



Cyprus

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Digitisation projects

Main Cultural Portal by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, completion of Phase I May 2004

The aim of this project is to create the official cultural portal of Cyprus so that it will be equal partner with the European Cultural Portal and at the same time and more important to collect the most significant cultural information about Cyprus via a closed network of partners who will independently contribute cultural information via their Web systems and archives. Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education is the owner of the portal and at the same time is an independent partner of the portal with a system that will be developed by the University of Cyprus. This project aims to be the motive for all the major cultural organizations (Governmental, Semi-Governmental and Non-Governmental) to digitize and archive their cultural content and built systems which will give the opportunity to the users to have access to it. At the same time, the system aims to collect all the cultural content of Cyprus under one official roof which will be the official cultural portal providing trustworthy information.

The primary development tool to be used for Windows software development is VisualStudio.NET. The primary development language is VisualBasic.NET. This will result in creation of .NET desktop applications and ASP.NET Web applications that take full advantage of the underlying .NET framework.

Digitisation of the Cultural Services Archives

The Cultural Services is the owner of several archives, four of which are available for immediate digitisation:

- the writers archive (text, audio, pictures);
- the musicians archive (text, audio, pictures);
- the directors archive (text, audio/video, pictures)
- the artists archive (text, audio/video, pictures)

As early as 1995 the Cultural Services started to implement a pilot project aiming to digitize its archives. With the help of a multimedia programmer as a coordinator and students from the Higher Technical Institute the Cultural Services created multimedia CD-ROM using few "representatives" from each archive. All this know-how is now fully invested in the on-going project of the University of Cyprus to create a multimedia Web-Based System along with the entire back-office infrastructure.

Digitisation project for the State Gallery for Contemporary Cypriot Art

The project is under way and the Cultural Services will implement it since the State Gallery is a governmental organization under the control of the Cultural Services. The State Gallery has more than 2,100 paintings in its collection. The State Gallery has full records for all the artists as well as for all paintings. The digitisation process will start with in the next couple of months since the State Gallery is one of the bodies of the Cultural Services.

Digitisation of the Oral History Archives by the Cyprus Research Centre of the Ministry of Education and Culture

The Cyprus Research Centre is the owner of the Oral History Archives. All the content was recorded in cassette tapes, more than 5,000. The Library of the University of Cyprus suggested a digitisation project for the History Archives. The project is under way and all the cassettes are being converted to mp3 format. All the converted content of the Archives can be

searched or updated using the ABEKT 5.5 library software system developed by the National Documentation Centre of Greece. The content of the Archives consists of sound, text and pictures. The Cyprus Research Centre is one of the 10 "Satellites" in the Main Cultural Portal.

Digitisation project

for the National Struggle Museum

The digitisation project for the National Struggle Museum started in 1997. The aim of the project was to create multimedia content for all the material the museum had under its control. In early 2001 the multimedia content became available to the Museum's visitors via multimedia kiosks. The digital content will also be available to the cultural portal since the Museum is one of the 10 "Satellites" in the Main Cultural Portal.

The National Struggle Museum is a governmental organization

National Digital Theatre Archive

by the Cyprus Theatre Organization

The Cyprus Theatre Organization is implementing its own digitisation project for its archives. The project is supervised and implemented by the University of Cyprus in full accordance with the guidelines of the Cultural Portal since the Cyprus Theatre Organization is one of the 10 "Satellites" in the Main Cultural Portal. Cyprus Theatre Organization is Semi-Governmental organization.

Projects under consideration

Digitisation of the school magazines

project by the Libraries Support Group of Ministry of Education and Culture

The Libraries Support Group of the Ministry of Education and Culture is examining the possibility to digitise all the content of the school magazines that are published every year. The Support Group is in the process of finding interested local partners to join the project.

Every year more than 100 school magazines are published.