



CD-ETA - Collaborative Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage

FIRST THEMATIC SEMINAR

ONLINE COMMUNICATION OF REGIONAL CULTURAL CONTENT - GOOD PRACTICES DURING THE COVID-19 IN HARGHITA COUNTY LIBRARY (Romania)

The Kájoni János Library of Harghita County

The greatest public Library of Harghita County, Romania, the **Kájoni János Library of Harghita County** is maintained by the Harghita County Council.

The institution aims to be a constant part of the everyday life of the local community by organizing a variety of programs and workshops. The facilities of the library are based on the collections of 190.000 items, providing both physical and digital access (books, periodicals, audiovisual, electronic and other special documents).

Its main purpose is to preserve the local, regional cultural values, the cultural heritage and to make these values available for a large public.

Hungarian-speaking ethno-cultural region

According to the official data the town **Miercurea Ciuc** has 38 966 inhabitants, **82% Hungarians, 17 % Romanians**. The collections of the library mirrors the inhabitants' ethnic division.



QUARANTINE LIBRARY

Activities in the library during the pandemic

The pandemic meant many challenges for the libraries – the most difficult time was the closing in March 2020, when we needed to shut down the library because of the restrictions. During this time, those projects and activities, which develop the online available and virtual library services came into view.



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Kájoni János Library of Harghita County, Romania



Online - FLORENCE 01/03/2022

Community service during COVID-19: New solutions

We needed to change the work in the library as well as the public service to serve as many people as possible even during quarantine. The re-opening was done gradually and the precautions changed regularly.

Solutions:

- help for the users by e-mail, phone or online
- providing book packages upon prior requests
- extension of deadlines for the loaned-out books
- social distancing
- disinfection of the spaces regularly



The development of the user-centered online services became even more important during COVID-19

- availability of new online services
- sharing and providing of online contents
- online library activities and programs

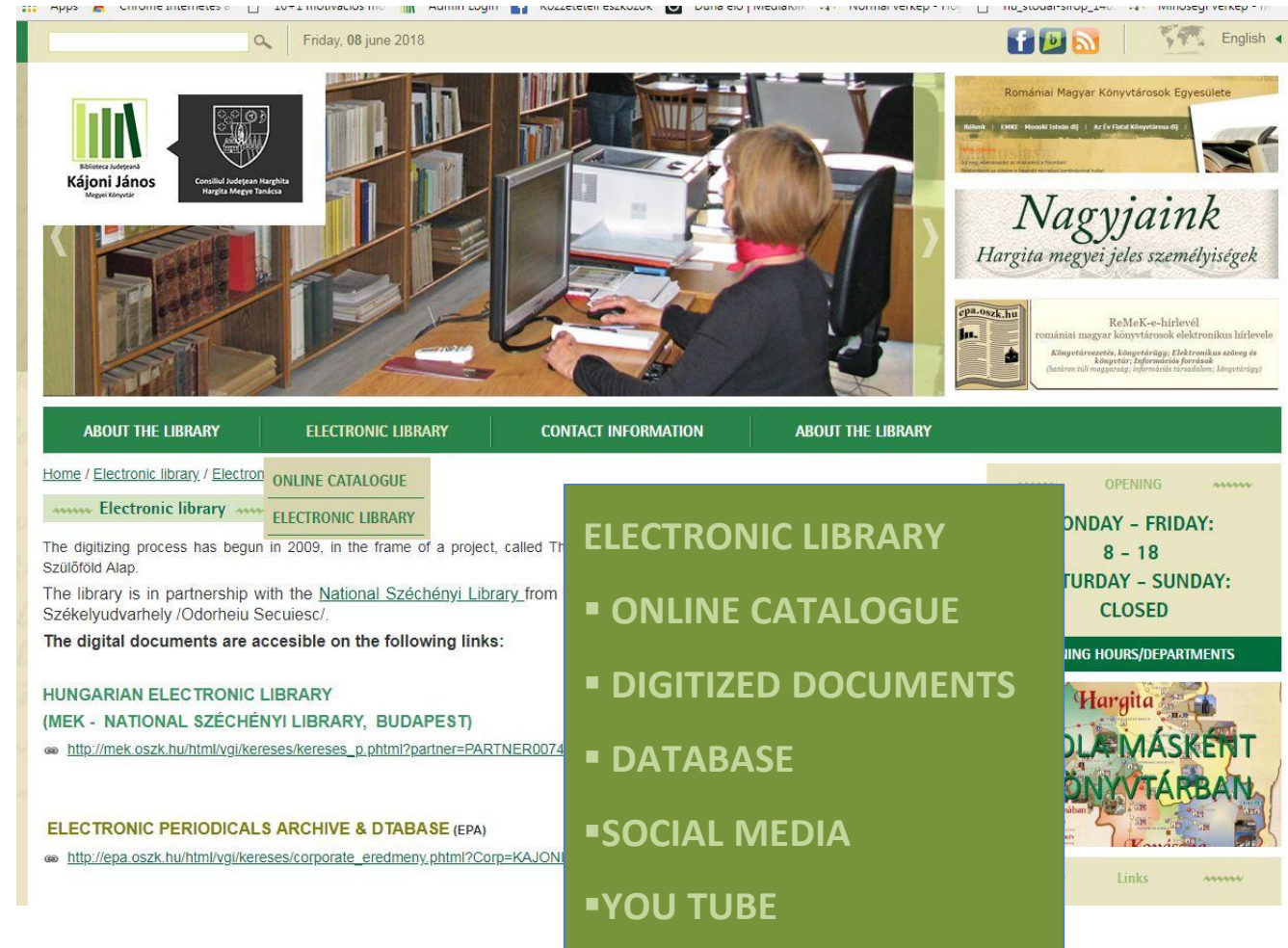
The library regularly updates the available online contents.

We can access these online services on **the website of the library:**

www.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro

The usage of the online library services grows constantly.

In **2021**, the users reached the online services of the library more than **190 000** times.



ONLINE LIBRARY SERVICES

– free access to the big online databases

Since 2020-2021 the county library provides free access to the big online databases for its registered users.

The **Arcanum Digitheca – ADT** is Hungary's largest and continuously expanding digital periodical database, which contains domestic scientific and specialized journals, encyclopaedias, weekly and daily newspapers.

The registered users can browse the publications from the database of the **Arcanum Digitheca –ADT** freely in the Harghita County Library.



Online communication of local-regional content

Two regional (related Harghita county) databases provided by the County Library of Harghita, are available at the webpage of the library: More than **300 accessible articles**

Database of local-regional knowledge content and Database of Personalities from Harghita County

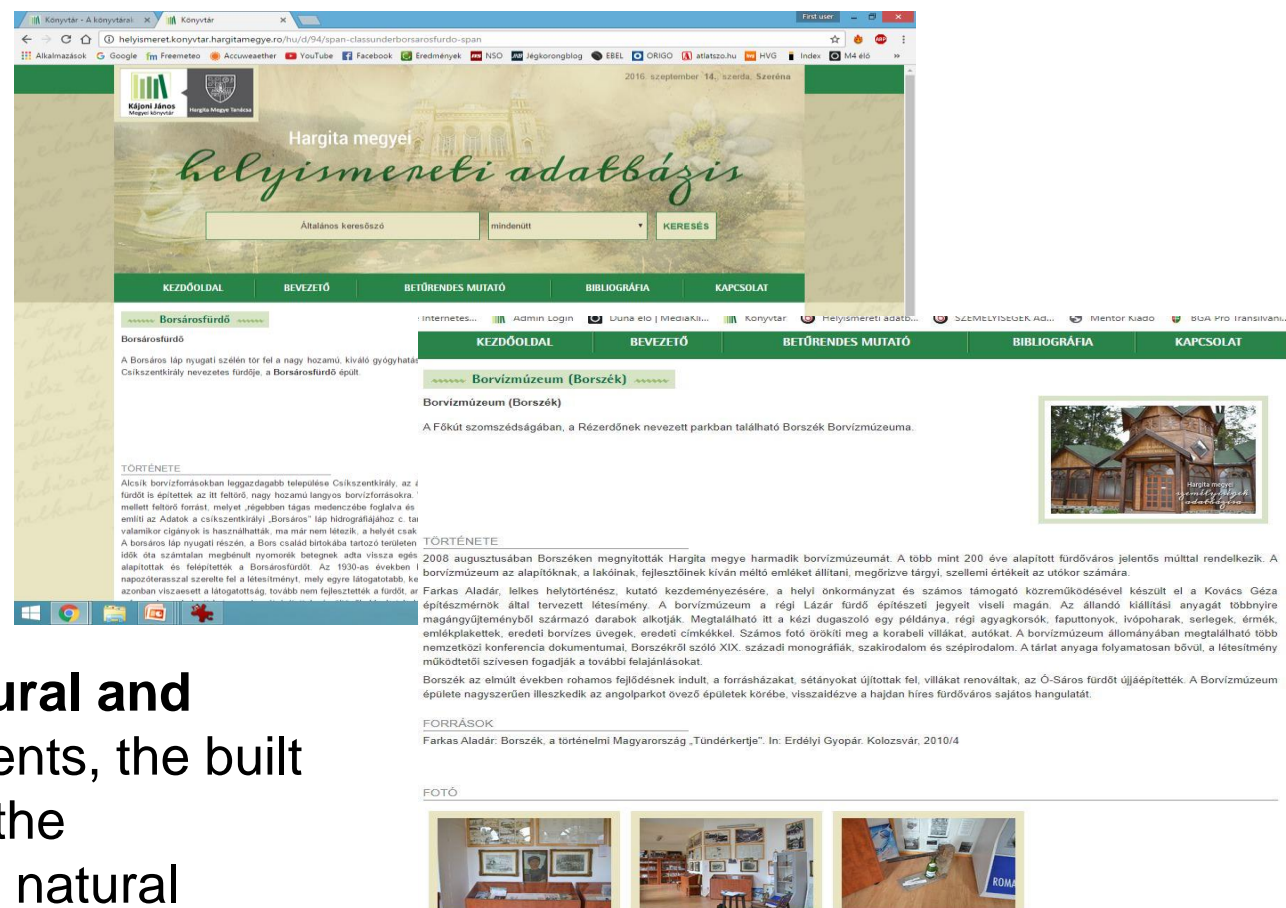
The databases with regional contents:

- contribute to the wide cognition of the cultural and natural values of Harghita County;
- help the regional researches connected to the area, mediate the results of local history researches;
- provide access to regional information connected to the area;
- contribute to the integration of the area's **cultural heritage and values** into the common cultural heritage;
- contribute to the increase of the area's cultural and touristic appeal.



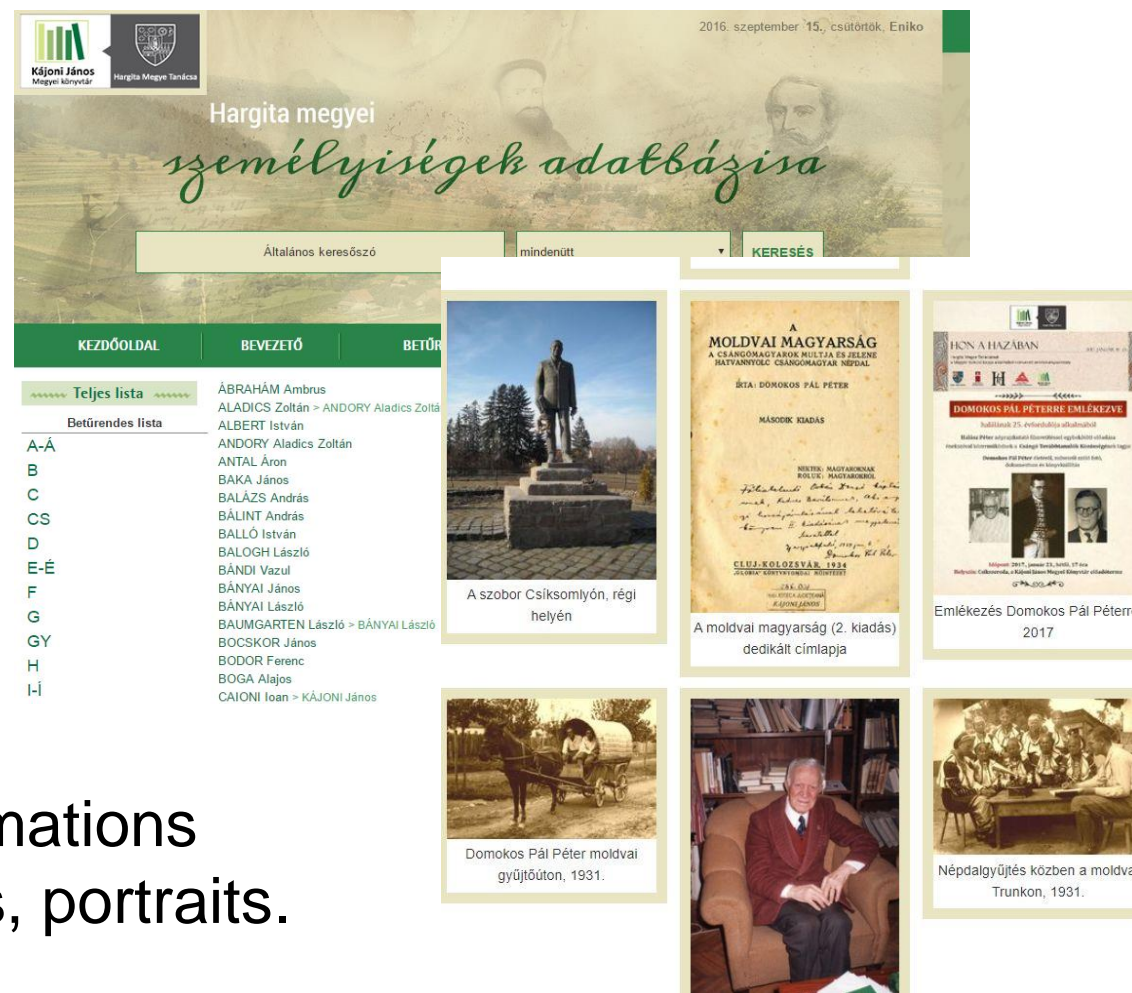
Database of local-regional knowledge content of Harghita County

<http://helyismeret.konyvtar.harghitamegye.ro>



The entries of the database present the **cultural and natural heritage** of the area and its settlements, the built heritage, the monuments, the ethnography, the traditions, its cultural history, its touristic and natural values.

Database of Personalities from Harghita County – <http://szemelyisegek.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro/>



Contains entries about the outstanding
Personalities of Harghita County: informations
concerning bibliographical data, photos, portraits.

Utilization of the regional databases in education:

Programs organized by the library/in the library serving the discovery of the cultural and natural values of the region.

The online databases with local contents can be used in school work or in educational work outside of schools as well.

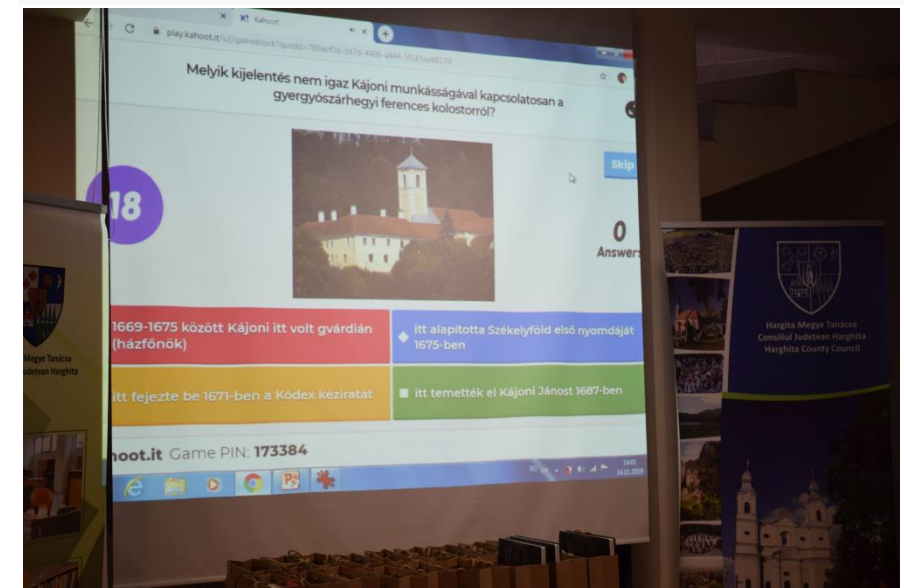
They can also be based on the digital knowledge of future generations in the field of learning about and preserving local values.

Online quiz games which also provided the opportunity to **joyful learning**.

To solve the tasks the participants had the chance to use the online regional databases of the Harghita County Library.

In 2021 the library organized an **online competition** with the title “*Harghita – land, people, history*”.

Both students and adults could participate in the competition. The participants had the opportunity **to learn about the cultural and natural values of the area**.



Digitization and online publishing of local cultural contents – digital periodical archive

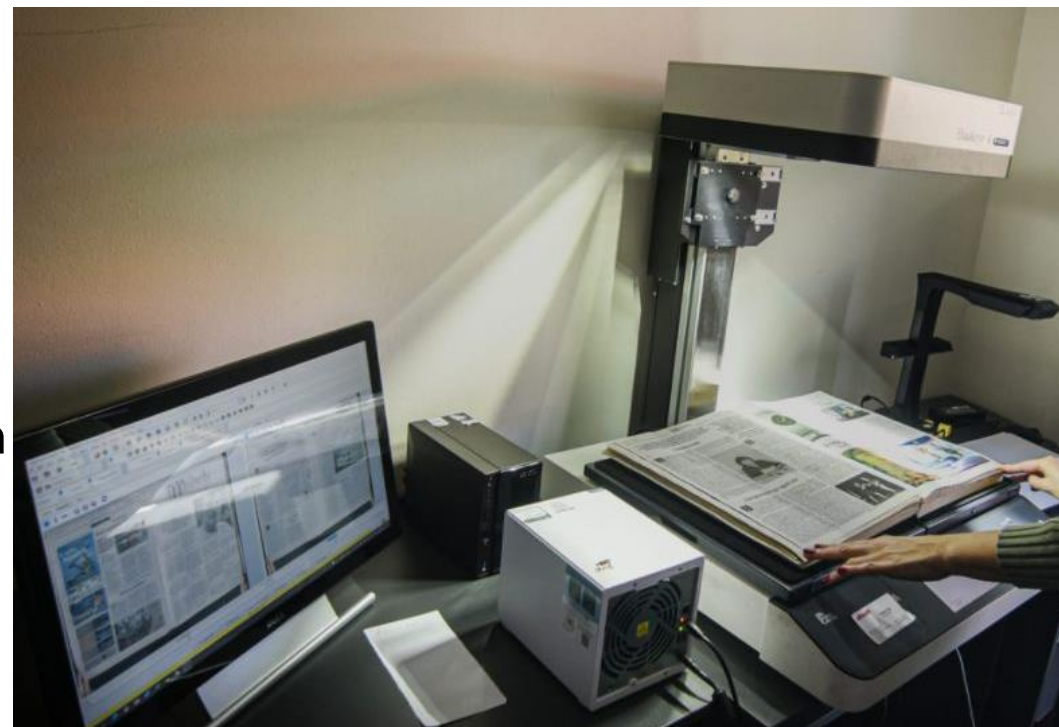
The process of digitizing library documents has begun Since 2010 in the County Library of Harghita.

In 2019, as a result of participation in the CD-ETA project, a **modern digitization workshop** was set up in the library, where two librarians can work on the digitization simultaneously.

The financial support of the Harghita Council assured to get new technical equipment suitable for digitization projects that require high quality: scanners, modern PC, OCR software (ABBYY Fine Reader).

The digitized documents from the library collections are accessible from the website of the library www.konyvtar.hargitamegye.ro on the **ELECTRONIC LIBRARY**

The primarily digitized documents of the collections are: the documents concerning **the local – regional cultural heritage**.



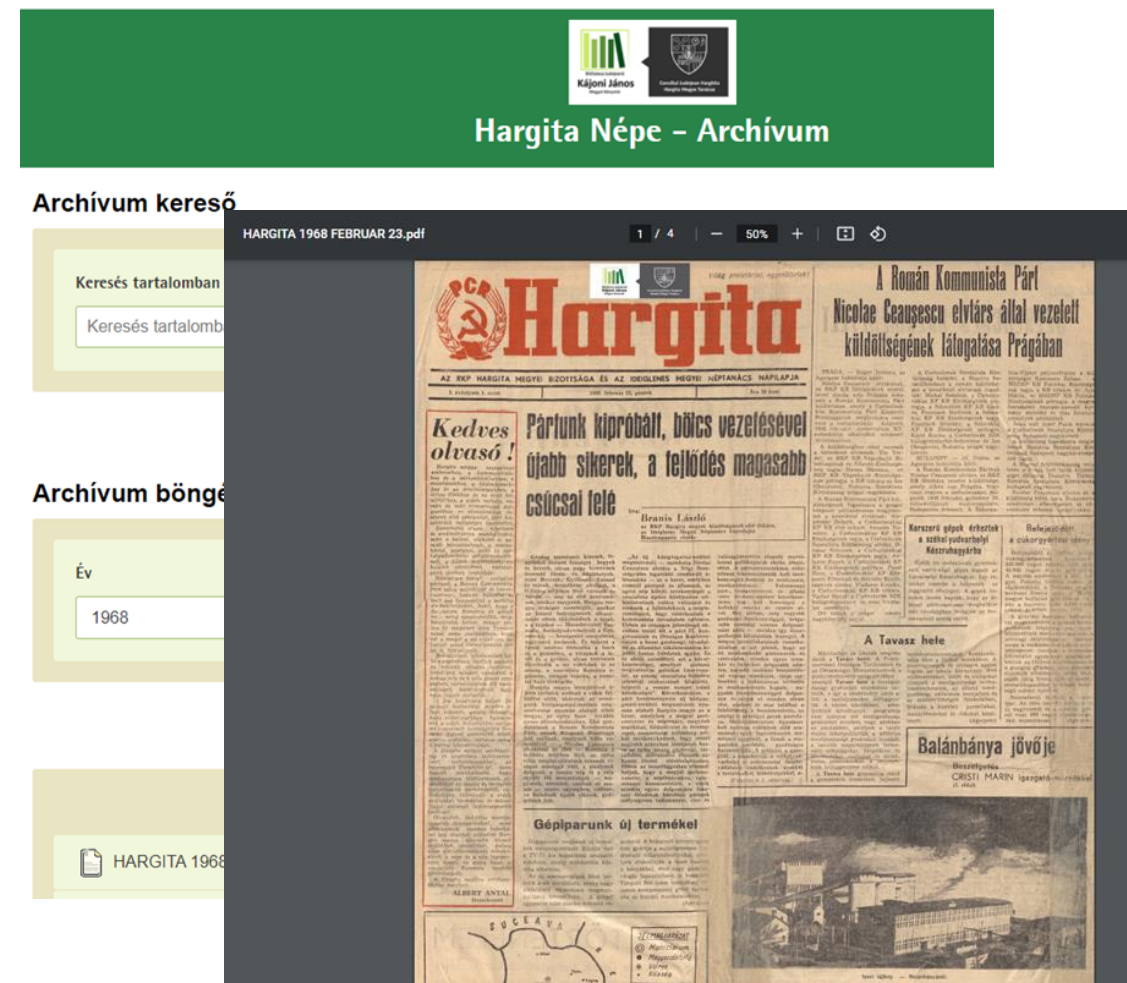
The Digital Periodical Archive *Hargita/Hargita Népe*

The digitization of all publications of the *Hargita/Hargita Népe** from 1968 to 2017.

- * The most famous Hungarian newspaper in Harghita county which has been published since 1968.

The Digital Archive of Hargita contains **67 000 digitally available pages from 40 years of publishing.**

The next project is to digitize the journal *Informatia Harghitei*.

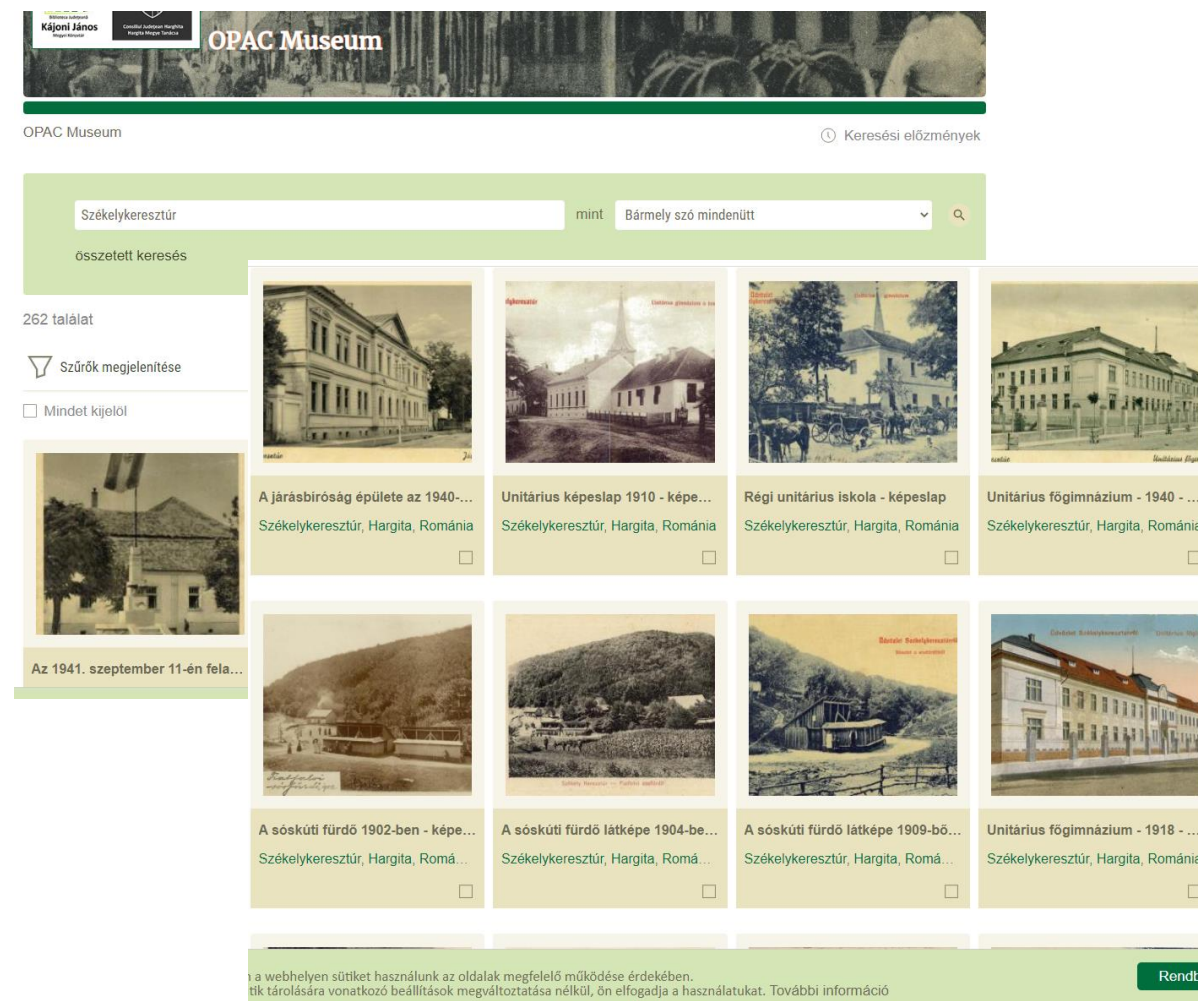


Virtual walks around the towns and villages of Harghita county

The project concern the digitization and online publishing of photos of the towns and villages of Harghita county

The County Library of Harghita includes other local libraries from the county in the preserving and publishing of local values.

The participating libraries already digitized and published hundreds of pictures of local values and local history on the online platform.



During the pandemic the biggest challenge for the libraries was to adapt to the constantly changing laws and restrictions in this time. The pandemic meant a lot of challenges for the Harghita County Library as an organization.

The development of the user-centered library services became even more important.

In 2020-2021 important projects were accomplished, related to the online services and publishing regional cultural contents.

Thank you for your attention!

Kelemen Katalin

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