Digitization procedures in Estonian War Museum

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Estonian War Musem – General Laidoner Musem

Thematic seminar "Digitization of Museums and Galleris”
May 8-10, 2017
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 consists 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 other 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 guidelines 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!

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