Intangible cultural heritage and digital tools: 
Passing on, participative management, issues at stake

Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 September 2015
French centre for intangible cultural heritage (FCICH)
World Cultures Institute – Vitré (35)

Fourth FCICH international seminar
In collaboration with Geriico laboratory (Lille III University)
With the support of the Directorate General for Heritage, department of research management and scientific policy (ministry of Culture and Communication)
A Chonbuk national University (republic of Korea) and
UNESCO ITEN University chair (Paris VIII University) partnership

The intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is protected by the UNESCO 2003 convention. The convention defines ICH as a living, never ending process. The safeguarding of ICH implies community-based, decentralized and participative policies to allow the communities of practitioners to preserve their way of life and pass on their traditions. Therefore, one of the main issues of the convention is to provide new protection and development tools that preserve their dynamic and participative nature. In this respect digital tools and web 2.0 in particular offer promising perspectives to preserve ICH specificity while respecting its specificity. Indeed, these tools allow the inventory of several different expressions of the same element (thus respecting the participative nature of ICH), but they also allow further reinterpretations of registered practices (thus respecting the evolving aspect of ICH). Because of their open and participative structure software platform should solve two major issues when it comes to safeguarding: the traditional “top-down” structure of heritage institutions and the risks of simplification or even “fossilization” that do exist in documentation and archival storage.

In the recent years, software based on the digitization of cultural elements (monuments, museum collections, documents, etc.) became very popular. Experiences have also been led in the ICH field such as i-Treasures (www.i-treasures.fr), E.C.H.I (www.intangibleresearch.it), the korean project (ichpedia.org) or the Scottish project (ichscotlandwiki.org). However the forecasted role of digital tools in ICH safeguarding is not that simple. How can digital tools help to preserve ICH participative and living nature while developing and inventoring it? How to integrate these new applications in institution-led inventories? How to protect the communities’ rights on their elements displayed on the Internet?

These questions will be dealt with during the seminar. Three panel discussions divide the themes.

- Digital technologies and participative management

The new digital tools seem to offer innovative solutions to facilitate the communities’ involvement in the defining of their own ICH. Although experiments are currently underway, they do stumble upon technical, social and ethical issues. How to convince the communities to actually use these new platforms? What are the most adequate technical solutions available? Is it possible to rely on the popular social media networks such as Facebook and YouTube for an institutional safeguarding policy?
- **Passing down, development and mediation**

   New technologies have become the most efficient and reliable tool for heritage documentation and archive management. These tools do not only allow easy conservation and safeguarding, but also provide new opportunities to access and development. The real impact of digital tools on ICH has yet to be determined. What are the challenges the digital projects have to overcome in the ICH development process?

- **Ethical and legal issues**

   In the recent years, ICH safeguarding and development rose several questions about the communities of practitioners' rights. The protection of these rights became all the more complex as the digital technologies rose in importance, for they do imply their own ethical and legal issues. The crucial point is to find an adequate balance between the authorship and access rights. What are the solutions to adopt in order to protect the practitioners private life without hampering the diffusion possibilities?

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**Provisional programme**

**Tuesday 8 September 2015**

10h45 **Welcoming**

11h Opening speech, **Christian Hottin**, heritage curator, assistant commissioner, Directorate General for Heritage, Department of Research Management and Scientific Policy (ministry of Culture and Communication), **Séverine Cachat**, FCICH Head (World Cultures Institute) and **Marta Severo**, researcher, Lille III University (GERiiCO laboratory)

11h10 **Wikipedia and heritage : a participative definition**, **Rémi Mathis**, heritage curator, French national Library (BnF), Wikimédia France director from 2011 to 2014

12h10 **Hugues Sicard**, information system consultant, Intangible Heritage Section, Cultural Sector (UNESCO)

12h50 **Lunch (buffet)**

**13h50 Session 1 – Partaking, passing-down, developing**

Session chairwoman : **Cécile Tardy**, Lille III University (GERiiCO laboratory)

13h50 **The Korean Republic situation and ichpedia.org project** **Hwarim Cho** and **In-Sook Ma**, teachers, national University of Chonbuk (Republic of Korea)

14h30 "PCI Lab" project : developing the French ICH national inventory, **Jean-Jacques Casteret**, director, l'Ethnopôle InOc (Institut occitan d'Aquitaine), **Mélanie Larché**, scientific mediation (InOc).

15h10 **Pause**

15h25 **The scottish project ichscotlandwiki.org**, **Alison et Alistair McCleery**, teachers, Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland)
15h55  From first footing to faeries : an inventory of Scotland's living culture, Sara Thomas, wikimedian in residence in Museums Galleries Scotland

16h35  i-Treasures project, Francesca Dagnino, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italia

17h15  The global archiving of intangible heritage, Sheenagh Pietrobruno, Assistant professor, School of Social Communication, Faculty of Human Sciences, Saint Paul University (Canada)

17h55  Closing day

19h30  Diner

21h00  FCICH building and exhibitions visit, followed by a guided tour around Vitré, French town of Arts and History

Wednesday 9 September 2015

8h45  Welcoming

9h00  Opening

9h15  Session 2 - ICH and digital technologies : legal and ethical issues

   Session chairman : Patrice Marcilloux, archival science teacher, Angers University

9h15  For a digital humanism, Milad Doueihi, digital humanism chairman (Labex OBVIL), Paris IV-Sorbonne University/ digital cultures chairman Laval University(Canada)

10h15  Digital-native heritage : governing, research and development issues Valérie Schafer, researcher CNRS (Institute for sciences and communication), in charge of the Digital technologies trajectories centre

11h  Who owns public cultural data : copyrights and development, Anne-Laure Stérin, business law jurist, Paris I University

11h45  Ethical and legal questions about digital data dissemination, Véronique Ginouvès (videoconference), in charge of the Mediterranean House of human sciences sound library (CNRS/Aix-Marseille University)

12h30  Lunch

14h  Session 3 - Users and customs

14h00  ICH and digital technologies : Observatory of users and customs, Marta Severo and Francesca Cominelli, researcher, Paris I University (IREST)

14h40  Round table : projects and feedbacks

   Session chairwoman : Florence Pizzorni, head curator, General Museum Inspection, Directorate General for Heritage (ministry of Culture and Communication)

   - Creating a participative Web documentary about fest-noz : a making of Charles Quimbert, Bretagne Culture Diversité (BCD) manager

   - Digital mediation : issues and specificities  Jean-Pierre Dalbera, head of the Research and technology mission (ministry of Culture and Communication) from 1989 to 2004, expert, Sylvaine Leblond-Martin,
musicologist, researcher in communication sciences, Renan Mouren, researcher in communication sciences, chairman Unesco ITEN (Information, Passing down, Digital Edition), Paris VIII University/House of the sciences of man foundation

- Developing the FCICH archives : virtual expositions, project “performing arts” (Google Cultural Institute) Nolwenn Blanchard, audiovisual resources management, FCICH and Alexandre Quéré, Rennes II University/FCICH

16h20 Conclusions, Marta Severo

Open to exterior public (mandatory inscription) : info@cfpci.fr

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