

Cultural Identity and Digital Heritage: Projects, Networks and Portals

Abstract

In the contemporary global world there is a growing concern among people and organisations regarding that standardisation and uniformity brought by modern civilisation. New technologies fasten the spread of patterns, fashion and habits. The most economically powerful nations are the most influential. Local identity, small languages and cultural diversity is menaced. The Internet started as a democratic network of communication only ten years ago and evolved beyond expectations. Today it is a world digital library, a strong medium of communication and learning, a place for virtual communities. Promoting our cultural heritage and language in digital format on the web is a way to contribute to cultural diversity and make our voice heard. Digital cultural heritage is the end result of research, documentation, selection, interpretation and processing. Digitisation is a priority in the European Union. It should be a priority for our cultural sector too. Virtual exhibitions, electronic books, on-line dictionaries, digital archives and other new products address to a wider audience. Their impact is increased by collaboration, networking and portals. Romania has not yet a national digitisation plan. I present some digitisation projects of the Institute for Cultural Memory and propose actions to increase the presence of Romanian cultural and scientific heritage on the web.