

UNESCO recommendations on digitalisation of heritage



Digital Technologies in Heritage Conservation/
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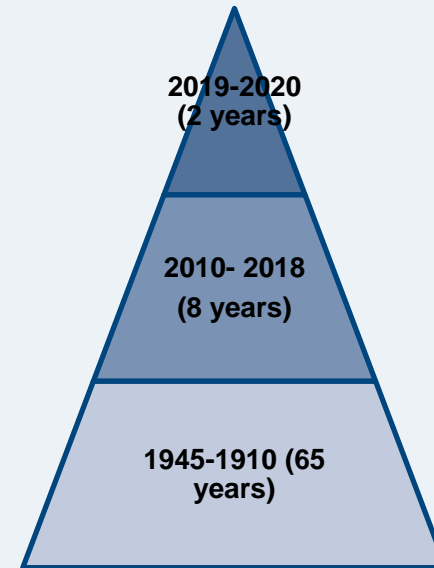
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Why do we need digitisation of heritage?

- The digital heritage consists of unique resources of human knowledge and expression. Many of these resources have lasting value and significance, and therefore constitute a heritage that should be protected and preserved for current and future generations.
- Access to digital heritage
- Guarding against loss of heritage: threat of loss, need for action, digital continuity
- Measures required: developing strategies and policies, selecting what should be kept, protecting digital heritage
- Preserving cultural heritage
- 2003 [Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage](#)

>> Conclusion: But digitalisation or digitisation is not conservation.



Chronology of UNESCO recommendations and activities for Digital Heritage – in the last 75 years



- 1945 UNESCO founded (this weeks' 75 year anniversary)
- 1954 Haager Conventions
- 1964 [Venice](#) Charter: International Charter for the conservation and restoration of monuments and sites.
 - §16 In all works of preservation, restoration or excavation, there should always be **precise documentation** in the form of analytical and critical reports, illustrated with drawings and photographs"
- 1968 UNESCO CIPA ICOMOS (CIPA Heritage Documentation/ Comité International de la Photogrammétrie Architecturale) – and today ISPRS
- 1996 ICOM Ethics first published („*Museum collections should be **documented according to accepted professional standards***”), 1996 ICOMOS [Principles for the recording of monuments, groups of buildings and sites](#)
- 2003 [Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage](#)
- 2004 Personal note: I am starting to work in Digital Cultural Heritage 😊
- 2005 [First World Heritage Office in Bamberg](#), today places for outreach, also using ICT
- 2008 Europeana platform launched, still ongoing development, since 2012 trying to integrate 3D

>> Conclusion: Slowly developing awareness of digital assets and their value around the millenium!



2019
-
2020
(2 y.)

2010-
2018
(8
years)

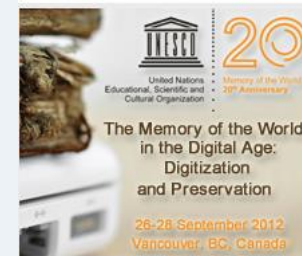
1945-1910
(65 years)



Chronology of UNESCO recommendations and activities for Digital Heritage – in the last 10 years

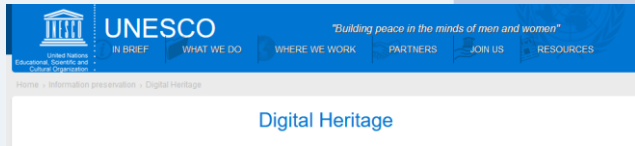
- [2011 Commission recommendations](#) on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, Digital Agenda Europe.
- 2015/ 2020 Digital cultural heritage. [Implementation Guidelines for the 2015 Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form/](#) Memory of the world
- 2016 UNESCO/ PERSIST guidelines. [Guidelines for the selection of digital heritage for long-term preservation](#)
- 2017 [National Reports on digitisation, online accessibility and digital preservation](#), Enumerate reports (Europeana pro) on Museum holdings (last 2017)

>> Conclusion: We now know how to digitise, and we need to select what we digitise and what we do with the digital assets!



Chronology of UNESCO recommendations and activities for Digital Heritage – in the last 2 years

- 9 April 2019/ Digital Day: EU Member States sign up to [“Cooperation on Advancing Digitisation of Cultural Heritage”](#)
- September 2019: Ethics of heritage recording first discussed at CIPA meeting Avila
- February 2020: Europeana [3D Taskforce reports](#) , today: [3D content available](#)
- June – September 2020: [Public consultation on the digital access to digital cultural heritage to improve the commission recommendations](#) from 2011, [Report available since October 2020](#)
- September 2020: CIPA ICOMOS: Ongoing working group to rethink the 1996 ICOMOS Principles on heritage recording
- [UNESCO fully embraces Digital Heritage > Theme Site](#)
- **>> Conclusion: How can we standardise digitisation now?**
- **And: we can all be part of the development now.**



EU Member States sign up to cooperate on digitising cultural heritage (9 April 2019)

The declaration has three pillars of action:

1. A pan-European initiative for 3D digitisation of cultural heritage artefacts, monuments and sites;
2. Re-use of digitised cultural resources to foster citizen engagement, innovative use and spill-overs in other sectors;
3. Enhancing cross-sector and cross-border cooperation and capacity building in the sector of digitised cultural heritage.

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-member-states-sign-cooperate-digitising-cultural-heritage>



Reflections on the workshop UNESCO 2019: World Heritage Centres

CHAPTER 2 Using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs): challenges and opportunities



Information and communication technology (ICT)

refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications. ICT covers both the hardware (the equipment/devices) and the software (the computer programmes in the equipment), including computers, mobile phones, digital cameras, satellite navigation systems, electronic instruments and data recorders, radio, television, the Internet, wireless networks, and other media.³⁸

Potentialities:

Accessibility
Attraction
Preservation

... ..

Criticalities:

Quality
Cost
Authenticity
Reliability
Security

... ..

Visions:

Intelligent
Powerful
Joyful
Engaging
Affordable
Sustainable

... ..

https://www.unesco.de/sites/default/files/2020-04/role_of_visitors_centres_in%20unesco_designated_sites_2020.pdf