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**MUSIC FOLKLORE ARCHIVE COLLECTION  
AT THE INSTITUTE OF ART STUDIES, BAS IN SOFIA, BULGARIA,  
AND ITS RESTORATION AND DIGITIZATION**

**Abstract.** We present archive collection with authentic Bulgarian musical folklore which is possession of the Institute of Art Studies, and its digitization. The Folk Music Archive of the Institute of Art Studies keeps Bulgaria's folkloric heritage, which has been collected from the end of 19th century by prominent ethnomusicologists: Angel Boukoreshtliev, Konstantin Zagorov, Pavel Stefanov, Vassil Stoin, Rayna Katzarova, and others. It contains recording tapes with traditional Bulgarian folklore music, original papers (notated songs with lyrics and notated instrumental tunes), transcriptions, descriptions, copies and decodes from phonic recordings. The urgent and timely collection, restoration and preservation of rare, valuable and rapidly vanishing traditional Bulgarian culture artifacts is the long-termed process which includes recording, scanning and digitization. Processing of the collected archive needs technical description, scientific recognition and etc. and for this reason a general database is created. Creation of this database is aimed to provide better conditions for using the Folk Music Archive.

**Key words:** Digitization, Cultural Heritage, Archive, Database

In this paper we present an archive collection with authentic Bulgarian musical folklore, which is a possession of the Institute of Art Studies, and its digitization.

The Folk Music Archive of the Institute of Art Studies keeps Bulgaria's folkloric heritage, which has been collected from the end of 19th century by prominent folklorists: Angel Boukoreshtliev, Konstantin Zagorov, Pavel Stefanov, Vassil Stoin, Rayna Katzarova, Ivan Katchulev, Elena Stoin, Nikolay Kaufman, Todor Todorov, Todor Djidjev, Mihail Bukureshtliev, Petar Lyondev, Liuben Botusharov and others. It contains recording tapes with traditional Bulgarian folklore music, original papers (notated songs with lyrics and notated instrumental tunes), transcriptions, descriptions, copies and decodes from phonic recordings.

The urgent and timely collection, restoration and preservation of rare, valuable and rapidly vanishing traditional Bulgarian culture artifacts is the long-termed process which includes recording, scanning and digitization. Processing of the collected archive needs technical description, scientific recognition and etc. and for this reason a general database is created.

***Project Bulgarian Art Archives and  
Advanced Research Technologies (BAAART)***

**Aims:** The project BAAART of the Institute of Art Studies is prepared and implemented in the context of current directions for the preservation of cultural heritage. Urgently needed to be collected, processed and cataloged artifacts and documents of Bulgarian culture as part of national and European cultural heritage. The project objectives existing archives in

particular risk of irretrievable loss of musical, verbal, photo and video archives, also library fund of our Institute to be stored.



**Picture 1.** Manuscripts with notated songs and lyrics



**Picture 2.** Artifacts from Archive of the Institute of Art Studies

Designed not only in the local level and not just for this moment, it creates parallel opportunities to be processed another archives, and to supplement existing ones. The ultimate aim is that these records will be widely available.

**The project is implemented by Institute of Art Studies - BAS** with support from the National Science Fund of Ministry of Education, Youth and Science. Software Development – SoftLib LTD.



**Picture 3.** Old technics used for recording on the terrain work

**Multimedia databases, developed by specialists of Institute of Art Studies – BAS:**

- Bulgarian Folklore Music
- Incunabula, rare and valuable editions
- Sound archives
- Photo archives
- Archive of events –  
music, exhibitions, theatre, cinema

**Picture 4.** BAAART

**Multimedia databases, developed by specialists of Institute of Art Studies – BAS:**

- Bulgarian Folklore Music
- Incunabula, rare and valuable editions
- Fonoarchive
- Fotoarchives
- Archive of events - music, exhibitions, theater, cinema

The part of the system that is used by specialists to complete the databases and by users is named **HOBIT**.

What is **HOBIT**?

**New types of computers** – from the diskless workstation LAN, allowing access to applications running on the server

**Remote Access** – various located buildings of the server and workstations

**Workstation of a new type:**

Without an operating system loaded

Without disk, floppy and CD

Without need for local installation

Without need for local support

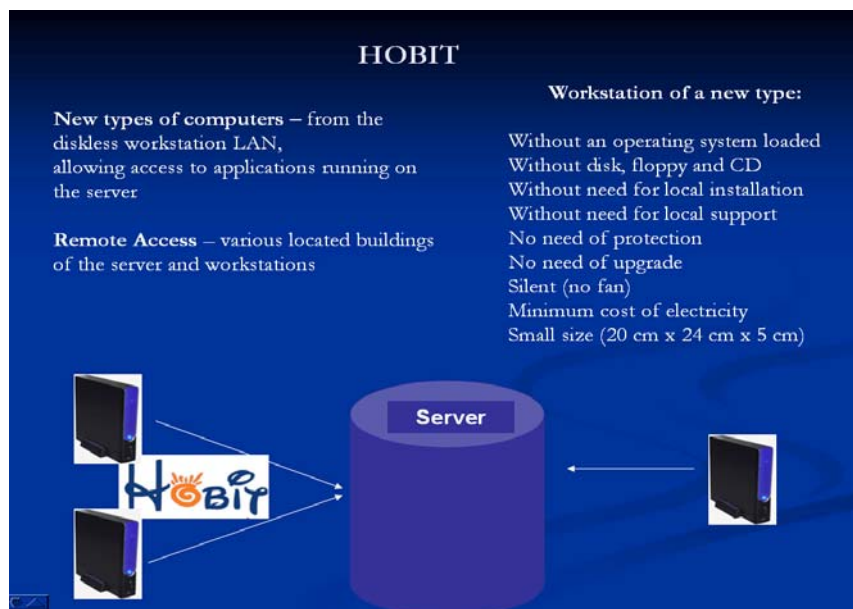
No need of protection

No need of upgrade

Silent (no fan)

Minimum cost of electricity

Small size (20 cm x 24 cm x 5 cm)



**Picture 5.** New technology

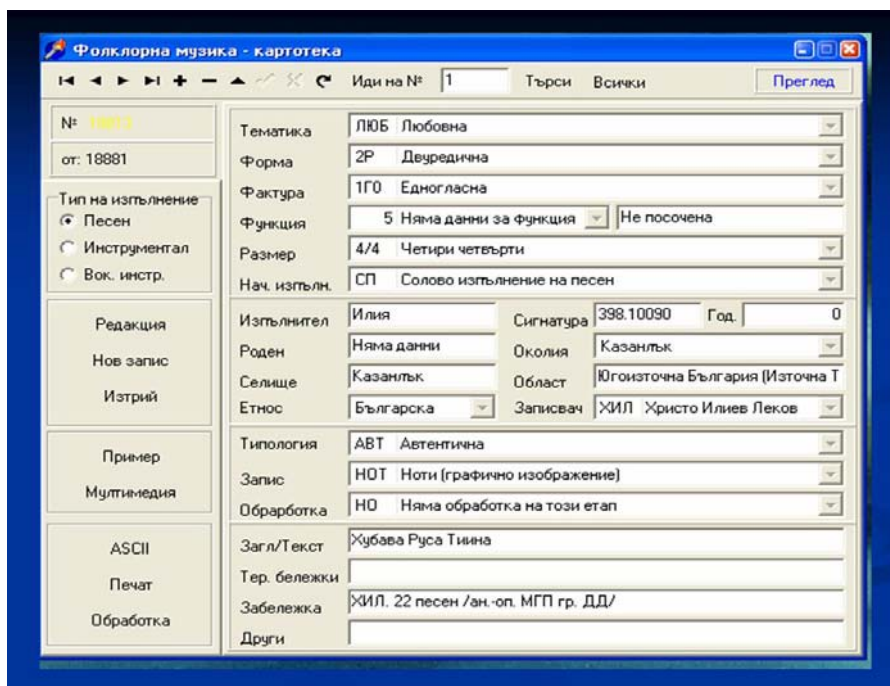
How does **HOBIT** work?

- Loads the operating system over the network and allows working directly on the server
- All applications are installed only once and working on the server
- All data are consolidated on the server
- All data protection and applications are centralized on the server
- All use the same operating system - this on the server
- All upgrades, adjustments and errors are done once
- Support for local peripheral devices – printers, scanners, audio devices, USB flash memories and etc.

Due to the specific nature of our work, we are going to present one of the multimedia databases in the development of a model in which we have direct participation.



In the mid 90-ies of XX century Dr. Lubomir Kavaldjiev created multimedia database *Multimedia Database for Authentic Bulgarian Musical Folklore* - "This database has become available after long term efforts of the research team at the Institute for Art Studies working on preserving, systematization and computer digitization of the collected for almost a century unique samples of the Bulgarian music folklore"<sup>1</sup>



Picture 6. Multimedia Database for Authentic Bulgarian Musical Folklore

In Music-Folklore Archives of Institute of Art Studies – BAS there are different types archival collections – on paper and audio holders. A big part of the field documents are old and are more difficult to use, so in need of urgent restoration through digitization to be saved and to facilitate access to them. We will show in projection how our archive work as looked like and how it changes in time to reach its modern form at today.

**Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music*** It contains over 19,000 recordings of Bulgarian folklore music, lyrics, ethnomusicologists' analysis, audio recordings, notes, photographs and video recordings.

**Enter and search all the fields:** This is the most optimized model that contains enough objective information, enabling any researcher to make its own conclusions.

**Authors**

**Title**

**Translated Title**

**Performer (name, place and year of birth)**

**Recorded by the folklorist/ Year**

**Classification (vocal, instrumental, vocal-instrumental)**

**Typology**

**Ethnic Data**

**Music Folklore Region**

**District**

<sup>1</sup> <http://musicart.imbm.bas.bg/EN/about.htm>

**Meter**  
**Function**  
**Way of Performance**  
**Way of Recording**  
**Archive Elaboration**  
**Terrain Notes**  
**Bibliography**  
**Remarks**  
**Lyrics**  
**Notated Instrumental Tunes**  
**Sound**  
**Video**  
**Internet addresses**  
**Clip**  
**Text/Content**  
**Operator**

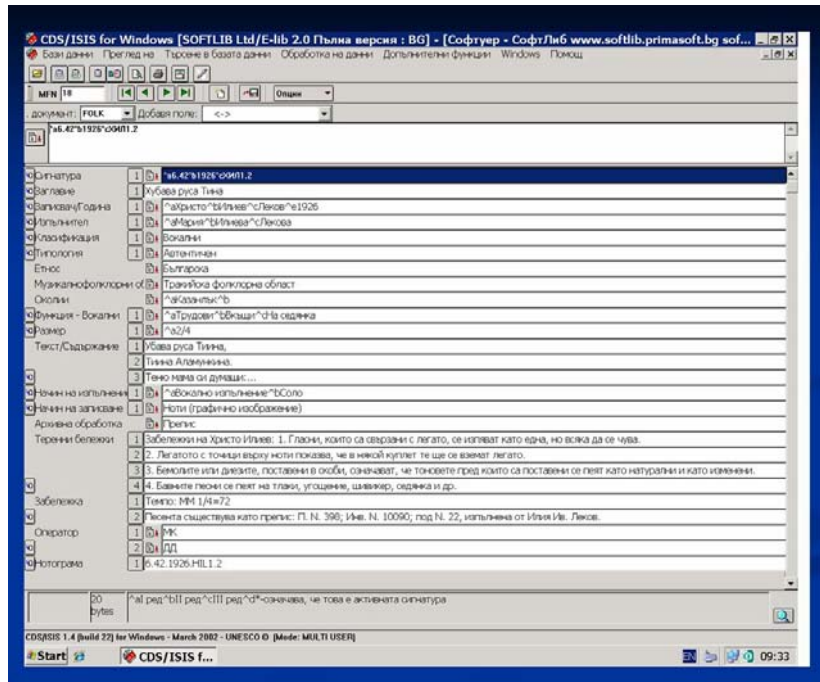


**Picture 7.** Enter and search all the fields

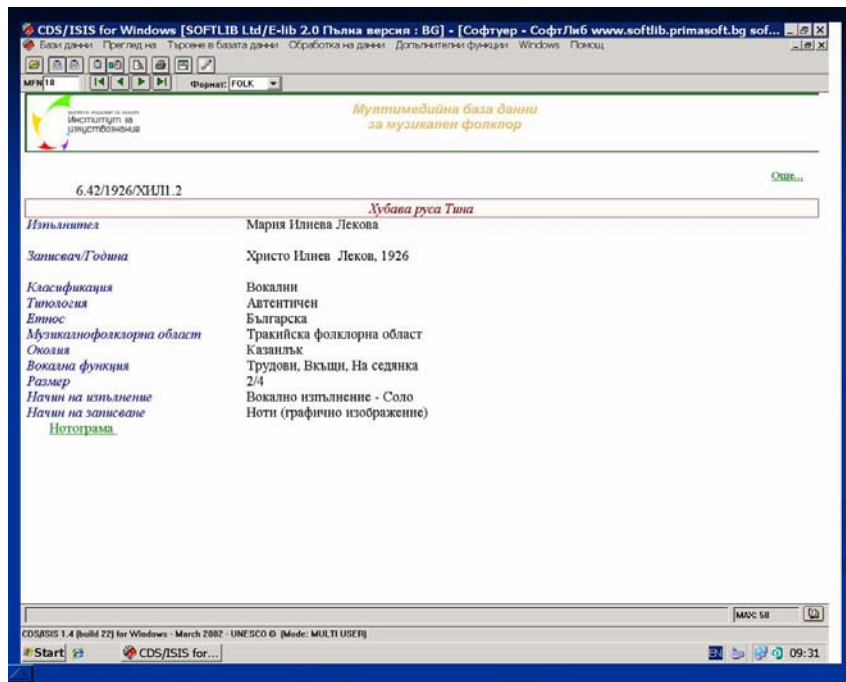
## Fonoarchive

Institute of Art Studies possesses a rich collection of old records (records for scientific purposes and commercial once) - unique as quantity and as content. Some of them keep the oldest field recordings of folk music, reached us, that are made for scientific purposes in Bulgaria - single copies, more than 800. No less interesting are the old commercial records, which began to collect and catalog the Institute during the 60 years of the twentieth century.

According to their size they are three types (large, medium and small), but as a material (metal, glass, shellac, decilit, vinyl and etc.) Manufacturers are "Presto", "Decilit", "Suprafon", "Audiodesk", "Recorddisk" and others.



Picture 8. Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music* – work version



Picture 9. Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music* – Internet version (project)

Many of the oldest records are not spared by the time and need urgent restoration and digitization. They contain very valuable audio information that can save, sort and promote by project BAAART and the new equipment.

Disclosure of folk songs and instrumental tunes from Music-Folklore Archive through their exposed in the database provides a free access to them and thus more easily should cause scientific and research interests.

By restoration, digitization and completing the database:

- more materials, stored in the archive, will go out of folders with text and tape's boxes and will be available for use not only in the traditional way - through site visits, but and interactive way

- the user is facilitated by the capabilities of modern multimedia product offering a complete and precise information

- expand the possibilities for audio examples of authentic music samples

Creation of this database aims to provide better conditions for using the Music Folk Archive.

**Acknowledgments.** This work has been partially supported by Grant No. DTK 02/54, Bulgarian Science Fund, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science – a project for digitization Bulgarian folk songs: *Information technologies for presentation of Bulgarian folk songs with music, notes and text in a digital library.*

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