

Cyprus

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A. Users and content

Cyprus Cultural Portal

The Portal begins its operation with first partner being the Cultural Services of Ministry of Education and Culture. One of its prime purposes is to digitize and make publicly accessible information and material on Cypriot writers, musicians, directors, visual artists and performers, based on the files and archives of the Cultural Services.

State Gallery for Contemporary Cypriot Art

The State Gallery of Cypriot Contemporary Art operates under the Ministry of Education and Culture and its archives are subject to the Digitisation process currently under way. There are over 2,100 works in the State Collection and the State Gallery maintains full records for all artists as well as for artworks. The Digitisation process for the archives of the State Gallery began in 2006. So far, 1,600 digital photographs of archival items are now stored in DVDs and will be accessible to users through the Cyprus Cultural Portal.

The Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

The register of ancient monuments at present numbers 1146 scheduled monuments from which 184 are in the occupied part of Cyprus.

There are 464 ecclesiastical monuments, mostly churches and monasteries. Scheduled monuments are divided into two schedules. Those which belong to Schedule A are the property of the Cyprus Government, those which belong to Schedule B are privately owned. To this second Schedule belong almost all ecclesiastical monuments and houses of folk architecture.

Cataloguing

As far as movable cultural property is concerned, this is listed category by category. There are nine

categories: ceramics, stone, metal, faience, glass, wood, ivory, textiles, frescoes/wall paintings.

The number of movable antiquities is so great that a designation item by item is an almost impossible task. The item by item designation is used for cataloguing immovable cultural heritage

New awareness and new efforts

Efforts are also being made towards computerisation. The establishment of a data base with the classification of cultural heritage is now under formulation. There exists already a complete list and classification of all the ancient monuments situated in Kyrenia district which since July 1974 has been under the occupation of the Turkish army. We can now say that there is a small and gradual increase in public awareness of the problems associated with cultural heritage. There is, also, an increase in municipal ambition for the conservation of important sites and monuments and there is a small number of associations dealing with matters concerning the protection of cultural heritage at the local and regional levels

`<http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/da/da.nsf/DMLindex_en/DMLindex_en?OpenDocument>`

In the website you can find information, both in Greek and English, concerning the history, the mission and the responsibilities of the Department of Antiquities. You may also become aware of the legislative framework that governs the antiquities of Cyprus, the publications and educational programmes of the Department and the excavations that take place on the island, as well as the looting of the island's cultural heritage in the occupied part of Cyprus.

The biggest part of the website contains information concerning public museums and all the open-to-the-public ancient monuments and archaeological sites.

Inventory and Documentation

Concerning the built heritage, the Department of Town Planning and Housing manages the Architectural Heritage Inventory of Cyprus. This consists of over 10,000 index cards describing an equal number of vernacular structures in all towns and 75 selected villages all over the government-controlled part of Cyprus, accompanied by a series of cadastral maps. This inventory is continuously upgraded through an established process, with the aim of covering all government-controlled areas.

Cyprus Theatre Organisation

A living cell of the world theatre community.

Production Archive (341 entries)

The "Production Archive" is an on-line database, relating to theatrical productions.

Within this archive, one can find useful information on productions, actors and production teams, production companies, venues and other relevant documents, from the year of establishment of the Cyprus Theatre Organisation, to the present day. Currently however, this on-line production archive is only available in the Greek language.

<http://www.thoc.org.cy/eng/archive/index.htm>

Cyprus Handicraft

The Cyprus Handicraft Centre in Nicosia hosts experimental workshops for the traditional arts and crafts, such as embroidery, weaving, woodcarving, pottery, metalwork, general handicrafts, leatherwork and garment-making. The workshops are staffed by craftsmen specialized in a variety of traditional arts and crafts, working under the guidance and supervision of experienced instructors. The basic aim of the experimental workshops is the creation of new designs and items based on traditional motifs and techniques. Also, training courses are organised in various crafts and are open to everyone. The Cyprus Handicraft Centre also maintains archives and a permanent exhibition hall, where authentic traditional handicrafts are displayed side by side with contemporary ones, produced either at the Cyprus Handicraft Service's workshops or by private artisans. In the shop, the visitor can find genuine handcrafted articles representing nearly all the island's traditional crafts. Apart from the Cyprus Handicraft Centre

in Nicosia, there are also district centres in Lemesos, Larnaka and Pafos with shop and experimental workshops.

http://www.mcit.gov.cy/mcit/mcit.nsf/dmlhandicraft_en/dmlhandicraft_en?OpenDocument

Cyprus Research Centre

In December 2003, the University of Cyprus Library completed the project "Creation of Digital Library for the Oral History Archives of the Cyprus Research Centre". The project included the cataloguing and the digitisation of 3.021 photographs and 7.046 audio cassettes with interviews recorded during the period 1960-2002. All the material is searchable via ABEKT5.5, a standard library and information services software, with direct hyperlinks to the corresponding digitised audio files.

The creation of a Physical Union Catalogue constitutes a big technical challenge and simultaneously a challenge for the qualitative upgrade of the services provided by the Hellenic Academic Libraries. The qualitative upgrade consists of the unification of the existing electronic catalogues and the creation of an Interlibrary Lending System for the members of Hellenic Academic Libraries Network.

The experimental base of Collective List is currently consisted of 9 (out of 37) collections. The number of records exceeds the 450.000 (as on 10/7/2005), and the prospect is to incorporate at least 20 libraries until the end of year with more than one million records originated from 5 different systems. The final objective remains the maximisation of the level of quality of the offered services in the libraries and in the final user.

Radio and TV Archives

The University of Cyprus Library has submitted a proposal for "The Organisation, Conservation and Digitisation of the Radio and TV Archives of the State Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation".

Higher Technical Institute

The HTI was established in 1968 as a joint project between the Cyprus Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For the implementation of the above Programme, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance was appointed as the responsible authority on behalf

of the Cyprus Government, and UNESCO (in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation in certain areas) on behalf of the UN. Up to 1973, HTI functioned on the basis of a joint project which was funded by the Cyprus Government and the special UN fund. Since 1973, however, the Cyprus Government, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, has exclusively undertaken the responsibility for the operation of the Institute.

European Research Programmes

Since 1994 HTI has been participating in various European Programmes

- LEONARDO DA VINCI Programme, Project No. D/02/B/F/PP-112615: MARVEL Virtual Laboratory in Mechatronics, Access to Remote and Virtual e-Learning (October 2002 – date).
- EU-KIT – 204 Surfmod: 3D Scanning, Reconstruction & Reproduction in Mechanical Engineering Architecture, Archaeology
- EU - Jewelmed: jCA3 – 1999 – 2005 Identification, Analysis, Preservation & Dissemination of manufacturing technologies in goldsmithing & silversmithing from the 7th to 1st century BC in the Mediterranean area.

The Cyprus Public Record Office

State Archives

The Cyprus Public Record Office was established in 1978 under the Public Record Law, 1972, to provide for the preservation of public records. In 1991 it was renamed "State Archives" under the new State Archives Law, which repealed the Public Record Law 1972. It is a service under the Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

The State Archivist is responsible for taking all necessary steps for the maintenance and functioning of the State Archives and for the preservation of the records under his charge (s.4 and s.5). Other main provisions of the Law deal with the selection and transfer by departments, under the guidance of the State Archivist, of records for permanent preservation to the State Archives (s.6.), the disposal by destruction or other means of those not required for preservation (s.6), the appointment of places of deposit other than the State Archives (s.7) and access

by the public to the records 30 years after their creation, unless the Minister of Justice and Public Order has prescribed a different period in the case of records containing sensitive information (s.8). A definition of what are "public records" for the purposes of the Law is included (s.2).

The section Photographs hosts some photographs from the State Archives archival material. The quantity of records now stored in the State Archives amounts to 3,54 linear kilometres of shelving. Some of the principal archival holdings are the Governors' Archives and the Secretariat Archives dating from 1878 to 1960 as well as other groups of colonial records. None of the previous rulers of the island (Richard I of England, the Knights of St. John, the Lusignan dynasty, the Venetian Republic and the Ottoman Turks) left behind any collections of public records. Only a small number of Ottoman state documents survived, having in 1878 been taken over by the British authorities at the time of the island's transfer from the Ottoman Empire to the British. Thus, public records in Cyprus means the surviving manuscripts and other related records created by the British colonial authorities between 1878-1960, as well as Republic of Cyprus Records whose administrative use has ended, and which are available for selection and permanent preservation.

Since 1985, the State Archives, in an effort to enrich their holdings with records of earlier historical periods of the island, have been involved in an ongoing project with the UK's Public Record Office, purchasing microfilms of colonial records relating to Cyprus. Furthermore, in 1990 the State Archives commenced a similar project, purchasing microfilms and transcriptions of records relating to Cyprus from the State Archives of Venice. This project has now finished and a new one has commenced with the Marciana Library.

The State Archives of Cyprus have already started taking necessary steps to face the changes that will arise due to the technological development of our era. Some government departments already create records in electronic form. The State Archives are considering such issues as the management and safekeeping of these electronic records and their accessibility to the public. The State Archives are looking forward to the automation of all government departments, which is currently under way. This development will

give new direction in the flow of its work and all required actions are being taken in order to be able to continue to fulfil the role of a “common service” in relation to other government departments. The office automation of the public sector and especially the automation of the State Archives will additionally improve the facilities available in the reading rooms and will give readers a better opportunity for more in-depth research.

The new century and the dramatic changes it brings in technology suggest an entirely new function and role for State Archives around the world. The sciences of Archive Administration and Records Management should consider Computer Science subjects in order to keep up with the rapid developments in the field. The new archivists should be computer literate if they are to cope with the computerization and automation of governmental systems. Readers will need help and guidance on how to handle and research machine-readable records. The age of paper-printed documents will soon co-exist with the era of electronic records. Regardless of these technological changes and innovations, the State Archives of Cyprus will continue to be fundamental to the safeguarding of the island's history.

http://www.mjpo.gov.cy/mjpo/mjpo.nsf/dmlstate_en/dmlstate_en?OpenDocument

Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

The archives of the Cyprus Bank Cultural Foundation contain the following:

- Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage,
- Cyprus Map Collection,
- Rare Historical Documents Collection Engravings,
- Old Photographs and Watercolours,
- Art Collection of Cypriot Artists and the
- Museum of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection.

Today, the Cultural Foundation's Publications Programme can be proud of no less than one hundred publications which have been produced in the past twenty years; it includes editions in the following sectors: Cypriot cartography, Cypriot coinage, archaeology and history of Cyprus, guides to archaeological, byzantine and historical monuments, Cypriot literature, Children's and Young Adult's books, Cypriot art, publications on the environment, studies concerning the Foundation's collections and a broad spectrum of Cyprological studies. The programme also

includes publications, CDs and Video productions issued by the Cultural Foundation in collaboration with other organizations in Cyprus and abroad.

Laiki Bank Cultural Foundation

<https://www.laiki.com/web/w3au.nsf/WebContentDocsByID/ID-3A2FF8CCB22CFBD9C2256B8500364079>

Art Collection: Works of Art

The Laiki Group Cultural Centre possesses one of the largest collections of works of art in the country. The collection focuses mainly on modern art and aims at assisting the younger generation of Cypriot artists to make a name of their own. It also includes excellent and highly representative examples from the works of earlier generations of Cypriot artists, such as Diamantis, Kanthos, George Pol. Georgiou, Ioannis Kissonergis, Loukia Nicolaidou, Christoforos Savva and several others. The Cultural Centre aims at rendering the collection an opportunity for the public to become acquainted with the fruits of local artistic creativity. (which never ceases to flourish in a country whose brilliant colours and dazzling light provide constant inspiration).

Rare Book Collection: Books, Engravings, Maps, Colonial Documents, Newspapers, Journals, Magazines.

An important part of the Cultural Centre's Collections is the Rare Book Collection, amounting to several hundreds of volumes and including books from the 16th to the mid- 20th centuries.

The Collection is divided into several categories: books, newspapers, magazines, colonial documents, engravings, maps. This broad range of information that the Centre has been collecting over the years, is intended to become a resource centre for historians and researchers. In a country like Cyprus, whose history and cultural identity are constantly under threat, finding and collecting books, which are a source of historical information, is one of the most important ways of preserving our national identity.

Postcard and Photograph Collection: Events and Views of Cyprus through the photographic lens

The third part of the Collection consists of photographs and postcards.

The photographs in the collection date from as early as the end of the 19th century and include examples

from the works of John Thomson, Tristram Ellis, Cesnola, Bonfils and others, and cover the period until the mid-20th century. The photographs record some of the most important events of the political life of the country, including: the Archbishopric issue, the October uprising, the island's participation in the two World Wars, the 1955-1959 struggle for liberation, the events of 1963-64 etc.

This postcard collection is among the most extensive of its kind. It begins in 1901, when the first postcard was printed in Cyprus spanning until the late 1960s. The cards are not only collector's items but also constitute important photographic documentary evidence of times gone by, and are therefore treasures of the utmost value for students of History, Ethnology, Folk History, etc.

Following the specifications of the Granada Convention, ratified by the House of Representatives in 1988.

A pilot study for the computerisation of this inventory in co-operation with the University of Cyprus was carried out in 2001.

Museums

According to an unofficial and incomplete survey prepared in 1998 by the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, the number of private (i.e. not established by the state) museums in Cyprus amounts to 51. Some of them are in the process of digitisation of their items; we do not have any numbers for the moment.

Cyprus Main Portals (end of 2006)

Educational Portal

<<http://www.schools.ac.cy>>

Cypria.com

<<http://www.cypria.com>>

Kyprosnet

<<http://www.kyprosnet.com>>

CyprusNet

<<http://www.cyprusnet.com/>>

B. Sustainability of content

Cultural development in Cyprus is for the most part financed by the State. To this day, there exists no comprehensive legal framework to encourage the involvement of the private sector in cultural sponsorship, and as a result this mechanism still remains limited and unstructured. In recent years, Cypriot cultural operators have become more active in seeking EU funding for their activities, but disadvantages in scale and infrastructure, in combination with the competitiveness of European programmes, keep local absorption percentages very low. The Cultural Services currently conduct research and plan to propose a number of measures regarding the legal establishment of private sponsorship schemes for the cultural sector.

The Ministry of Education and Culture intend to establish the National Authority of Digitisation.

The Cyprus Digitisation Committee (CDC) aims to become an agent for coordination and cooperation among institutions and organizations that will actively participate in the creation of the Digital Cyprus Cultural Content and will form the digitisation Network.

Moreover, the Cyprus Digitisation Committee will be an information source for every institution that is interested in issues regarding cultural content digitisation.

