Slovak Republic

Martin Katuščák
Slovak National Library

Milan Thomka Mitrovský, *Dve vône - alegória*
[Two Scents – An Allegory], 1930-1940
Oil painting
Photo: Pavol Breier
© Slovak National Literary Museum

Policy scenario

The National Informatisation Policy was adopted
in June 2001. It formulates general principles for
building and development of the information society.
One major action has been taken, the adoption of the
Strategy of Informatisation of Society in the conditions
of the Slovak Republic and the Action Plan by the
Slovak Government on January 21st, 2004. The Strategy
is based on the Policy of Informatisation of Society
and the eEurope+ Action Plan and existing strategic
objectives in various sectors.
The support for coordination of digitisation is not
explicitly formulated in any political documents.
In 2001 the National Council has adopted a Declaration
on Protection of Cultural Heritage, which was followed
by 2002 Government Resolution on measures to be
taken in culture, where the long term strategy is to form
and build a uniform information system for all parts
of the cultural and natural heritage compatible with
European and world systems.
In November 2004 the government approved the
Strategy of State Cultural Policy and the Action Plan
for Initial Phase Implementation of Cultural Policy.
One of the goals of the policy is provide for
preservation and access to cultural heritage, its
systematic digitisation and implementation of ICT
to cultural infrastructure. The strategy explicates
among others these priorities of the action plan that
include digitisation: restoration of audio-visual cultural
heritage and launch of the "Register of Culture" project.
The Ministry of Culture prepares strategy
of systematic digitisation of audiovisual materials
according to which state institutions (Slovak Television,
Slovak Film Institute and its part National Film Archives)
will preserve audiovisual material held by

these institutions and also private entities.
In cultural sector it is the respective central national
institution that manages digitisation projects. Under
Ministry of Culture these projects form a part of the
State Information System (developed since 1995)
and are reviewed by the Board on Implementation
of ICT in the Cultural Sector. Digitisation is funded
from annual budget allocated from Ministry of Culture
as a part of regular contribution to state institutions or
also to other entities (state, local, private) under the grant
schemes offered by the Ministry of Culture in these areas:

• Let's restore our house - preservation of monuments
• Ex Libris – literature, book culture and libraries
• Support for audiovisual creativity
• Cultural activities in the area of art
• Cultural activities of minorities

Co-operation

On national level there exists cooperation among
state and local institutions within projects coordinated
by the National Library (KIS3G), the National Museum
(CEMUZ) and the National Gallery (CEDVU).
Slovakia is involved in the UNESCO Memory
of the World Programme by its Memory of Slovakia
Programme which has these digitisation projects:

• Basagic Islamic Manuscripts (University Library
in Bratislava)
• Illuminated Codices of the Bratislava Chapter House
(Slovak National Library, Slovak National Archives)

The University Library in Bratislava takes part in the
UNESCO projects Value Added services for the Memory

Illustrated baroque epigraph VI, 1600-1700
Illustration with handwritten text
Photo: Pavol Breier
© Slovak National Literary Museum

of the World and Multinational digital library and archiving system in technical sciences. Slovak cultural entities have an opportunity of cooperation within the Visegrad group, Culture 2000, MEDIA Plus and EURIMAGES initiatives. After accession to EU, Slovak cultural institutions are largely invited to get involved in R&D Framework Programs. An example is the TEL-ME-MORE (The European Library) project with participation of the Slovak National Library.

As for NRG and MINERVA results and their usage, the *Good Practice Handbook*, *Charter of Parma*, NRG Terms of Reference and other documents related to digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage (UNESCO) have been translated to Slovak and made widely available at www.viks.sk/digitus. A package of 2003 Status Report, *Charter of Parma* and *Good Practice Handbook* is distributed together with Slovak printed version of the Handbook under the title *Digitisation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage: Recommendations for Slovak Organisations* to about 250 cultural institutions.

Main digitisation initiatives

There are two main cross-sectoral projects that include digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage:

- Programme of Implementation of ICT in Libraries (Slovak National Library), 2002. Within this program, there are two mutually related projects in progress at present: KIS3G - Common Library and Information System; and VIKS - Virtual Library of Slovakia (a digital library)
- National corpus of the Slovak Language and the project of Implementation of ICT in Linguistic research in 2002 – 2006 (Slovak Academy of Sciences).

The following projects are managed by the respective central cultural institution:

- CEMUZ: central register of museum objects (managed by the Slovak National Museum), approved in 2003
- AIS OP: automated information system of preservation of monuments (Institute of Monuments) 2003, Geographic information system of monuments (Institute of Monuments), 2004
- CEDVU: central register of works of fine arts (Slovak National Gallery), 2002
- THEISA: theatrical information system for archives (Theatre Institute), 2002
- LINDA: literary information database (Literary Information Centre); 2002
- SNORKA: music database (Music Centre); 2002
- SKCINEMA: film database (Slovak Film Institute); 2002
- IS DIZAJN: information system for Design (Slovak Centre of Design); 2004

A national cultural portal, Register of Culture, is a project of a national cultural portal managed by the Ministry of Culture, ICT Department. The objective is a comprehensive interface to multiple information databases built in the cultural sector in two logical parts – the register of cultural heritage and the register of cultural activities. In 2005 this initiative will be elaborated into an executive project by the Ministry of Culture and the University Library in Bratislava that will also be the operator of the Register of Culture that will be available at www.registercultury.sk and will be a part of a future European cultural portal. Of many cultural websites maintained by national and regional cultural organisations for users in Slovakia the following can be mentioned:
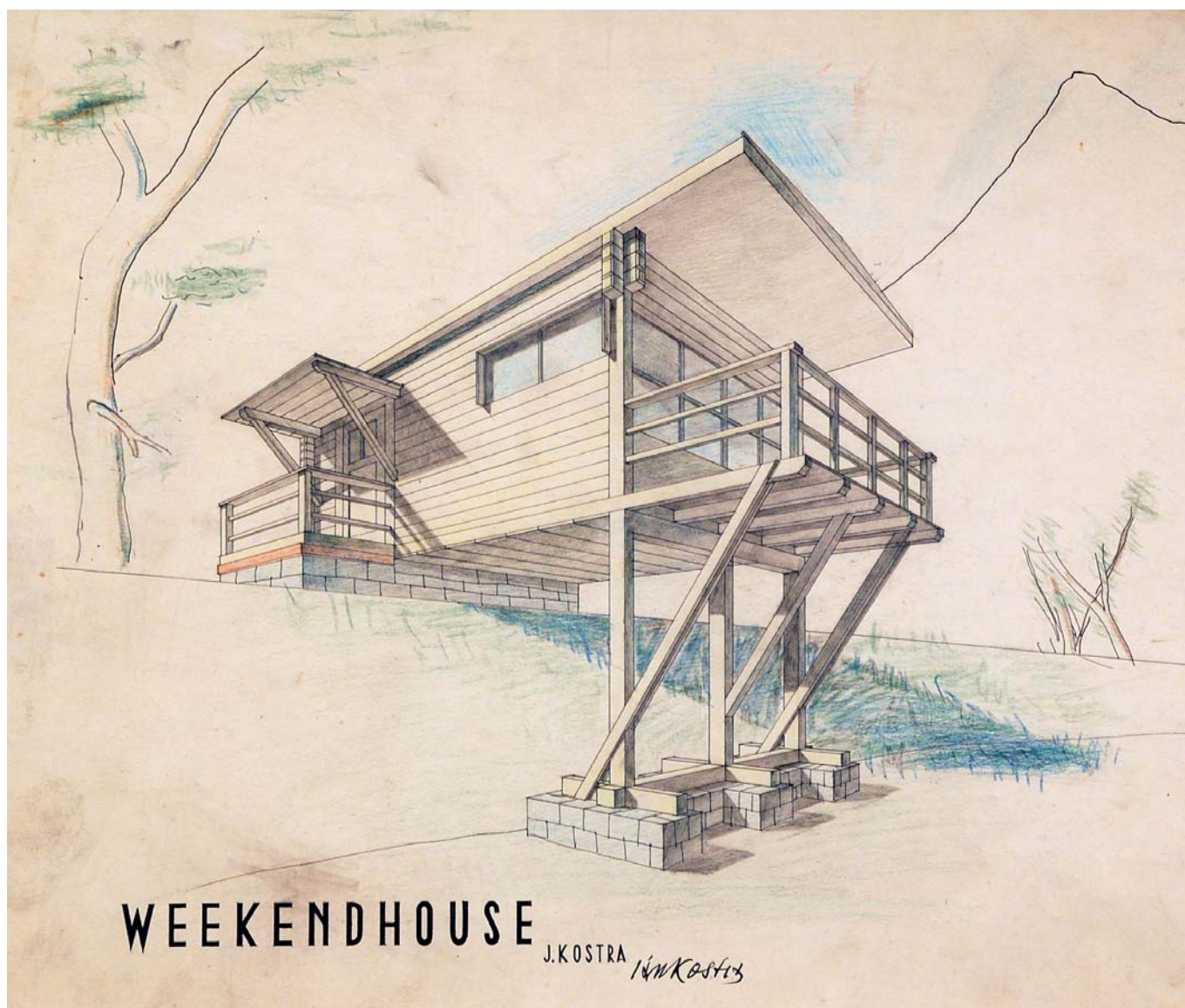
Ján Kostra, *Plán chaty-školská práca* [Weekendhouse - school work], 1931
Architectural drawing
Photo: Pavol Breier
© Slovak National Literary Museum

Jaroslav Vodrážka, *Ako sa Zajkovci dostali na more*
[The Bunny Family on the Sea], 1969
Book illustration
Photo: Pavol Breier
© Slovak National Literary Museum

The Slovak Library
www.kis3g.sk
Through this is a portal users have access to 1.5 million bibliographic records in one common database with holdings of multiple libraries (national library, research libraries, academic libraries, public libraries). At this time there are 3 large libraries involved and in near future the project will extend to other 40+ libraries. Users registered at cooperating libraries can make use of circulation services. Implementation of calendar of events and interactive chat room is also planned.

Memoria Slovaca
www.memoria.sk
This portal is initial result of the Virtual Library of Slovakia project. Currently it contains MARC 21 records and links to digital material pertaining to the Slovak National Literary Museum (including a gallery of about 12.000 art originals), Literature and Art Archives (photographs), historical postcards, full-text documents of digital libraries of Research Project of Stabilizing and Preservation of Paper Media (Kniha_sk) and Research Project of History of the Book Culture (BDKK). Gradually more records and linked digitised material will be added from various heritage organisations.

Central Register of Museum Collections
www.cemuz.sk
This catalogue currently contains sample records. Nationwide cooperation is underway to gradually process and make available over 8 million museum artifacts kept in Slovak museums.

Central Register of Works of Fine Art
www.sng.sk
From this National Gallery's website central catalogue of works of art (paintings, sculptures etc.) located in

Slovak museums and galleries. This catalogue is built since 1990 and will be accessible to public with over 220 000 records.

Slovak Film Database
www.sfd.sfu.sk
This is a portal to all Slovak movies (live action, documentary, cartoons) filmed from 1921. It also contains a list of film creators, actors, directors, script writers and film characters. It offers advanced search optionsAt the moment there are 2135 creators, 393 films, 2685 characters and 344 photographs.

Martin Benka, *Strážcovia a ochránkyne*
[Guards and Guardians], 1942
Book illustration
Photo: Pavol Breier
© Slovak National Literary Museum