

Global Sharing of Information about Prehistoric Rock Art

The paper brings together the findings of two separate projects:

The first one is hosted by the Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences, Finland. The purpose of this project is to develop methods for using high level ontologies such as the CIDOC CRM to describe and merge information from official museum institutions as well as private collections about the prehistoric Astuvansalmi site in the Lake Saimaa area in Finland. The Astuvansalmi rock includes 15 documented image groups that contain over 65–80 figures painted with red ochre. The metadata developed for the project will be compatible with the Lido format as well as the formats required by the Europeana portal.

The second project is directed towards developing IT-related resources within the framework of the CIDOC Co-reference Working Group. A specific aim is to create an open, accessible infrastructure for unique, shared and persistent identifiers for prehistoric rock art. This infrastructure enables the merging of information e.g. from National Museums and official institutions with information produced in research projects of universities and other research institutions, networks and projects, as is required in the Astuvansalmi project.

One aim of the paper is to invite CIDOC-related and other institutions and groups to participate in a global network related to prehistoric rock art.

A specific backdrop for the paper is the process started in Helsinki in January 2010 to develop a shared high level ontology for libraries, archives and museums. This process is pertinent for the paper due to the fact that information about prehistoric rock art is stored in publications, archival and electronic library resources as well as in its original natural context.

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