Working Group - Information Systems in Museums (WG-ISM)

presentation and projection for future activity
Common goals...different work projects

The WG-ISM was created in 2012 within the Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists and Documentation Professionals (BAD), gathering information professionals around a common goal which is to answer the challenges that museums professionals face every day regarding information and collections management in museums.

- To be a platform for communication and dialogue between professionals
- To promote a national survey regarding the existing resources related with information management of museum collections
- To promote the preparation of meetings, seminars and other public initiatives for professional qualification
- To be an active partner in the community regarding the information management in museums and its strategical importance on the cultural heritage field
Common goals...different work projects

Special focus on the work processes concerning the documentation of museum collections as well as the integration of information systems in museums.

- Diagnostic information systems in Portuguese museums with the development of a survey to understand the present situation within Portuguese museums
- Methodologies and procedures in museum information systems with the creation and translation of technical tools and documents for use by the museum professionals
- The constitution of a virtual library
- The preparation of seminars, conferences and meetings
- The promotion of its own activity through different communication channels
Information systems in Portuguese museums - Diagnostic
Diagnostic information systems in Portuguese museums

Purpose
To present the main characteristics of museums in the areas of information management of their various types of heritage.

Relevance
To contribute to the design of a global panorama of the reality that exists in Portugal and to the reflection and discussion about the importance that these issues assume in the daily life of museums.

Method
• Extended questionnaire survey
• Universe of 710 museums

Fieldwork
• Information collected through an online platform
• Between March and June 2016
• 222 valid answers collected

CIDOC 2017
Tbilisi, Georgia | 25-30 September 2017
Diagnostic information systems in Portuguese museums

Main results

- the existence of collections management services (Object Collection, Library and Archives) despite their reduced relevance in internal regulation;
- the diminished allocation of human resources with specific training in Documentation and ICT areas;
- the predominance of museological and bibliographical collections;
- the still relative low percentage of collections inventory despite their high availability in computerized support;
- half of the museums have a normative framework to guide their procedures;
- but one-third refer to not using any controlled vocabulary system;
- and only a quarter mentioned that there is interoperability between the databases used for documentation.
Methodologies and procedures in museum information systems

Creation of technical tools and documents
Creation of technical tools and documents

Purpose

• Provide guidelines for the use of controlled vocabularies.

Approach

• Organization of seminars, publication of articles, dissemination of projects related to museum information systems and creation of tools in Portuguese.
Creation of technical tools and documents

**Prospects for the future**

- Encourage an extended technical debate.
- Continuous review of the publication *Controlled vocabularies in the organization and management of cultural heritage: practical guidelines.*
- Create new complementary tools, such as toolkits to help museum professionals.

Methodologies and procedures in museum information systems

Translation of technical documents
SPECTRUM Advices – Localization

• SPECTRUM PT translation was published in 2013:
  – Partnership between Portugal and Brazil;
  – Promote the use of SPECTRUM in Portuguese-speaking countries;
• Adaptation to the Portuguese legal and professional context remains an issue;
• SPECTRUM Advices
SPECTRUM Advices - Localization

• SPECTRUM primary procedures:
  – Legal advice;
  – Procedure implementation;
  – How to use SPECTRUM;
  – Why to use SPECTRUM;
  – Sources of help and advice in Portuguese.

• SPECTRUM technical guides for the Portuguese context.
Translation of Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images (CCO)

- Best practices for describing, documenting and cataloguing cultural works in museums, libraries and archives (http://cco.vrafoundation.org/index.php/toolkit/)
- The first part contains guidelines for basic cataloguing, the second part provides information regarding metadata elements and finally, the third part addresses questions about authorities
- The translation, on its final stage has the main purpose to provide to the Portuguese museum community with another tool and standards for data content
Constitution of a virtual library and a museum library directory
Virtual library

- Bibliographic references and other information resources in open access (relevant to the group’s activities and goals)
- Collaborative process: data increment and indexing shared and discussed with WG-ISM members

- https://www.zotero.org/groups/81851/gt-sim
BAD’s Library Directory

- New category (2017): museum libraries
- Special libraries, archives and documentation centers focused on the thematic areas of the museum to which they are related
- [https://www.bad.pt/diretorio](https://www.bad.pt/diretorio)
Reach out to other museum professionals
Promotion of meetings and other events for professional qualification

- Museums Information Systems as fundamental for the management of heritage collections in museums
- Enhance the role of Museums Information Systems in organizing, processing and displaying information about museum collections and knowledge production
- Reflection about work processes and its contribution for the fulfilment of the museum’s mission
- to make public to other museum professionals the WG’s activities
Promotion of meetings and other events for professional qualification

- Organization of seminars and webinars included in the professional qualification programme developed by BAD
- Organization of meetings and conferences sometimes in collaboration with other institutions
- Participation in meetings and conferences organized by other institutions.
Communication with WG members and other professionals

- Mailing list (gt-sim@lists.bad.pt)
- Notícia BAD – information in museums (http://www.bad.pt/noticia/category/informacaomuseus/)
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/SistemasInformacaoMuseus/)
Conclusion and future projects

- Maintain the previous lines of action presented
- Reflect about archives, libraries and museums collaboration
- Continue to promote the discussion among museums professionals about information and collections management in the museum
- Make available information, training and technical documents for all professionals
Conclusion and future projects

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This is our challenge, from professionals to other professionals.
Thank You

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