Digitization procedures in Estonian War Museum

Hellar Lill, Director

Estonian War Musem – General Laidoner Musem

Estonian War Museum (I)

- Established in 1919, when the War of Independence was still raging

- Dissolved in 1940 by the Soviets

- Started its activities in 1993 as a museum to commemorate General Johan Laidoner (head of Estonian armed forces in the War of Independence), officially re-established as the Estonian War Museum in 2001

- EWM collects, preserves, researches and exhibits Estonian military history and heritage; carries out educational activities in military history, publishes scientific and popular science books on military history, cooperates with other similar organisations in Estonia and abroad – i.e. does everything a contemporary memory institution is supposed to do!

Estonian War Museum (II)

- Collection consits of 75 000 units: 2/5 photos, 2/5 archive and 1/5 items.
- Approximately 8% of the collection is digitized

Digitization procedures – overall principles

Digitization is not something to be done for the sake of the process itself, but it should help to achieve the objectives of the Museum

- Internal objectives, i.e. improving and enhancing the research process
- External objectives, i.e. improving access to exhibitions through the new technological means and extending perception (vision, sound, smell, augmented reality etc…)

Digitization procedures – Estonian War Museum

- The focus of digitization could and should be targeted at
  - rationalising the work-flows within the museum
  - making the work-flows more effective
- The key issue is to ensure that the workforce in the Museum is willing and able to
  - test new methods and work-flows,
  - change their way of working (including digitization process)
  - use the digitized materials in their research and work

Digitization in the Estonian War Museum – recent best practices

- Learning from ohter museums (study visits in Estonia and abroad)
- Cooperation with https://ajapaik.ee to involve crowd-sourcing
- 360 degree photo-shooting in Patarei prison

Used techniques, tools and standards

- Digitization guidlines are provided by Ministry of Culture in Estonia based on International standards.

- One full-time digitization specialist

- Two employees working with digitization activities based on need

Thank you for your attention!

Hellar Lill hellar.lill@esm.ee