications are connected with collection database:

- ALL the content of ALL applications are in a single database: text, images, audio, video;
- Museum uses, updates and edits content without the participation of developers,
- Joint generation of information by various museum services;
- Automatic updating of information and use of the actual documentation from database;
- Regular archiving of all data
- Optimization of museum resources



Integration of documentation into the museum information infrastructure:

- Improving of the standards for the description of collections items;
 - Implementation of new functional modules and database tools;
 - Effectiveness of data exchange
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- Increase the effectiveness of the interpretation and popularization of the museum collections;
 - Development of the educational work;
 - Museum becomes more attractive and accessible to different target audiences

Development of documentation of the ethnographic collections

- What does mean a wide audience of "real" and "virtual" users for the development of museum documentation?
- The strategy adopted by the Museum: from the database to the knowledge dialog, is also applicable in the documentation of ethnographic collections

We need a **media environment** that provides an interactive dialogue between external counterparts and the internal resources of the Museum, museum has to be ready to receive information from users about collections

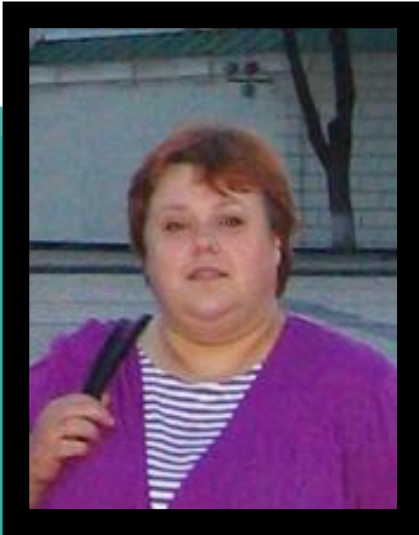
Modern principles of documentation:

| Accessibility and Standardization

| Interactivity and Mobility



KEEP KALMING AND DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS!





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Thank you for attention!

Спасибо за внимание!

დიდი მადლობა ყურადღებისთვის!

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