



The Digitisation of Museum Valuables; The Digitisation of Museum Valuables: Theory and Practice. Ed. By Danute Mukiene Vilnius: Lithuanian Museums' Centre for Information, Digitisation and LIMIS, 2010.

This publication is based on the MINERVA Technical Guidelines for Digital Cultural Content Creation Programmes (Version 2.0, September 2008) as well as on the most important facts on European digital library Europeana. Furthermore, it introduces Lithuanian readers to cultural heritage digitisation practice in its neighbouring countries (Latvia and Estonia).

The second part of the publication mostly deals with some methodological information necessary for daily practice: recommendations to be followed when writing texts to databases, recommended parameters to consider when digital images are made, and some technical specifications that digitisation equipment should meet. The booklet provides museum specialists with information on what key fields should be included in exhibit descriptions and how the detailed description of an artwork will look like in the Lithuanian Integral Museum Information System (LIMIS). Also presented is the list of exhibits and collections intended to be digitised as well as a review of the possible sources of funds for cultural heritage digitisation projects.

The Digitisation of Museum Valuables: Theory and Practice presents survey results on how actively Lithuanian museums participate in digitisation processes along with national and international projects; it also presents the conception of the Lithuanian integral museum information system. The booklet describes the main legal acts related to cultural heritage digitisation that were passed by the Government of Lithuania in recent years, i.e. *On the Confirmation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage Digitisation Conception* (25 August, 2005) and *On the Confirmation of Digitisation Strategy of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Digital Content Preservation and Access*, the latter functioning as a basis for the *Strategy on Digitisation of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Digital Content Preservation and Access* (2009) and a plan for its implementation (20 May 2009).

Much of the publication is devoted to international theory and practice of cultural heritage digitisation: it provides specifications of Europeana Semantic Elements and presents the ATHENA, ENRICH, and CALIMERA projects, as well as the Calimera Good Practice Guidelines; it also reviews how the Getty centre and International Council of Museums (ICOM) work in the field of cultural heritage digitisation. All the articles for the publication were written by LM IDC LIMIS specialists. With the establishment of LM IDC LIMIS and especially due to its regular communication and collaboration with Lithuanian museums, there arose a real need to provide museum workers and other interested persons and institutions with information on the digitisation and storage of museum valuables.

*Danute Mukiene, Lithuanian Museums' Centre
for Information, Digitization and LIMIS.*