Documentation Standards Working Group (DSWG)
Report to CIDOC Annual General Meeting 2018 Heraklion, Greece
Co-Chairs: Maija Ekosaari, Jonathan Whitson-Cloud

The Documentation Standards Working Group has focused this year on two projects: the ongoing development of the online Encyclopaedia of Museum Practice (EoMP) and a project aimed at engaging cultural heritage collections management system (CMS) developers in building a tool to exchange data related to object loans for exhibitions, the Exhibition Object Data Exchange Mechanism (EODEM).

Since the last conference:
The DSWG has had online sessions 17.11.2017 and 18.3.2018 to focus on the EoMP and a few pages have been created and edited to a good standard to act as exemplars. In July of this year Jonathan attended a TikiFest in Strasburg to meet with the community responsible for the development of the wiki software the EoMP uses, TikiWiki. This was very productive and the core implementation of the EoMP has been improved considerably as a result. A security certificate has now been purchased for the EoMP website which will be updated annually.

The DSWG also drafted a proposal to generate a new specification that would be rooted in implemented software, built collaboratively by museum software suppliers, with DSWG providing co-ordination, documentation and the final specification. The Exhibition Object Data Exchange Mechanism was included as a subject for discussion in an invitation sent to museum IS suppliers to attend this year's conference.

At the conference:
The DSWG ran a two part invitational workshop bringing together 21 representatives from 15 different companies to discuss with us the use of information systems in museums. On both days we had short presentations given by Rupert Shepherd and Maija Ekosaari as well as our invited speakers, Richard Light, Nicholas Crofts and Mike Jones. The presentations were followed by discussions, debates and brainstorming. These were closed sessions but we can report that discussion focused on how to improve communication and understanding between software suppliers and museums. The DSWG committed to writing, in collaboration with the vendors present and the wider community, some guidelines for software procurement.

A further workshop was run by Jonathan Whitson Cloud, testing the enthusiasm and practicality of the EODEM proposal. Enthusiasm proved to be impressive and survived the consideration of obstacles sufficiently to generate an outline set of information units to be exchanged. The DSWG will turn this list into a data description which will be shared with participants prior to software suppliers agreeing a possible technical specification fo the data exchange mechanism.

An Encyclopaedia editing session was run in the Working Group sessions on Tuesday. A small group edited a number of pages and re-visited the question of what it means to translate a page in the wiki.

In the year ahead:
The EoMP will be re-advertised to past contributors and to the wider CIDOC membership. We will hold a number of online editing sessions to encourage and support page creation and editing.

A draft guideline for software procurement will be generated, shared and refined.

A data description for data to be exchanged in an Exhibition Object Data Exchange Mechanism will be drafted, shared and refined. We will inform and seek comments from museum software suppliers internationally, and involve them in planning the next steps. A representative of ICOM-CC Documentation WG that attended CIDOC 2018 will act as a contact point to Conservation Committee. Contact will also be made with ICOM ICEE (International Committee for Exhibition Exchange) which might include attending the ICEE conference in Spain in November, as well as contacts to other relevant organisations and groups, such as Registrar's organisation.

The idea of a collaborative Special Project ICOM grant application will be explored. A meeting of the DSWG will be convened in the next 6 months to maintain the momentum of this project.

Work will continue on exploring the relationship between Knowledge Management and Documentation and will be fed into work CIDOC does on Digital Strategy in Museums.

Thank you
The DSWG would like to recognise the contribution of Rupert Shepherd. Without his effort, application and skill much of what has been reported above would not have happened.
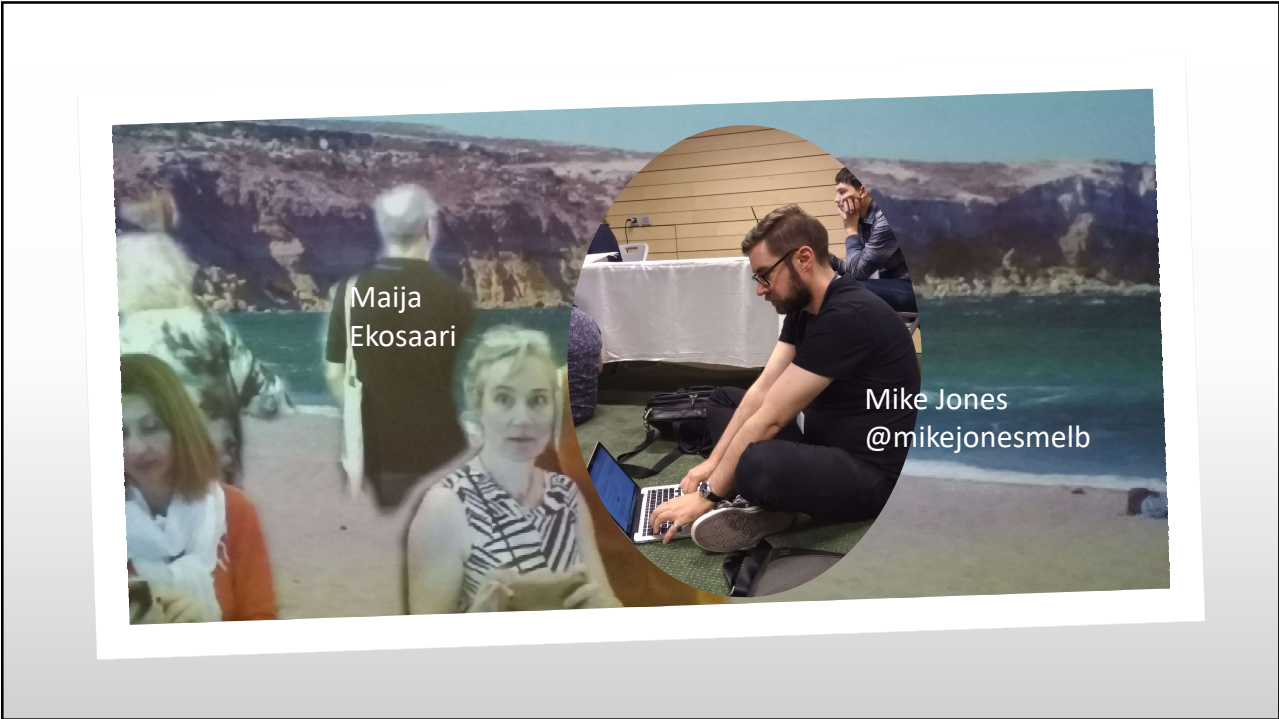

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DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS WG

Maija Ekosaari & Jonathan Whitson Cloud
Rupert Shepherd

Since Tbilisi

- 2 online meetings, editing Encyclopedia of Museum Practice (EoMP)
- 5 online admin meetings

- Jonathan attended TikiFest in Strasbourg
  - Meeting with developers → Improved EoMP
  - Security certificate for EoMP website

- Rupert, Maija developed material and ideas from Tbilisi workshops
- Planned two days of workshops in Crete

Richard Light

Jonathan Whitson Cloud

Rupert Shepherd

Nicholas Crofts

Maija Ekosaari

Mike Jones @mikejonesmelb

In Crete: Workshops with CMS developers

For collections management system (CMS) developers / suppliers

15 systems, 21 representatives, 6 facilitators

- Helping suppliers understand museum context
- Encouraging collaboration between CMS suppliers
- Identifying how CIDOC can help system suppliers
- Starting collaboration:
  Exhibition Object Data Exchange Mechanism

In the year ahead

1. Keep working on EoMP—new improved platform

2. The Exhibition Object Data Exchange Mechanism (EODEM)
   1. Drafting a workplan
   2. Drafting recommendations
   3. Beginning development

3. Draft Guidelines for museum software procurement
   1. Draft, consult stakeholders, and refine

Thank you

This may be the end of #CIDOC2018 but it's the beginning of new experiences & partnerships. Our days in Crete were packed with fruitful meetings, inside stories, best practices & innovative solutions!

See Translation

uni systems   GallerySystems

Preserve,
Share
and Grow
with
Confidence

Libraries

2018
CIDOC
Conference

Share Now (Friends)
Share in a Group
Share...
Send as Message
Share on a friend's timeline
Share to a Page

You, Thanis Paraskevopoulos and 22 others

👍 Like   💬 Comment   ↪ Share

Keep in touch!

- Maija will update CIDOC facebook
  mekosaar@gmail.com

- Rupert will tweet @rgs1510
  rupert@rupertshepherd.info

- Jonathan keeps working in the Encyclopaedia
  jwhitsoncloud@gmail.com