
Digital Cultural Heritage and Cartography

Saint-Dié Declaration

2012

On the occasion of the 2012 DCH2012 conference held in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (France), the following declaration is issued:

Considering

- the growing relevance and respect that international society has toward open access to digital information on Cultural Heritage
- that location aspects are of central importance to all multimedia documentations of Digital Cultural Heritage
- that Cartography is the integrating science for enabling knowledge fusion and synergy from the use of complex digital archives of literature, pictures, maps, video, audio and other multimedia documents by spatial reference and analysis
- current possibilities of awareness of the business sector (e.g. promoted by European Community, DG Media) as well as in UN organizations (UNESCO, UNGGIM etc.)
- the current gap between digital library/archive sciences and the Geoinformation sectors
- the massively growing interest in spatial search and analysis in cross-media databases
- digital library and archives enterprise-wide management approaches to spatially referenced information objects and massive details
- maps to help linking of video and/or voice recordings and thus enable other types of knowledge to be generated (not only cartographic knowledge)
- the concepts of “map” and “atlas” is increasingly accepted and used in society at large

The following issues need urgent attention:

- Each discipline involved in Digital Cultural Heritage needs a clear understanding of the methodologies, practical results, services and possible courses of action
- Considerable amounts of Cultural Heritage Data are still not captured and not being preserved while simultaneously there is a growing risk of further data loss caused by natural and technical disaster threats as well as by technological change and lack of adequate policy actions.
- There is a need to develop information mining methods and techniques for very large archival collections using spatiotemporal relations between catalog entries, objects, and their granular information constituents.
- Examples are needed on issues such as the analysis of “closeness” of objects (neighborhood in spatial as well as in cognitive sense) and all their details (text, pictures, video elements, digital newspaper archive elements etc.) and these need to be extended to other spatial analysis functions

Special action is required to:

- Extend the definition of cartography to include the Digital Human Sciences
- Increase and broaden interdisciplinary cooperation in the Digital Human Sciences
- Encourage local, regional, national and international institutions and public authorities to find appropriate alliances for the creation of digital heritage archives that comply with international standards (OAI, OGC etc.)
- Include and increase Digital Cultural Heritage information demand in the specification and realization of national/supranational information infrastructures
- Address the need for free and open access to publicly funded heritage information (especially from radio and television stations archives) to the appropriate political and administrative bodies
- Encourage the inclusion of digital libraries and archives organizations as well as the private sector as full contributing members of information infrastructure.
- Encourage digital archivists to learn and understand the significant properties of the spatial digital content
- Include novel user information and use service demand
- Encourage cartographers to analyze what are the requirements of their material and use cases in order to develop standards
- Encourage the International Cartographic Association (ICA) to compile examples of best practice of synergic knowledge detection and Cultural Heritage Information Service product chains
- Encourage new possibilities of information exchange (fora, panels, strategy teams) to report and discuss on innovative business cases of spatially enabled Digital Cultural Heritage information and highlight aspects of increased efficiency, effectiveness, and low cost services
- Include the (external) application of cartographic methodologies and techniques to digital humanities in the academic curricula
- Mutually involve cartographers and librarians/archivists as well as scientists and practitioners from other fields of Digital Cultural Heritage (e.g. Archaeologists, Arts, Architecture) in events and workgroups of their professional societies

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