

New Approaches in the Treatment of Digital Libraries of Monumental and Archaeological Settings to be Implemented in Official Web Sites:

A Case Study for the Portal of Italian Culture for the Ministry of Cultural Heritage

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The Scuola Normale Superiore is developing the scientific and technical Project for the new Website of the Pompeii's Superintendence. The Project, promoted and financed by ARCUS S.p.A. and developed with Archaeological Superintendence of Pompeii (SAP), aims at presenting, to the broad public and the scientific community, the archaeological site, the Institution of the SAP and the activities (excavation, scientific research, landscape musealization, etc.) carried out by several institutions in Pompeii and in all the Vesuvian environment. This Website aims at giving to different users a deeper knowledge on Pompeii and information on the cultural supply that they will find on the place.

The existing SAP Website (<http://www.pompeiisites.org/>), published in 1999, contains 1.800 documents (texts, still and moving images, animations), such as information about the administration, news for the tourists, scientific contents, etc.; although it is not aligned with the recent tendencies of the Cultural-Institutional Websites, as in the last years have been developed new ways for communicating the cultural resources, indications and best practices for the accessibility and the interoperability.

The technical and scientific evolution and developing for the digital publication, the interoperability, integration and retrieval of cultural resources offers the possibility to import, export and share documents and interactive resources from and with other repositories. They consequently give to the communication experts more material and a broader range of choice through the available contents, in order to design an impressive and efficient interface that will be able to reply to the expectations of different kinds of users.

In this panorama many researches, projects and discussions have been carried out in the last years, regarding the Institutional Websites, conceived as central nodes for collecting and divulging information and data pertaining to public and private entities subordinated to the Institutions. This data came especially from databases, digital libraries and other resources that have been produced in the context of research projects for the cataloguing and the organization of different kinds of documents and information. Thus, the main objective of an Institutional Website is more and more centered on the porting and the publication of various resources and contents on a unique structured platform.

The Pompeii's Superintendence renewed Website will import data from various content providers, in order to make them interoperable and to publish them in different forms, depending of the various kinds of users, that will have different rights.

The most important data bases and repositories to be imported are:

- Pompeii's GIS (Geographic Information System)
- Digitised Archive of the SIAV (Archaeological Information System of the Pompeii's Superintendence for the geographic area around Mount Vesuvio)
- the Project 'Fortuna Visiva' of Pompeii.

The 'Fortuna visiva' of Pompeii (<http://pompei.sns.it>) is a project conceived and carried out by a scientific team from SNS and Consorzio FORMA, with the support of SAP. The research group benefits from the collaboration of the software designers from Liberologico, with whom they worked to create the architectural layout of the software. The Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Rom, an important partner in the project, contributes precious resources of paintings and designs from its Archives as well as antique and rare books from its Library. The Project analyzes the perception of the monumental and archaeological ensemble and the landscape of Pompeii, through the graphic sources and texts produced starting from the years immediately following its discovery, in 1748, until the end of XIX century. It harbors an organizational system, based on data that inter-relates images and texts. It collects and, at the same time, examines in detail individual testimonies, respecting criteria, when possible, void of subjective interpretations, and thus contributing both to the specific research of the analysis of the selected sources and to the conservation, the arrangement and to the accessibility of rare documents which possess historical, artistic and cultural value. The final product is an on-line Archive of visual and written documents from the XVIII and XIX centuries, ordered in an inter-related database and in a digital library.

The data collected and managed in the web based data base of the 'Fortuna' have already been provided in the peer-to-peer network created by the European IP BRICKS Project, through the Protocol for Metadata Harvesting according to Open Archives Initiative.

A similar solution has been adopted from SNS according to the technical and scientific Project for the Italian Portal of Culture, conceived for Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage; in the Portal a large amount of data provided by regional and local 'subportals', and by databases of Institutions or research centers will be imported and will interoperate, thanks to the metadata harvesting in XML with OAI-PMH. In this case, a Dublin Core Application Profile has been created 'ad hoc' for the Portal, following the DCMI recommendations, in order to detail the quality and quantity of the imported information and to increase the retrieval possibilities. In this scenario, the renewed website of the Pompeii's Superintendence, which will harvest part of the contents from the 'Fortuna Visiva', will provide metadata and contents to the Italian Portal of the Culture and will constitute a case-study for the configuration of an institutional Sub-Portal.

The Project for the renewed Website of the Pompeii's Superintendence offers a new case study to design a model of Institutional Website, applying the experiences acquired for the BRICKS and for the Portal of the Culture Projects, developing new methodologies for the data harvesting and interoperability, for the codification of metadata standard proposals and applications.