

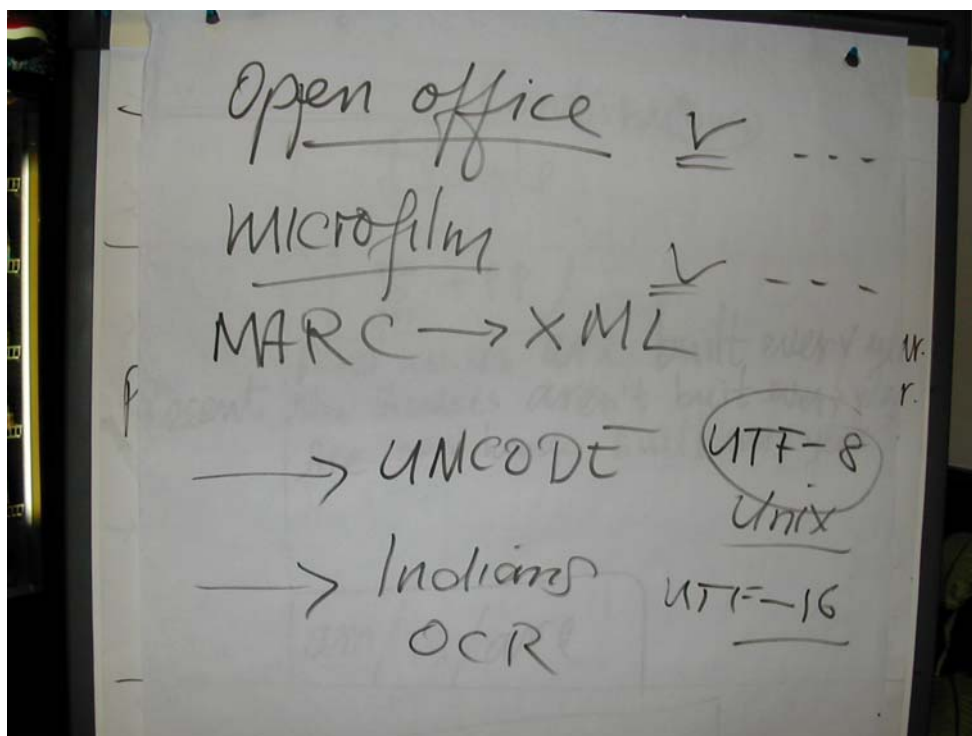
## THE MANY FACES OF DIGITISATION

Milena Dobрева

This special issue of the International Journal "Information Theories and applications" presents papers delivered during the international seminar "Digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage". The seminar was held in Bansko, Bulgaria from 27 August to 3 September 2004. It accompanied the kick-off meeting of the project *Knowledge Transfer for the Digitisation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage in Bulgaria* (KT-DigiCULT-BG), supported by the Marie Curie programme, Framework Programme 6 of the European Commission.

The event attracted some 50 participants from 15 countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, FYROM, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, UK, and USA. Participants included representatives of the coordinator, the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, (Bulgaria) and four project partners: Det Arnamagnæanske Institut (Københavns Universitet, Denmark), Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland), Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic), and the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications, National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos" (Athens, Greece). In addition, participants from a number of European institutions, which already have impressive digitisation activities in the last years, presented various issues related to digitisation and thus contributed to the successful exchange of experiences. Last but not least, a number of presentations outlined the existing experience in Bulgarian institutions from the cultural and scientific heritage sector and from organisations involved in research on the topic.

The project is presented in the first article of this compendium and we will not give here more details on it. Unlike the traditional prefaces, I will not present what follows – the actual topics are much more diverse than ones written on the board and digitally captured during one of the discussions...



A distinguishing feature of the meeting was the variety of topics, approaches and results presented. I hope that this variety, which was found very stimulating by the participants, will be also inspiring for the readers of the volume.

The papers do not deviate from the original style of expression of their authors.



Shortly after the meeting was held, the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences created a Department on Digitisation of Scientific Heritage (<http://www.math.bas.bg/digi/index.html>).

Further scientific events planned by the department include (for more information please visit the website of the department):

- an international workshop on **Annotation for Written Cultural Heritage Resources** which will be held in Prague, 6-13 March 2005;
- an international workshop on **Computational Tools for the Librarian and Philological work in Cultural Institutions**, which will be held within the frameworks of the 34<sup>th</sup> Spring conference of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians, 6-9 April 2005 in Borovets, Bulgaria;
- the 10<sup>th</sup> EIPub conference (International Conference on Electronic Publishing) which will be held in Sofia in June 2006 under the motto 'The Digital Spectrum: from Technology to Culture'.

Members of the department also actively contribute to the organisation of The First South-Eastern European Digitization Initiative (SEEDI) Conference **Digital (Re-)Discovery of Culture (Physicality of Soul) – Playing. Digital** (<http://www.ncd.matf.bg.ac.yu/seedi/events/seediConference.html>), to be held on 11–14 September 2005 in Ohrid, FYROM.

This volume is the first publication of the Digitisation of Scientific Heritage department at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. As a head of the Department, I would like to express my hope that its work will be as diverse and rich as this collection of papers.

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