

INDICATE Digital Cultural Heritage e-Infrastructure

Presentación al caso de investigación en exposiciones virtuales. Directrices para la realización de exposiciones virtuales online

Maria Teresa Natale

Istituto centrale per il catalogo e la documentazione

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- One of the main goals of public and private cultural institutions (GLAMs) is the promotion and dissemination of knowledge.
- They accomplish their mission thanks to knowledge dissemination tools that include, among others, temporary and permanent exhibitions and exhibits that follow codified models, whose goal is to expose citizens to the national and international cultural and artistic heritage.







The meeting between the languages and methods of traditional cultural promotion (non-virtual exhibits and exhibitions) and the promotion and dissemination of knowledge through web-based methods (online virtual exhibitions) have made it necessary to draft shared guidelines and recommendations that encourage the use of the web and maximize its potential.







This guidelines, edited by MiBAC, aims to illustrate the state of the art in online virtual exhibitions, both on the basis of the actual experience accrued by various Italian institutes and the observation and analysis of international products.

Aim: to clarify some concepts that in literature are not yet fully codified, and give some recommendations to institutions who want to realise projects.







1. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 Expositions, exhibitions, and shows
- 1.2 Online virtual exhibition
 - 1.2.1 Thematic route
 - 1.2.2 Digital item
 - 1.2.3 Hypertext, hypermedia, multimediality, interactivity
 - 1.2.4 Information architecture







Glossary

- The term **exposition**, in its broadest sense, indicates the rational process through which one attempts to divulge a concept or topic by explaining its logical content or linking it to other concepts or topics that help highlight its meaning
- The terms exhibition and show indicate events with a specific venue and time, during which the public can enjoy a series of objects, paper and/or multimedia documents, books, paintings, sculptures, and other items, related to one another and organized according to logical, thematic, spatial, historic, and/or authorial criteria, and made accessible either permanently or temporarily, through one or more narrative routes, with scientific, didactic, and/or promotional goals.









Cultural institutions are increasingly recurring to exhibitions that fall outside the traditional space/time parameters, and are instead staged on IT platforms accessible via the web. These are **online virtual exhibitions**.







An online virtual exhibition is a hypermedia collection accessible via the web, and made up of digital items which are:

- linked together by a common threat, an inter-disciplinary topic, a concept, an idea, an anniversary, a special event, or a physical person
- displayed in 2D or 3D
- occasionally memorised in **distributed networks**
- made accessible through the potential provided by modern technology, thanks to a system architecture designed to provide user-centred, absorbing experiences
- dynamic products that can offer services and be updated periodically.







- Virtual exhibitions are often generated by real events, even though they may result in products that are autonomous, due to the web language they use.
- Online virtual exhibitions can be staged with more or less sophisticated IT tools, depending on the degree of complexity and the goals in question.







 The most basic exhibitions serve as an advertising showcase for real events, including through an ad hoc website. These are often part of a broader set of coordinated marketing actions, whose main goal is to increase the number of visitors to the exhibition. These websites generally comprise a series of informative pages and a photo gallery featuring the exhibition's highlights.







 One step up on the complexity ladder are virtual visits to real exhibitions, based on a specific web project aiming to depict the exhibition's actual arrangements, and allowing users to approximate as much as possible a real visit, enhanced at times by information pages. Sometimes users need to download specific software in order to access this service.







 The most sophisticated are complex virtual exhibitions making full use of the conceptual, instrumental, and linguistic tools provided by new technologies, and using the full extent of their potential.









- In summary, a collection of digital items, in and of itself, does not constitute a material or virtual exhibition. It is only when the items are carefully selected to illustrate a topic, and are tied together forming a narrative or a logical itinerary, that they constitute an exhibition.
- Online virtual exhibitions, independently of degree of sophistication of the technology used, can and must be put together in such a way that they can provide alternative experiences to the real event, which can involve the user in a process of discovery, knowledge acquisition, and learning.







Definition of the architecture



The three macroacreas of a virtual exhbition: contents, information, services









Production process of a virtual exhibition

- 2.1. Conception
 - 2.1.1 Brainstorming
 - 2.1.2 Thematic relations
 - 2.1.3 Virtual exhibitions and thematic routes for educational purposes
- 2.2. From planning to creation
 - 2.2.1. The project team
 - 2.2.2. Selection of digital resources
 - 2.2.3 Definition of the architecture: contents, information, and services
 - 2.2.4 The technology to be used
 - 2.2.4.1 Mobile devices
 - 2.2.4.2 Augmented reality
 - 2.2.5 The budget
 - 2.2.6 Definition of operating phases and timeline
- 2.3 Testing, publication, communication, and dissemination
 - 2.3.1 Testing and publication
 - 2.3.2. Communication and dissemination
 - 2.3.2.1 Traditional communication tools
 - 2.3.2.2 Social media marketing
- 2.4 Updating, maintenance, and conservation







- 3. EIGHTEEN RECOMMENDATIONS AND ONE PIECE OF ADVICE
- 4. TOOL KIT
 - 4.1 Graphic design
 - 4.2 Text style
 - 4.3 Multi-media resources
 - 4.3.1 Still Images
 - 4.3.1.1 OCR: text conversion
 - 4.3.2 Audio
 - 4.3.3 Video
 - 4.3.4 3D
 - 4.3.4.1 Computer graphics
 - 4.3.4.2 Immersive photography
 - 4.3.4.3 Anaglyph images
 - 4.4 Copyright, re-use of content, and access modalities







Benchmarking	Virtual e	xhibitions/	Thematic routes
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Responsible institution, country	• 3D	• 360° images	
Title Virtual exhibition/Thematic route	Captions	Other (specify)	
URL	 Information on the real exhibition 	Multilingualism (if yes, list languages)	
Realisation Date	Other (specify)	Audiences	
Equivalent real exhibition	Apparata	General public	
Cathegory	Indexes (places, names ecc.)	Researchers	
Virtual exhibition	Bibliographies	• Schools	
	Webliographies	• Children	
Thematic Route	Chronologies	• Other (specify)	
 Other (specify) 	Sources Glossaries		
Technical features	Pubblications and catalogues	— Usability quality (high, middle, scarce)	
Static website	Other (specify)	Accessibility quality (high, middle, scarce)	
• CMS	Services	Text quality (high, middle, scarce)	
Special software	Educational packages	Images quality (high, middle, scarce)	
Simple Search functionalities	· Games	Captions quality (high, middle, scarce)	
Advanced search functionalities	Ticketing	Design quality (high, middle, scarce)	
	Bookshop	Hypertext (Very much, much, few, none))	
	Other (specify)	User generated content	
Content area	Cover	Sharing with social networks (Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, etc.)	
Texts	Other information (only if referring to the exhibition)	Possibility of downloading high resolution images	
Cards	Credits	Mobile version	
Index	Info on technologies	Short description	
 Image galleries 	Terms of use		
Interview	 Copyright (specify) 		
Storytelling	Other (specify)		
Videos	Software	Positive feedback	
Animations	Timeline		
Speeches recordings	Tag cloud		
Music recordings	Tagging	Negative feedback	
Documentations (newspapers articles, etc.)	Geotagging	Consultaion date	
	• Slideshow	Your name	
• Maps	• Zoom	Screenshots (add the homepage or cover screen shot and all	
Graphics	 Turning pages software 	screenshot which can be useful for describing some features	

BASE FOR THE CASE STUDY OF INDICATE





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Roma, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale

27 aprile - 3 glugno 2006

Napoli, Biblioteca Universitaria

26 ottobre - 15 dicembre 2006









Advantages

- help **promote** the cultural heritage preserved by the institution
- are a learning tool that helps enhance knowledge
- can make accessible an **amount** of documents and items that is much greater than what any material exhibition could ever manage to display
- can make accessible to the public the most
 valuable works and documents, without putting
 the national and international cultural heritage at
 risk







Advantages

- help users enjoy documents and works that may not be accessible otherwise
- make it possible to view parts and details of works that could not otherwise be seen, not even through the direct observation of the original
- remain accessible over time, since they are not limited to the duration of the actual event
- can almost always be "visited" free of charge by users from all over the world, who may not be able to visit the actual exhibition







Advantages

- they are dynamic, since they can be modified even after they have been changed, both with regards to planning aspects and to their activities and contents
- can be enhanced by the contributions of users
- they can be staged even on limited budgets, and are less expensive that actual exhibitions
- they can serve as an online archive for information related to the material exhibition
- they can have positive repercussions on the tourism industry.







The working group

IL GRUPPO DI LAVORO

Tatiana Anderlucci (Redazione Via Francigena) Viviana Carini (Redazione Via Francigena) Laura Ciancio (ICCU)

Alfredo Corrao (MiBAC)

Alfredo Esposito (Direzione generale Beni librari) Marina Giannetto (Istituto centrale per gli archivi) Tiziana Fabris (Istituto centrale per gli archivi)) Giuliano Granati (Istituto centrale per gli archivi) Valentina Grippo (Redazione Via Francigena) Cristina Magliano (ICCU)

Adriana Martinoli (Direzione generale Beni librari) Marina Morena (Archivio di Stato di Roma) Maria Teresa Natale (ICCU - OTEBAC)

Elisabetta Pagani (Redazione Internet Culturale)

Paola Panaccio (Istituto centrale per gli archivi) Elisa Sciotti (ICCU)

Priscilla Sermonti (Redazione Via Francigena) Giuliana Zagra (Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma)



Linee guida per la realizzazione di mostre virtuali

http://www.otebac.it/index.php?it/320/m ostre-virtuali-online-linee-guida-per-larealizzazione









How may virtual exhibitions benefit from e-infrastructures? We expect an answer from the experts

Thanks! Maria Teresa Natale

otebac@beniculturali.it mariateresa.natale@gmail.com



