

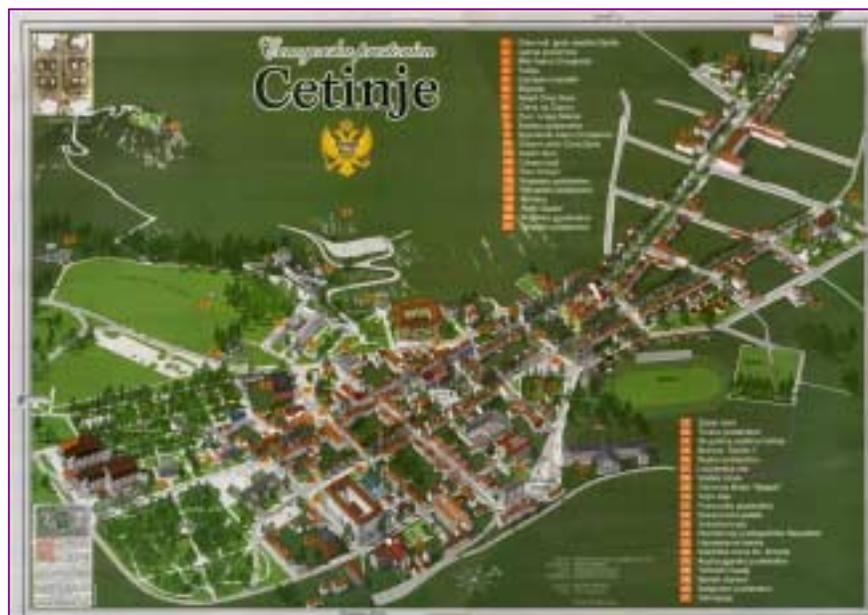


Republic of Macedonia
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
Cultural Heritage Protection Office

REPORT

FOR THE PARTICIPATION AT

THE THIRD SEEDI CONFERENCE ON DIGITIZATION OF THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE



September, 13-15, 2007, Cetinje, Montenegro

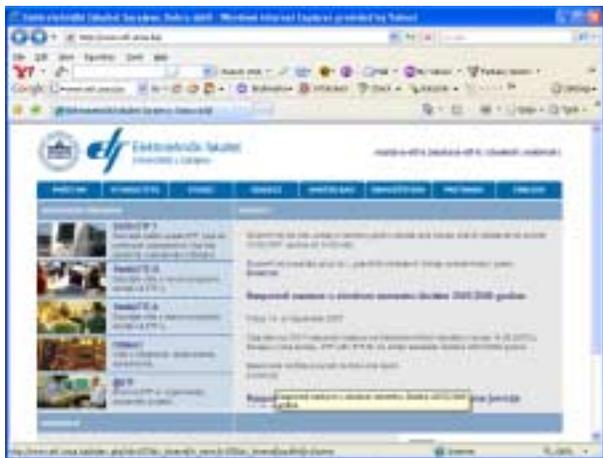
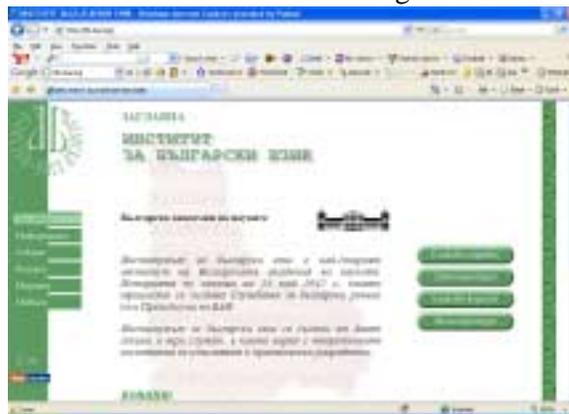
At the third SEEDI (SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE) conference held from 13-15 of September in Cetinje, Republic of Montenegro, participated representatives from R. Serbia, R. Bulgaria, R. Romania, the United States of America, the Kingdom of Denmark, R. Italy, R. Croatia, R. Slovenia, R. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, R. Greece, R. Macedonia and the hosts R. Montenegro.

At the conference were presented initiatives, project proposals, and solutions for digitization of the cultural heritage in the participating countries at the Conference. The biggest accent was placed on the problems and the dilemmas that occur from the idea itself to the finalization of a certain digitization project of the specific matter, as is the cultural heritage.



a digital corpus of Bulgarian dialects that would be available for phonological and linguistic research. Besides the sound file, such corpus would contain two basic elements: transcription and a complex of a metadata database.

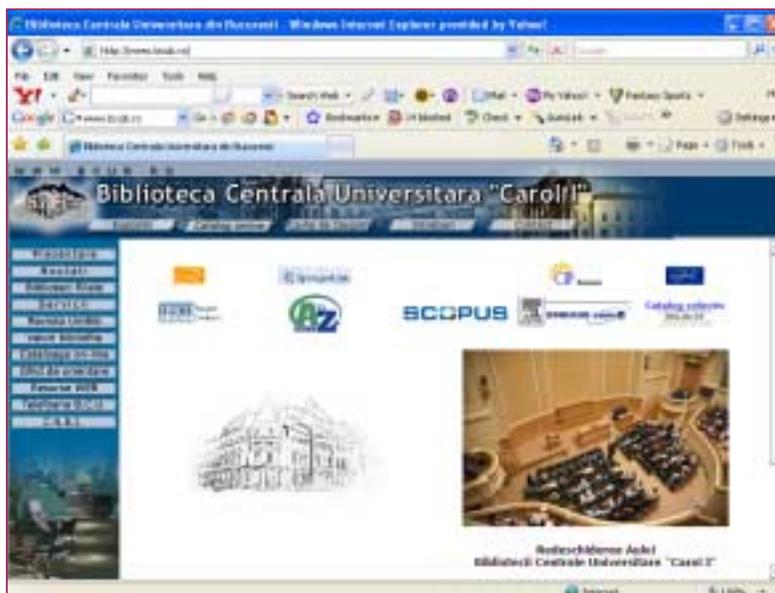
The representatives from Bulgaria in their presentations had presented the mathematic formula for digitization of the tones characteristic for our environment with semi-tones, adjusted to the computer file MIDI that is digitizing tones from the modern music. In addition, they had presented the mathematic modification of the Haustdorf system for recognizing digitized texts that are typewritten on a typewriter and contain letters that are no longer in use. They had also showed the way of digitization of the collection of audio cassettes from the archive of dialects. The goal is to form



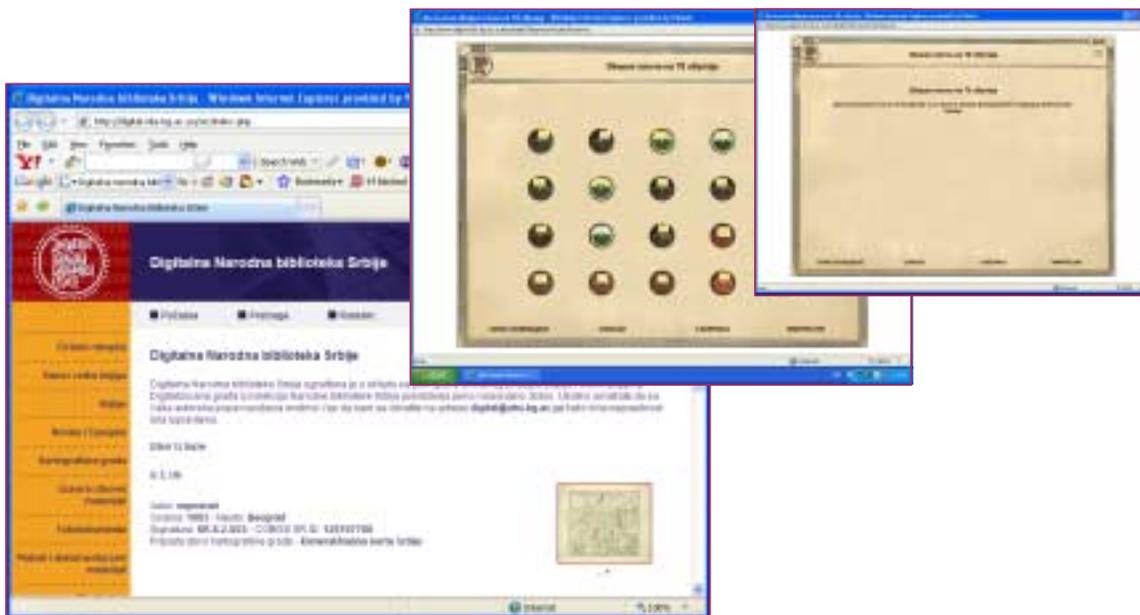
Digitization in Bosnia and Herzegovina was presented with individual attempts for digitization of the cultural heritage. The key goal is to protect and reconstruct the monuments they have and the ones that were destroyed during the war. 3D models of a medieval stecak, Bas Carsija and the “Vjecnica” of Sarajevo were presented. They had used photographing with

ultra-violet light and that made virtual reconstruction. The digitization of five daily and weekly printed newspapers was also presented, however their use is not general, but costs a certain fee.

Republic of Romania presented itself with the Project for digitization RESTITUTIO of the Central University Library Carol I and comprises 20000 foils of old maps, rare books, magazines etc. The problem with digitization at national level is also present in this country. As a new member state of the European Union, they aspire towards establishing of a national strategy for digitization that would include all the cultural institutions.



The National Library of Serbia has digitalized funds of old Cyrillic manuscripts, old and rare books, book, daily press and magazines, cartography, engravings and figurative material, photo-documentation, posters, music material and catalogues and bibliography.



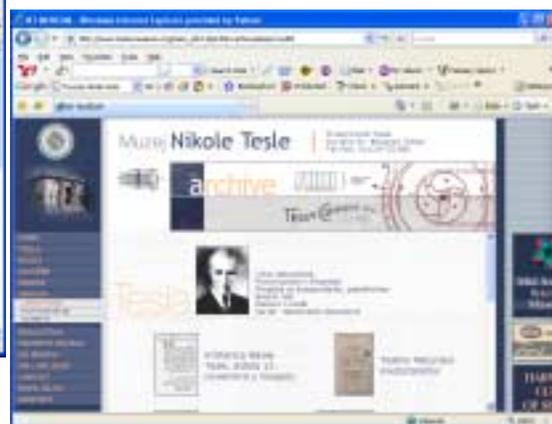
From the First SEEDI Conference in Ohrid, when were presented the beginnings of digitization of their funds, in two years they had accomplished great progress. The digitized funds are available on the internet for anyone interested.

As an achievement was presented the project World Digital Library of the Library of Congress from Washington, USA. The project includes three different geographic areas: Brazil, Russia and Egypt, with the intention to include the other countries. The usage of the data is free of charge.

The usage is in multi-language format, of different materials from world culture and includes digitized manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical achievements, records, films, photographs, architectonic sketches etc. The fund of the World Digital Library is for promoting internationality and inter-cultural understanding and awareness for the different cultures.



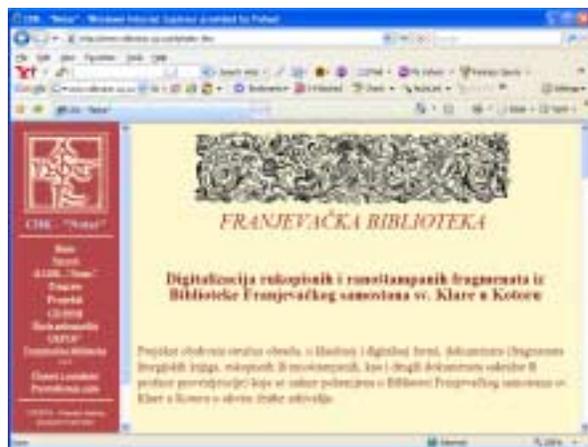
The Mathematics faculty from Belgrade is working on digitization for a longer period. They had adopted a strategy for digitization of the entire Master's and PhD thesis. They had also digitized old books on mathematics that were property of the faculty. They also presented the digitized paper clips about Nikola Tesla – a collection from the Museum of Nikola Tesla in Belgrade.



The Faculty of Humanities of the Copenhagen University, Denmark, in its research had elaborated the XML (program language). The version of the TEI (recognizing of text) guide P5 was proven very interesting. That is recognizing-searching through the digitized texts of names, countries, regions, cities, rivers and many other terms. In this way, the time for searching through archives, libraries etc. by experts for their research had been shortened.



The Department for Computer Science of the University of Crete had elaborated the tool DIATHESIS for searching of digitized daily press. With simple inscribing of a certain word and using of this tool through the metadata, one can receive the results from the search.

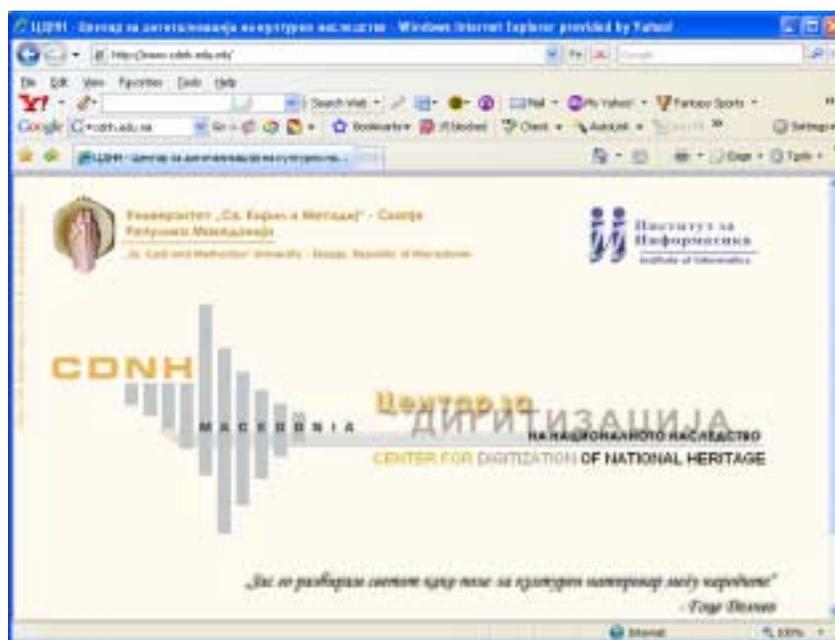


The digitization in Republic of Montenegro is also in beginner phase. They presented a project of a non-governmental organization from Kotor for digitization of manuscripts. So far, only the scanning had been finished, and for the later work, they requested suggestions and directions. Otherwise, the project is for commercial purposes, issuing of a CD for promotion and tourism development.

Republic of Macedonia was presented with two presentations:

The first one by Dimitar Poposki represents a self-financed project for the application of OCR (optical character recognition). Its special fields of interest are the dead languages in the world and the languages that can not be digitized by OCR. With this method, the author of the presentation had managed to digitize many books and texts in foreign languages, such as Old English, Bulgarian and books in Macedonian language (“*Za makedonckite raboti*”- “*About the Macedonian Issues*”). Important element of his presentation was the fact that he does not use expensive equipment (digital camera and computer) for reaching the final goal, which is fully digitized book or a document in which the content can be searched or read, or even downloaded from a web page. A second, also important element is that this way of compression significantly decreases the size of space that it would occupy on hard disks.

The second presentation was from the Center for digitization of the national heritage within the Institute for informatics- Faculty of Natural Sciences. Their presentation was on the education of the staff for digitization of cultural heritage with 3D models, AutoCAD etc. They presented projects prepared by the students of the FNS on the church of St. Nicola in Varosh, Prilep; the Baptistry from Stobi and St. Joakim Osogovski.



The Third SEEDI Conference had the goal to present the novelties in the field of digitization. We should implement the experience from the other participating countries, especially the experience of Republic of Croatia.

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