

EPOCH Publication

The e-evolution of Information Communication Technology in Cultural Heritage

Where Hi-Tech Touches the Past:
Risks and Challenges for the 21st Century

Short papers from the joint event
CIPA / VAST / EG / EuroMed 2006



30. October – 4. November 2006
NICOSIA, CYPRUS

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Published by ARCHAEOLINGUA
Printed in Hungary by PRIME RATE

ISBN-10: 963 8046 73 2 Ö

ISBN-10: 963 8046 74 0

The electronic version of the publication is available on CD-ROM, distributed by EPOCH.

Budapest 2006



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CIPA / VAST / EG / EuroMed 2006

37th CIPA International Workshop dedicated on e-Documentation and Standardisation in Cultural Heritage

Incorporating:

The 7th International Symposium on Virtual Reality, Archaeology and Intelligent Cultural Heritage

The 4th EUROGRAPHICS Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage 1st Euro-Med Conference on IT in Cultural Heritage

Nicosia, Cyprus

October 30 – November 4, 2006

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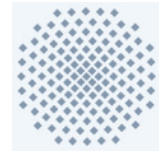
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Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

The VAST 2006 Conference has been partly supported by the EPOCH NoE.
EPOCH is funded by the European Commission under the Community's Sixth Framework Programme,
contract no. 507382 (<http://www.epoch-net.org/>).

The 37th CIPA International Workshop dedicated on e-Documentation and Standardisation in Cultural Heritage
(<http://cipa.icomos.org>) has been supported by CIPA , ISPRS and ICOMOS.

The 6th RecorDIM Roundtable meeting (<http://extranet.getty.edu/gci/recordim/>)
has been partly supported by CIPA and the Getty Conservation Institute, USA.

However, the content of this publication reflects only the authors' views and the European Community, CIPA,
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Foreword

This volume contains the so-called “short” papers presented at the VAST2006 International Conference held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 30 October – 4 November 2006. The Conference is a joint effort of several organisations and continues the successful series of VAST Conferences, which started in Arezzo, Italy, in November 2000, on the eve of the 21st century.

VAST Conferences focus on the applications of Information and Communication Technology to Cultural Heritage and Archaeology. In particular, special attention is paid to computer visualization technologies and 3D modelling, which have an outstanding importance in the explanation and communication of heritage to a broad audience of visitors. The variety of themes presented are of equal importance, such as the documentation of heritage, the foundation of preservation and specific technologies, such as mobile computing and 3D data capture and processing. During its life, VAST has shared its goals with EPOCH, the European Network of Excellence on ICT applications to Cultural Heritage (www.epoch-net.org), and naturally became the venue for hosting the reports of the Network’s activity. Since 2004, EPOCH has become the primary supporter of VAST, which also hosts the Eurographics Workshop on Graphics and Cultural Heritage since 2003. Eurographics also became the publisher of the “full” papers proceedings. In the 2006 edition, other organizations have joined in this effort.

One of these organisations is CIPA, which is one of the oldest International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS (The International Society for Monuments and Sites) and was founded in 1968 jointly with ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) to facilitate the transfer of technology from measurement sciences into heritage documentation and recording disciplines. CIPA originally stood for the Comité International de Photogrammétrie Architecturale (<http://cipa.icomos.org>). However, this old and well known name no longer describes the full scope of CIPA activities, therefore CIPA Heritage Documentation was established, which is now an organization that endeavours to transfer technology from measurement and visualisation sciences to the disciplines of Cultural Heritage recording, conserva-

tion and documentation. CIPA holds an International Symposium every two years. Accompanying these Symposia, frequent specialist workshops are held, which deal with specific topics. The topics chosen for this year are dedicated to e-documentation and standardization in Cultural Heritage.

Another contributing organization is fairly new but excitingly important for the joint event. The EuroMed conference functions as a bridge between European and Middle East countries and it allows the distribution of knowledge throughout the entire region. The theme of this conference was dedicated to IT in Cultural Heritage.

The papers contained here are shorter in length, but not lower in quality. Authors have chosen to contribute preliminary results of work-in-progress in a shorter form, while mature research is presented in the “full” papers volume. “Short” papers have been peer-reviewed and due to the great number of submissions, only a small part of them could be accepted and published.

If the number and quality of papers should measure the success of the joint event, these “short” papers would substantially contribute in both regards. Moreover, we consider this conference as a successful event because it managed to bring together so many participants and to join the efforts of different organizations, all contributing to a better knowledge of our common heritage.

The papers contained here deal with project activities, i.e. applied research, organization, on-field applications and the lessons learnt from these. Authors have chosen to report their successes and problems when trying to match theory with reality, which in our opinion is not less important than the advances in theoretical research presented in the “full” papers volume. “Project” papers have been peer-reviewed and due to the great number of submissions only a small part of them could be accepted and published.

*David Arnold, UK, Marinos Ioannides, CY,
Franco Niccolucci, IT, Katerina Mania, GR*

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