

# A Digitalization of the Museum Funds – a Possible Software for Scientific Passports

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**Abstract.** The digitalization of the museum funds is an important process in the realization of the most important functions of the museums in Bulgaria. The attempts for digitalization of the museum funds are accidental. This paper aims to present a development of Regional Historical Museum – Pernik for digital passporting of museum artifacts.

**Keywords:** digitalization, museum funds, cultural valuables, cultural property

## 1 Introduction

The digitalization of the museum funds is an important process in the realization of one of the most important functions of the museums in Bulgaria [1]. Nevertheless, until this moment, there are neither general state strategy, that synchronizes this process, nor legally provided common database and software, in which can be imported the data from the digitalization of the museum funds. This is reflected also in the discussions on the subject:

“Bulgaria lags considerably behind with the process of the digitalization of its cultural resources... Over 15 years Bulgarian libraries, museums, galleries and their partners have worked on projects “by the job”, without compulsorily observing of standards, without monitoring authority and without rules...”

As experts working in this field, we know that the digitalization is a process in which it isn't speaking just about money. It is speaking of long-term objectives, short-term programs with specific teams, responsibilities and accountancy... Since the summer of 2012 the Found “13 centuries of Bulgaria” has taken the lead of the founding of “National expert council on digitalization”...” (<https://digicultbulgaria.wordpress.com/>)

At European level there are several attempts to retrieve this delay. The best known of them are the large-scale program of EU – Europeana (<http://www.europeana.eu>) and the big project for digital three dimensional presentation of the museum funds – Virtual museum (<http://europeanvirtualmuseum.net>).

However, at the moment, the attempts for digitalization of the museum funds in Bulgarian museums are mainly related to separated, accidental initiatives. We present

to your attention one such initiative. Of course, our proposal is considering it and using as a base of developing of generally, legally regulated Museum Database.

## **2 Digital Museum Passports**

It's speaking about one possible software for digital scientific passports, which was developed as idea by Regional historical museum – Pernik (RHM – Pernik) in 2011 and run until today by the RHM – Pernik and RHM – Blagoevgrad. The target group of users is museum employees.

The software was developed in PHP platform and it provides an opportunity for a digital archive (it converts the database to indestructible one) and unlimited possibilities for changes and expanding of the planned columns or the search criteria. The software has copyright, so its possibilities are real after their adjustment.

It is important to specify, that it's provided passports made by this software can be printed on paper and attach to scientific archive of the institution.

The software for scientific passports of Regional historical museum – Pernik is conformed with regulatory framework of Republic of Bulgaria and in particular with Ordinance N N-6 from 11.12.2009 for formation and management of the museum funds, art. 26-27 [2].

According to standard for this type of programs, login is personal and account access is limited.

When the employee signs into his personal account a start page will load, including all "cultural valuables" with digital passports, options to upload a new passport, search, archive (only active for Database administrators) and exit from the application. Search criteria of movable cultural property (cultural valuables) include the main columns as "Name", "Section", "Location".

After that there is a string of specific columns, which cover requirements of Ordinance N N-6 from 11.12.2009 for formation and management of museum funds, art. 26 [2].

I think that this software possesses the necessary qualities and a potential to perform the parameters for which it was created as a common one to all museums in Bulgaria.

## **References**

1. Law of cultural heritage, effective since 10.04.2009
2. Regulation for formation and management of the museum funds, 11.12.2009, 26-27