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READ ABOUT...
Project of Digitization of Art Documentation
Department, Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade

Art documentation department gathers, prepares, categorizes and stores professional literature (books, catalogues, periodicals, electronic editions), daily press, archive material and photo documentation from the field of visual arts, especially modern and contemporary international, Yugoslav and Serbian art. The library contains 4.900 books, 45.000 exhibition catalogues, 380 issues of professional periodicals and more than 200.000 of daily press, etc. Thanks to the systematic gathering of materials which followed the forming of various collections and the MoCA exhibition activity, the department is now in possession of the finest and most complete documentation, including all the materials about both the art and artists from the territory of ex-Yugoslavia. Another assignment of the department is the preparation of all the necessary materials for exhibitions, catalogues and programmes of MoCA. Regarding the scope, the thoroughness and the quality of the fund itself, the Department represents a local research-documentation center of great importance for studying of the 20th century art, especially art in ex-Yugoslavia's countries.

ADD makes possible that researchers, curators or students find almost everything at one place. Our idea is to make research as fast as it can be, and to offer as much information as we can. But on the other hand our obligation is to conserve rare publications. In the past those two goals were mutually opposed, but today new technology made it possible to realize both goals at the same time.

Another assignment of the department is the preparation of all necessary material for exhibitions, catalogues and programmes of MoCA. Because of that, the staff of ADD is composed at the same time of librarian and the research workers.

Considering all the assignments the department has to deal with, new digital technologies can help a lot in its daily work.

We started the whole project in the collaboration with the National Library of Serbia as an institution with most experience in digitization, and with National Center for Digitization.

1st stage – choosing database software. The first part of the project consists of choosing the most suitable database software. The fact that the fund of ADD is consisted mainly of library material and that library has well developed standards (*The International Standard Bibliographic Description* for all kind of publications) strongly determined the choice of the software. But the fact that the ADD is a special library and documentary center at the same time, software should be adaptable and inflected. The software cooled "Pergam" created by the UNIMARK standard, but is enough flexible for a special library. We are still in the phase of exploring the possibilities of "Pergam" and this first project – Read about... – is result of that.

2nd stage. Creating software that connects Pergam entry with digital images. We use UNIMARK standard and fields inside the standard. For example:

```
235. Zapis: KD 26
OSL nam0 aleksandra
001 KD 26
100 <a>20070410d19591960m y0sccy91 ba
101 2 <a>slv - Slovena~ki <a>fre - Francuski
102 <a>YUG - Jugoslavija <b>SVN - Slovenija
105 <a>f b 000yd
200 1 <a>Petar Lubarda <e>december - januar 1959-60, Mala galerija -
  Ljubljana <f>Petar Lubarda <g>(tekst u katalogu) Zoran Kržišnik
210 <a>Ljubljana <c>Mala Galerija <d>1959
215 <a>(20 str.) <c>reprodukcije <d>17 cm
303 <a>Katalog sadrži delove tekstova: Jean Cassou, Herbert Read, Antoin
  Benton, Charles Esttienne
327 1 <a>Katalog sadrži delove tekstiva: Jean Cassou, Herbert Read,
  L'actualite artistique internationale, Antoin Benton, Charles Esttienne
600 1 <a>Lubarda <b>Petar <f>1907-1974
606 1 <a>Crnogorska umetnost <x>slikarstvo <z>20. vek, druga polovina
606 1 <a>Jugoslovenska umetnost <x>slikarstvo <z>20. vek, druga polovina
606 1 <a>Srpska umetnost <x>slikarstvo <z>20. vek, druga polovina
606 1 <a>Slikarstvo <z>20. vek, druga polovina
608 <a>20. vek <z>druga polovina
700 1 <4>040 - umetnik (slikar, vajar) <a>Lubarda <b>Petar
701 11 <4>912 - autor predgovora <a>Kržišnik <b>Zoran
710 02 <a>Mala galerija <b>Samostalna izlo`ba <e>Ljubljana <f>decembar 1959
  - januar 1960.
901 14 <4>912 - autor predgovora <a>Kržišnik <b>Zoran
990 <a>KD L-4/24
```

This entry in presentation:

Autor: Lubarda, Petar

Naslov: Petar Lubarda

Izdavač: Ljubljana, Mala Galerija, 1959.

Autor teksta: Kržišnik, Zoran

Mesto održavanja: Mala galerija, Ljubljana, decembar 1959. – januar 1960

Napomena: Katalog sadrži delove tekstova: Jean Cassou, Herbert Read, Antoin Benton, Charles Esttienne

Broj zapisa: [26](#)

The publications are classified into the following groups: exhibition catalogues, books, periodicals and press clipping (hemeroteca). For every group we insert the most relevant information from Pergam database (UNIMARK standart). Parsing was the main problem of project. Perl scripts parse export file made by Pergam database and made it useful for new databased and presentation.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Exhibition Catalogues: | |
| Author: Lubarda, Petar | 700 a, b; 900 a, b; 910 a |
| Title: Petar Lubarda | 200 a, e, |
| Publisher: Ljubljana, Mala Galerija, 1959. | 210 c, a |
| Authot of the text: Kržišnik, Zoran | 901 a, b. |
| Location of exhibition: Mala galerija, Ljubljana, decembar 1959 - januar 1960. | 710 a, e, f (institution) |
| Note: Katalog sadrži delove tekstova: Jean Cassou, Herbert Read, Antoin Benton, Charles Esttienne | 303 (descriptive note) |
| Number of the entry: 26 | Unique Pergam Number |

| Books | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Author: Kašanin, Milan | 700 a, b; 900 a, b; 910 a |
| Title: Savremeni beogradski umetnici. Les artistes conterporains de Belgrade | 200 a, e, |
| Publisher: Beograd, Prosveta, 1953. | 210 c, a |
| Note: Petar Lubarda, str. 31-32 | 303 (descriptive note) |
| Number of the entry: 33 (174 KB) | Unique Pergam Number |
| Periodicals | |
| Author: Manojlović, Todor | 700 a, b; 900 a, b; 910 a |
| Title: Peta prolećna izložba | 200 a, e, ponovljivo |
| Information about the publication: Srpski književni glasnik, Beograd, knj. 39, maj-avgust, br. 2, 16. maj, 1933. str. 149-152 | 300 (descriptive note) |
| Number of the entry: 8 (252 KB) | Unique Pergam Number |
| Press clipping | |
| Author: Nepoznat | 700 a, b; 900 a, b; 910 a |
| Title: NJ. V. Kralj kupio je dosta slika naših umetnika | 200 a, e |
| Information about the publication: Pravda, Beograd 30. maj 1934, str. 18 | 300 |
| Note: U tekstu nabrojana dela poja je sa VI Prolećne izložbe otkupio knez Pavle | 303 (descriptive note) |
| Number of the entry: 57 | Unique Pergam Number |

This information is connected with digital images of publications. The scans are in PDF format, which is good for reading by any internet browser and consist of separate PDF images. A user downloads only current page, and the previous and next page are available by JavaScript scripts. For creating connection between entry and images we use MySQL database and PHP scripts. MySQL is a free database and it is good for internet presentation. Database is called “muzej” (museum) and it consists of two tables: “zapisi” (entry) and “slike” (images). The images contain information about scans, entry contains information about publications.

3rd stage. We wanted to have a fast result, and decided to use the conception of the ADD as a conception of the first digital library of MoCA. In ADD every artist, exhibition or artistic phenomenon has its own folder. So, due to the fact that we are responsible for making bibliography of artists for catalogues, we decided to make the digital library for the first artist who had the retrospective exhibition in the MoCA.

We had the good fortune of taking the advantage of all the possibilities laid down to us at the retrospective exhibition of one of the most important among artists in ex-Yugoslavia – Petar Lubarda. He is the first artist we deal with in our project.

Considering that there are more than 2 000 of bibliographical units, we chose the most important of them, and started to scan it. Up to now we have scanned about 1500 pages and connected it with 600 entries. The complete database is placed at the server of the National Library of Serbia, from where it can be observed on the web address <http://digital.nb.rs/msu>. Thus, we made the texts about the artist accessible to all.

We planed to plug in photo-documentation, audio and video documentation about artist and exhibitions.

4th stage. Now we are in creating of a browser for easier searching through the database.

The objectives of the project are: to provide the interested citizens (not only researchers, art historian, curators, students, artists, and others) with the user-friendly access to the resources of the Museum by means of IST (Information Society Technologies); to develop a portal and personalized information that matches the needs of the community; to make this portal more useful to other MoCA Departments, specially for educational programs; to provide other institutions (museums, universities, libraries, institutes etc.) in Serbia and abroad with the access to this portal and make possible the exchange of information and partnership projects. Consequently, our final aim is the preservation of cultural heritage.

Associates: Art Documentation Department (Olivera Nastić, Katarina Krstić, Una Popović, Divna Matić), Nenad Jeremić and Ana Jednak (programmers), Branko Marković (scanning and revision), Andrej Dolinka (design)

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