## Digitisation in Lithuanian museums and LM IDC LIMIS

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> The Branch of Lithuanian Art Museum Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS

> > Giedrė Stankevičiūtė

# Cultural heritage digitisation policy in Lithuania

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> The Concept of Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage was approved in 2005 by the Government.

**Strategy on Digitization of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Digital Content Preservation and Access** was approved by Lithuanian Government on 20 May 2009.

Allocation for the cultural heritage digitization is budgeted in the Strategic Framework for Implementation of the Strategy.

## Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS (LM IDC LIMIS)

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The Center was founded on 30 June 2009, following the recommendations of the Museum board of the Ministry of Culture (April 2009) along with the plan for the implementation of the Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Digitisation Strategy.

The centre was established in national **Lithuanian Art Museum** (Bokšto street 5, Vilnius, Lithuania) which has experience in digitisation of museum objects. L M • • • I S C • • L I M I S

#### **Our centre**





### The structure of LM IDC LIMIS

- L M • I S C • • L I M I S
  - Administration;
  - Department of LIMIS and Information Technology;
  - Department of Digitisation;
  - Department of Information, Publishing and Public Relations;
  - Methodical Department.

Regional centers are established in the following museums:

- National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum in Kaunas;
- Šiauliai "Aušra" Museum;
- Lithuanian Sea Museum in Klaipėda.

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#### The main purposes of the Centre

1. To organise and coordinate the creation of LIMIS system, its implementation and development in Lithuanian museums;

2. To organise and coordinate the digitisation of objects held by museums, creation of digital content and its publication;

3. To administer and maintain the portal "Lithuanian Museums" (www.muziejai.lt);

4. To coordinate and organise the educational programmes for museum specialists working in the field of digitization.

## **Projects implemented by our centre in 2010**

- ISC •• LIMIS
- Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage System (VEPS)
- Skills Training Programme for Museum Staff Working in Exhibit Digitisation Field
- Development and Implementation of Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System (LIMIS) in Lithuanian Museums



- Start Date: 3 February, 2010
   End Date: 31 July, 2012
   Duration: 30 months
- The aim is to maintain virtual electronic heritage system and to ensure the continuity in the development and spread of the digitised content of Lithuanian cultural heritage.
- National cultural heritage portal <u>www.epaveldas.lt</u> was created in the first project phase (2005–2008).
- Project is implemented with National Library of Lithuania, National Archives Department and other partners.

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- Development and Implementation of Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System (LIMIS) in Lithuanian Museums

- Start Date: 1 March, 2010
   End Date: 25 November, 2010
- Financed by a new programme of the Ministry of Culture dedicated to the presentation of digital cultural heritage.
- It concentrates on the education of museum specialists especially those working on digitisation issues. The seminars concerning photographing and scanning of exhibits as well the compilation of controlled vocabularies and digitisation are organised.
- New Virtual Exhibition system was introduced in April 2010.

# L M · · · Projects implemented by our centre in 2010 I S C · ·

- LIMIS
- Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage System (VEPS)
- Skills Training Programme for Museum Staff Working in Exhibit Digitisation Field
- Development and Implementation of LIMIS in Lithuanian Museums

- Start Date: 1 March, 2010 End Date: 31 August, 2012 Duration: 30 months
- It will integrate Lithuanian museums' databases into a common information system and ensure the maintenance and development of LIMIS electronic catalogue.
- In the first stage of the project LIMIS will be implemented in 4 national museums and 15 state museums.
- In the second stage LIMIS should involve 67 municipal, 22 departmental and private museums.
- LIMIS project administration and management group is working on it.

# L M • • •Participation in ATHENA projectI S C • •I M I S

- Cooperation agreement between Lithuanian Art Museum and ATHENA project was signed on 14th December 2009.
- LM IDC LIMIS has developed integral virtual exhibition system that enables Lithuanian museums to ingest their content into ATHENA. The system is compatible with LIDO tool designed by ATHENA technical partners.
- □ In spring 2010 we have uploaded 530 digitised museum objects that soon should be available on Europeana.



## **Development of classification systems**

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- LIMIS
  - Methodical Department is responsible for it. Specialists from LIMIS project and other departments also contribute. There are 5-7 people constantly working on classification systems in LM IDC LIMIS.
  - Specialists from other museums, conservators and work groups collaborate in developing of classification systems.
  - □ Resources for classification systems are:
    - The list of standards and normative documents recommended by the Ministry of Culture;
    - The content of collections of Lithuanian museums;
    - Existing thesauruses and classification systems;
    - □ Vocabularies, encyclopedias.

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## **Dictionaries of persons names and keywords**

- They are necessary for LIMIS and will be available in every museum.
- Dictionary of persons names is completed by biographies of the people related to the exhibits and history of Lithuanian museums.
- Dictionary of keywords is developed regarding types of museum objects digitised and classification systems prepared. Every keyword will have equivalent in other languages.

## **Educational work and consultations**

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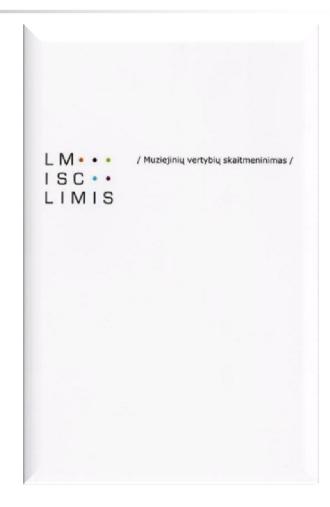
- Museum Wednesdays museum specialists and their friends are invited to contribute to the development of classifiers, virtual exhibitions, dictionaries of keywords and person names and are welcome at LM IDC LIMIS every Wednesday from 1 pm.
- Seminars for museum specialists all across the country:
  - By the end of 2010 there will be organized a total number of 8 seminars for photographers and scanning specialists.
  - 4 seminars dedicated to museum curators in different regional museums (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai).

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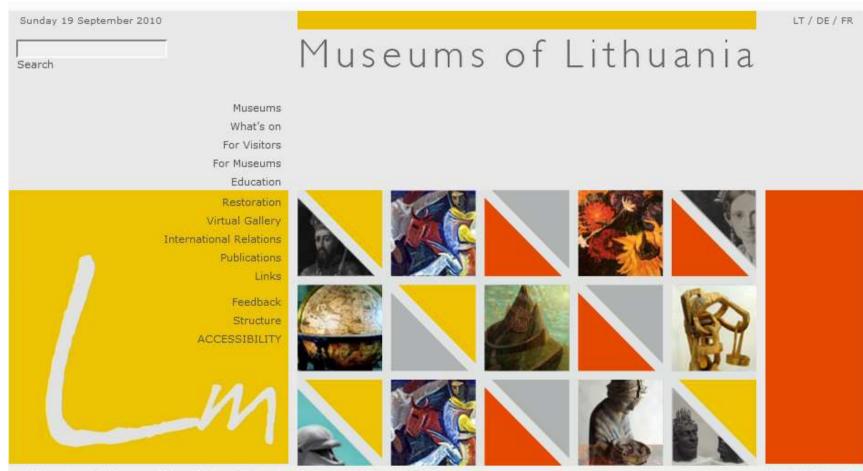
#### **Publications**

Two information-methodical booklets:

- The Digitisation of Museum Valuables"
- The Digitisation of Museum Valuables: Theory and Practice"



#### The portal of Lithuanian museums www.muziejai.lt



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#### Centre's website www.emuziejai.lt



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#### Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS

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