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Publication date

2021

Document Version

Final published version

Published in

LDE Heritage Conference on Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals

Citation (APA)

Bai, N., Pereira Roders, A., & Corten, J. P. (2021). Roundtable IV: Heritage, Digitalization and Sustainability. In U. Pottgiesser, S. Fatoric, C. Hein, E. de Maaker, & A. Pereira Roders (Eds.), *LDE Heritage Conference on Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Proceedings* (pp. 525-527). TU Delft OPEN Publishing.

Important note

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable).
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Roundtable IV: Heritage, Digitalization and Sustainability

Nan Bai, Ana Pereira Roders, Jean Paul Corten

Date: 28 November 2019, 11.00

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INTRODUCTION

Around 20 people participated in the roundtable session: experts from around the world with an interdisciplinary background in history, GIS, urban planning and design, architectural design, remote sensing, HUL, culture landscape, conservation, and water resources engineering. The roundtable started with participants introducing themselves and describing their background and experience in heritage and digitalization.

INDIVIDUAL SHORT PRESENTATION

- How do we make sure heritage contributes to SDG?
- How do we integrate digitalization in heritage?

Help reaching the goal. Make use of GIS for younger generation. Technology can help researchers working together. Social media. Boost the sense of place to better manage heritage. Participation in Belt and Road initiative. Satellite high-resolution data to be, acquired, processed and shared. VR digital reconstruction rather than physical. Proper decision-making process, safeguarded by digitalization.

Thorough discussion of technology. Building a bridge, mixed style of research. AI application but always with the critical mindset of analogical pursuit. Documentation and digitalization for conservation. Developmental path of modern technology. Idea of digitalization of stories.

RESEARCH: WHAT IS THE STATE-OF-ART? HOW TO MOVE FORWARD?

Challenge of data management over time: different format, vulnerable, hard to get access as technology keeps evolving?

- Time-consuming, differs from one institution to another. Sharing information difficult. Harder to achieve because of confidentiality (land-use plan).
- Historical map research in Brazil before Olympic Games in layers in GIS; however, public access to the research results difficult because of the platform. Easy software, workshops for community, licensing of tools, common society, even for children.
- When project is finished, the implementation is crucial.
- Everyone giving different input to GIS, not integrated enough, even conflicting with one other.
- Labels of different databases are hard to link. Losing reliability. Protocol of working file!
- Easy user interface and communication.
- Transparency and confidentiality issues make international cooperation difficult.
- Monument located in sensitive region would be problematical.
- Suitable resolution is an important consideration.
- Open-source like Q-GIS, probably better than ArchGIS. Address linking data layers.

PRACTICE: WHAT IS THE STATE-OF-PRACTICE? HOW TO MOVE FORWARD?

Conservation challenge. By creating new data, you create new problems. How to conserve the data, how to preserve it for future generations, how to store the data?

- Data management center in university, but outside?
- Paying for data storage. Institutions have a problem with copyright issue. Ownership.
- Sharable data leads to problems.
- Share public property outcome. World heritage to be shared with public.
- Open-access data repository, ownership, extra work!
- Coding: collaborative platform.
- Archival issue, part public, part non-public.
- What is the boundary between public and private?
- Buddha Towers: share the data with the institute. Free satellite data. Digital laboratory. Weightless machine to measure the tower. Sharing the research outcome.
- How far to go when there is a border?
- Depending on the property owner it might be difficult to share the data.

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE: HOW TO IMPROVE COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS

Practice appropriate to academia. A framework to address everything. Same coding system, structured. National/international tools appropriate to the different sectors.

- Digitalization making the world more complicated?
- Complexity helps you understand more, as an adult understands the world in a more complex way than a child.
Information overload may be good. Combining talent and challenges.
- How to behave as researcher/practitioner. Sharing the process/everything rather than only sharing the outcome. Puzzles feeding the need for one other.
- How to define the framework?
- Help improve even if we disagree with one other.
- Borderless: everything should be open, with the exception of personal data.
- Necessity of stakeholders. Not only society and heritage, but also engineering companies. Getting technologists involved in preservation.
- Finding the common ground for stakeholders, dynamic.
- Powerful institute? Participatory activities?
- Who is the problem owner? Probably all.
- Everyone's interest. No one's interest.
- Analyze the stakeholders and indicators.

CONCLUSION

Later, topics including digitalization research, practice, and the combination of research and practice were discussed. Issues of accessibility, continuity, and confidentiality were raised.

It was agreed during the roundtable that we need a better integrated framework to link research, practice, and different stakeholders, one that could be easily accessed by the researchers, public and future generations, and that we should not be afraid of complexity and the problems caused by digitalization but see it as a good opportunity.