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Thanks to Getty Foundation Support, I was able to participate in the CIDOC 2017 Conference. This was a unique experience for me because it was my first time at such a meeting. This year, the CIDOC Conference was very informative and beneficial for me because I came out with answers and solutions instead of just more questions and concerns.

I had the opportunity to meet colleagues from different cultural institutions from different countries, with whom I shared common problems, solutions as well as future projects. Most speakers have highlighted the importance of well-done documentation and the important role that digitization plays in the future of museums.

My presentation was, “Cultural Heritage – Standard form of documentation available over time. Case study: Traditional Costumes Collection of the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant.” I have tried to cover the evolution of the evidence systems in the 111 years of our museum’s existence.

I think that this exchange of experience is useful for our professional development, because it is an important pillar in understanding the requirements of the visitor and cultural information transmission.

## **My feedback about my participation in CIDOC 2017**

Abdelrahman Othman Masoud ELSAYED

Curator at National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

This year, I can say I have made my own history in the museum documentation field, when I participated as a speaker in the 2017 CIDOC conference held in Tbilisi, Georgia. It was a great honor and pleasure for me to be there.

My participation in the conference was motivated by two reasons. First, I am now working as curator at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, and I have been recently assigned to work with my colleagues in the documentation department for preparing exhibition captions and catalogues, so I need to know more about documentation process that will be benefit in these new tasks. Additionally, my museum is a new museum of more than 20000 object exhibits and storage that was inaugurated last February, and recently we are preparing a new documentation system for those objects. The CIDOC conference generated meetings and discussions between hundreds of documentation specialists who came from different museums over the world, and I am extremely grateful for such an opportunity to learn, to share, and to practice in many workshops during conference.

I strongly affirmed that this conference was well worth it, I have gained new knowledge and deepened my understanding in international standards of documentation, I will definitely take back all the good ideas to improve the documentation condition of my museum.

The standard I am most likely to apply in my museum are the Spectrum standard. I attended the workshop about Spectrum with Mr. Gordon McKenna from Collection Trust, who presented an informative presentation about collection management from basic to international implementation. The session was interactive session and gave many advice. Also Mr. Gordon discussed with attendees how to localize Spectrum in their countries and organizations. Finally I was so excited to attend the announcement of the new international standard ISO 5127 Information and Documentation -- Foundation and Vocabulary and to have the opportunity to take a copy of this standard that will help me in creating documentation system in my museum.

## **NYAMAGODO STANLEY'S REPORT ON THE 2017 CIDOC DOCUMENTATION COURSE CONDUCTED FROM 25 OCTOBER TO 30 OCTOBER IN TBILISI, GEORGIA**

It is my pleasure to write this report after attending the successful and well organised CIDOC 2017 conference on documentation held in Tbilisi, Georgia from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. Foremost, I would like to thank the CIDOC International Committee for Documentation and the Georgian CIDOC committee for organising such a wonderful and enriching conference, which run under the theme Documentation: Past, Present, Future.... At this conference I benefitted a lot and some of the benefits are highlighted below.

### **Benefits and lessons learned from the conference.**

I particularly benefited from the group discussions, which were very interactive (especially the one conducted by Simone Stolz on democratisation of data in museums conducted on the first day of the workshop). The group discussions were interesting and thought provoking, which gave participants an opportunity to learn from others, what they were doing and thinking about, related to the ideas of democratization of documented data to the public as part of shared authority and access. From this discussion, what appealed to me the most was the emphasis made by Ms Stolz of the need for museum professionals to be digitally literate in all areas of heritage and embrace the use of media through the internet as a means of reaching to the general public, especially young children who are the future custodians of our heritage, which is an idea I have started sharing with my colleagues in my institutions.

As an archaeologist, I also benefitted a lot from the parallel session 4 on CIDOC-CRM, which was conducted by Mark Fichtner, Franco Niccolucci, Archille Felicetti and George Bruseker, in which they highlighted how the CIDOC-CRM data can be used in the encoding of excavation information as part of the documentation exercises. The presentation made by Archille Felicetti on [CRMarchaeo](#) appealed to me the most as it showed me a new concept on how the software can be used in mapping stratified context by taking consideration of the arrangements of archaeological stratifications and events that led to the formation of a particular stratigraphic situations, which I hope to use in my future archaeological excavation projects at my institution.

By listening to various presentations addressing the various sub themes on the conference I managed to learn valuable ideas on the formulation of systematic documentation, presentation, management, and monitoring of museum documented objects which can be used to tackle many challenges which are faced in standardized documentation in my organisation. Also by attending the conference I learned new techniques in the documentation exercise like the use of SPECTRUM, LIDO, ARIADNE and the use of the Getty vocabularies which I hope to explore further and use at my institution. Additionally, by attending the conference it offered me the opportunities to socialise and connect with different attendees from different perspectives and views in which I learned new things and made new relationships. As a first timer to present at an international conference and through networking, I am highly indebted to the advice and expert knowledge I got from Mr Gordon McKenna, who mentored me on how to keep my composure and stick to allocated time during conference presentations.

### **Conclusion**

The conference was a huge success and I am grateful to the Getty Foundation for making it possible for me to attend and present at the conference which made me acquire knowledge to better myself and my organisation at large where documentation i.

I'm Mahrous Elsanadidy, a curator and Egyptologist at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo, Egypt. I am also now studying for a Ph.D. in Museum Studies at the Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. I was honored to be selected by the Getty Foundation to attend the CIDOC 2017 annual conference in Tbilisi, Georgia from September 25-30, 2017. This important event happens annually, but this is my first time participating in the conference. So, I'd like to begin by expressing my appreciation and thanks to all staff who organized, or took part in the conference proceedings, CIDOC Board members, ICOM Georgia members, instructors, participants, and the Georgian museums that hosted the conference proceedings because they did their best to produce a successful conference. As for me, I greatly enjoyed interesting workshops held by the partners of SPECTRUM and the Data Standards Working Group. The Getty instructors' session was also very interesting and fruitful. I was especially impressed that they could develop and produce multilingual versions of the Getty vocabularies. Of course, this conference was a good chance to meet and exchange experiences with many experts and specialists of documentation from all continents. Some of them are experts or specialists in manual or digital documentation systems, and others are experts or specialists in the archaeological sites documentation and its management, or researchers and scholars on tangible and intangible heritage. I was very pleased to attend this conference and to give a presentation on the documentation history in the Egyptian museum Cairo and its impact on collection management. It was focused on the development of its documentation from 1835 to now (paper, digital, and media), and what we hope to do in the future: showing the importance of adequate documentation and its impact on collections management during object acquisition, exit, disposal, repatriation, storage, movement, loan out, conservation and restoration, study and research, and accessibility to Data. After that, I showed the defects of documentation systems in it and what we hope to do for reforming them. Finally, I enjoyed the welcome and farewell parties and a city tour in the old city of Tbilisi organized during the conference proceedings. Throughout these ceremonies I could recognize the history, customs, and traditions of Georgia and the main features of Tbilisi such as: the city enclosure wall, churches, and old buildings affected by the Islamic and Soviet architectures. I also tried some of the popular food in Georgia, the Khachapuri. So, as soon as I return to Egypt, I'll try to organize training workshops for my colleagues in the ministry of antiquities to tell them of the knowledge I gained on new methods of documentation through all over world and what I saw in Georgia.

When my colleague Patrícia Martins and I prepared the paper for the conference, we had only a vague idea about the kinds of activities done by the CIDOC Committee. Throughout the week in Tbilisi, we were very impressed by the consistency of the long-term cooperative work covering different aspects in the museum documentation field.

Our research project, **“Connecting Museums” - Parameters for documentation of temporary exhibitions in Brazilian Art museums**, which started recently, explores the objectives and potential of documentation of temporary exhibitions in Brazilian context. Coming from the architectural and academic field, it was very useful for us to get to know the problems and solutions from the professionals directly involved in the museum documentation area. Learning from them will surely expand the frontiers of our own field of research and contribute to the development of our work.

I would like to highlight my interest in the panel discussion on International Image Interoperability Framework and the work presented by Vahur Puik about crowdsourcing platform for geotagging and rephotographing historic pictures. I'll share the knowledge gained in the conference with colleagues, researchers, and students at Mackenzie University, as well as with the Brasiliana Institute team involved in the project “Museu Brasil.”

Some of the specifically technical aspects of museum documentation are not so useful for my field of work, although I presume they should be very helpful for most participants that work inside museums. I'd suggest, as an improvement to the conference programming, to propose papers on more conceptual problems about documentation that could integrate the different specialty fields of professionals attending the conference.

To sum up, it was a pleasurable experience to connect with colleagues and understand their problems and hopes in the most beautiful setting, Tbilisi. The side events were great and completed the whole experience. I'd like to congratulate the organizers and thank the Getty Foundation for this great opportunity.

You'll find the presentation on our website page:  
[www.museusemconexao.org/seminarios](http://www.museusemconexao.org/seminarios)

I hope we'll meet again soon!

Best regards,

Professors Ana Paula Pontes and Patrícia Martins

Warm greetings from Iran/ Tehran and hope everything is going well with you.

First, I would like to thank all CIDOC friends, boards, organizers, and supporters for creating such a great opportunity for experts and professionals from all around the world, including myself, to participate in workshops, conferences, or educational programs during the Tbilisi CIDOC conference.

Participating in CIDOC 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia has been another great opportunity for me to join the CIDOC committee (which always has new materials), and to experience, to learn, and to go back home with new ideas, different perspectives, new thoughts, challenges, solutions, and great hope. This will be very practical and useful for the painting collection that I am in charge of, or for my colleagues in Iran and other members of the Iranian museum family. Through writing what we shared in the CIDOC meetings for our e-magazine (Farhang-e-Muzeh), we share our experiences and knowledge together.

For me, each CIDOC conference I have participated in has been a unique one. At the CIDOC conferences, there is always communication with colleagues, old and new friends, and other experts, in addition to learning new things and gathering fruitful materials during presentations and lectures in the related fields of the conference theme. The conferences have been wonderful.

On this occasion, learning from professionals and experts, joining its workshops and working groups and studying its materials, and building up new perspectives about different subjects of documentation has been incredibly useful.

After 4 years of participating in CIDOC conferences and trying to follow its materials and activities, now, I am more eager to learn and research in this field. So, thank you very much CIDOC.

Yours sincerely,  
Tayeebeh Golnaz Golsabahi

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Regarding the seminar, everything was good, in my opinion. CIDOC workshops can be more practical and professional (if possible, arranging some cooperation between CIDOC seminar organizers and museum managers during the seminar).

I think, for achieving better results in documentation knowledge and practice, it is necessary to implement some workshops in real places with real objects and having participants engage with them.

In case it is not being possible to access real objects, allocating one day of seminar time for practicing the knowledge about documentation and newest results in museum spaces would be useful.

By: Hassan Ghaseminejad Raeini, participant from Iran

## **CIDOC for first time!!**

### **Ali Mahfouz Abbas Hassan**

Supervisor of Ahmed Mousa's Storage Museum, Mansoura, Egypt.

Tbilisi for the first time! ICOM for the first time! Also CIDOC for the first time! July 31<sup>st</sup> was a great day for me when I received this email: "On behalf of CIDOC and Getty Foundation we are delighted to inform you that you have been selected for Getty bursary program to attend the CIDOC 2017 Annual Conference to be held on 25-29 September 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia." The coordination was wonderful and very organized before we arrived to Tbilisi. Lana [Karaia] arranged everything very well actually, and upon arrival at the Georgian National Museum (the headquarters of the Conference) the reception was more than wonderful. Everyone there was welcoming and the volunteers were very helpful.

The workshop of "SPECTRUM Collections management from basics to international implementation" by Gordon McKenna was very important for my work domain. I am now working as a supervisor of Ahmed Mousa's Storage museum, so it gave me a good understanding about implementing collections management inside the Storage Museum. It will be difficult to apply spectrum UK collection Management Standard in Egypt but we will keep in touch with Gordon to try applying it.

All Conference sections that I attended were very impressive. I believe that knowing about documentation standards in many museums all over the world is very important to all archeologists, and this is what this conference enabled us to learn. However, I have one consideration about the conference: the time for each lecture was not enough, and it should be extended to be about 15 minutes max.

Making friends from around the world and identifying peoples' cultures and customs particularly resonated with me. Last but not least, big thanks and a great appreciation to the Getty Foundation, ICOM Georgia, and CIDOC for giving me this opportunity to participate in this most wonderful conference and hope to see all friends and CIDOC members next year in Crete!



## **CIDOC 2017**

25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017

Tbilisi, Georgia

The Getty Foundation Bursary

**REPORT: Fernanda d'Agostino (Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil)**

My attendance at CIDOC 2017 conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, was a relevant contribution to my professional development, and an opportunity to give visibility to the activities the Pinacoteca's collection registrar department has been performing in the last four years.

It became clear during the event the importance of keeping myself updated and informed on the current museum documentation's standardized projects, revisions of guidelines in course, researches for implementing best practices in museums and projects to evaluate the effectivity of documentation practices in the cultural institutions and communities served by them. All those topics were addressed during the Cidoc 2017 conference and helped me to return to Sao Paulo with new ideas and experiences to share locally.

The conference's programme was well planned and I enjoyed the alternated sessions on more technical subjects and case studies from organizations worldwide - balancing theoretical information with professional's practices. The impressive representation of countries (I was informed that the event received people from 51 countries) and the encounters with professionals coming from different places and backgrounds favoured the knowlegde of the contexts and demands that colleagues have to respond and the different ways of doing that.

Regarding the cultural diversity of the event, I strongly believe that the Getty bursary had an important influence on this positive aspect, since the grants allowed that independent professionals or/and those coming from institutions with no resources to support their participations could attend at the conference helded in a destination as Tbilisi.

Considering my background and expectations about the event, I was especially enlightened by the following presentations and activities:

- **Spectrum workshop (Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>):** guided by Gordon McKenna from Collections Trust, UK, the workshop delivered information and instructions that will be definitely incorporated in my professional activities. I especially enjoyed the dynamic of the workshop which facilitated the understanding of Spectrum potencialities by means of practical exercises and collective reflections.

- **Panel discussion – International Image Interopability Framework (Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>):** the panel gave me the chance of having a first contact with the IIF project and I found the subject really instructive. At Pinacoteca, I deal with the high resolutions images of the museum's collection. It is a real task for us to provide the images archives with cataloging information and digital metadata to others outside the museum. After the panel, I have shared the information on IIF project with some colleagues and we are considering to research more on this new standard to implement the management of the images.

- **Invited session – Getty Vocabularies (Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>):** I learned about the methodologies for Getty's vocabularies construction and the delivery was a great opportunity to be informed on the current projects for including new terms in the existent vocabularies.

- **Other presentations:** considering my background and expectations, I was especially touched by the deliveries of Ms. Rusdun Mirzikashvili (keynote speaker), Dieter van Hassel (session 2), Trilce Navarrete (session 3), Jan Behrendt (session 10), Kaie Jeeser and Kadri Nigulas (session 10), and the Documentation Standards Working Group.

However, not only the presentations I mentioned here, but the conference as a whole has become an important subject for my professional reflections. I brought with me information and new ideas as the cataloging of the artworks with the communities contribution, the possibility of collaborating with the Documentation Standards Working Group's in a recent future, lots of curiosity about the IIF project, more information on Getty Vocabularies, totally new knowledge on restoration of architectural heritage and much more.

Additionally, I found very generous the gesture of the Cidoc Board of including the Getty's grantees in the programme of the conference. By means of this initiative, my delivery was the first (and I hope not the last!) opportunity to present Pinacoteca's collection documentation work for a high qualified international audience.

Finally, I would like to mention the competent organization of the event by the Cidoc Board and ICOM Georgia, especially by Mrs. Lana Karaia. Mrs. Karaia was of great help, always assisting with attention, efficiency and genuine kindness the Getty's grantees before the conference, and during all of our permanence in Tbilisi.

São Paulo, October 15th, 2017.

Fernanda d'Agostino