

Multimedia Collections Management

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ABSTRACT

Multimedia Collection Management Research Project developed by the Study Group and Laboratory Practice and Free Software and Multimedia - LinkLivre, linked to Bahia's Reconcavo Federal University/UFRB, quests both to identify and classify electronic components and hardware; software technical particularities, application code, analogical and digital file formats and media chemical compositions, such as DVDs, CDs, magnetic tapes, etc., whose structure works support for two multimedia's works storage and reproduction, one by the artist Fernando Rabelo and another one by Jarbas Jacome, both professors of Visual Arts at Bahia's Reconcavo Federal University. Based upon such an identification, possible practices might be pointed out for the establishment of multimedia collection preservation policy within a medium term. Finally, the research ending product will be accomplished by a database development, based on technical characteristics of the identified multimedia works.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.2.3 [Database Management]: Documentation.

General Terms

Documentation.

Keywords

Preservation, Digital Archives, Multimedia Collections.

1. INTRODUCTION

The present proposal is part of the identification of technical and theoretical downgrading regarding to practices applied to documentation and preservation of works produced and stored on media and digital media, safeguarded in Brazilian museum spaces.

According to data collected by the Brazilian Institute of Museums

- IBRAM (2011) [1], Bahia has mapped about 152 museums, among which 72.9% have collections of visual arts. However, among the identified museums, only 48.1% of these institutions have control over the documentation of their collection, with only 25.9% of museums in Bahia has access to software cataloging management multimedia collections.

Upon identifying this lack of computerization and management of multimedia estates, the project of Multimedia Collection Management proposes the creation and the availability of a free use database, subjected to adjustments to institutional realities in Bahia State's museum spaces. Such a management tool is presented as a product of this research project which quests to collect data on main analogical and digital media preservation practices, liable to be used for multimedia estate storage and reproduction environment and support.

2. OBJECT OF STUDY

The multimedia artist and researcher Jarbas Jácome is master in Computer Science by Cin-UFPE. His works are produced in open codes (application), allowing other artists to (re)use those codes, generating a network of collaborative Artmedia works, expanding the scope of his work - a sociocultural practice accessibility. The research involves the identification and classification of the installation known as Twilight of the Idols.

The researcher and visual artist Fernando Rabelo is master in Art and Imaging Technology at the School of Fine Arts of Minas Gerais Federal University. He has created works for internet as the interactive animation and Hiperface *Insomnia_01* site. He was featured in 2005 FILE with the QWERTY Contact installation. And in 2006 he was invited to perform a residency at Medialab, Madrid where he attended the Interactive 06 with the De:echo project, within partnership with Rafael Marchetti. He participated of the Vrije Academie Household Programs and World Wide Visual Factory - in Deen Haag, Amsterdam in 2008 and 2009 in which he developed a system for panoramic projections and artistic and interactive applications such as live-performance "Flying Saucers" exhibited during the 5 Days-off Festival - Amsterdam.

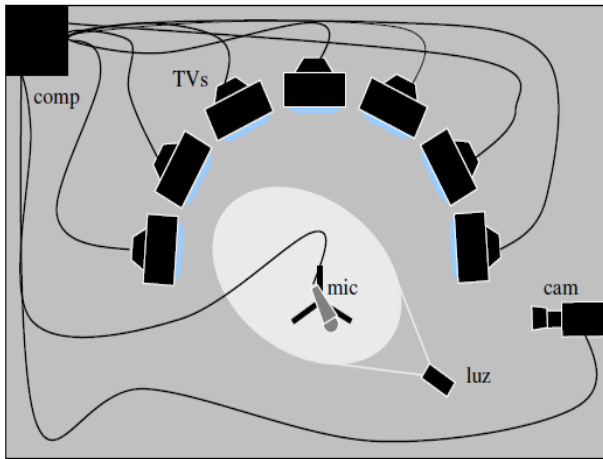
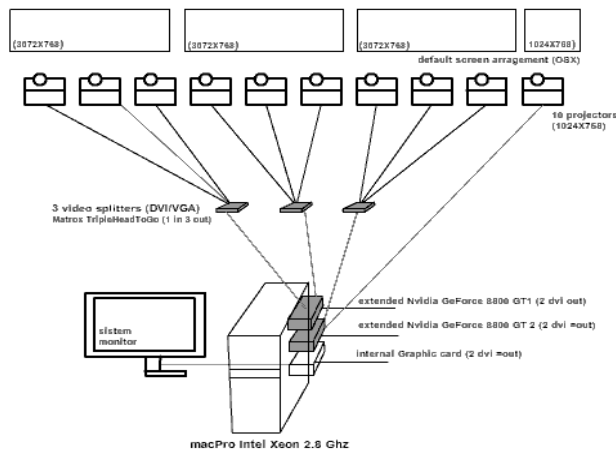


Figure 1. Top view of the installation Twilight of the Idols by Jarbas Jacome.

Both Rabelo and Jarbas use multimedia as a tool for audio, video and binary computing code dissemination in interactive networks. The processes turn to the immateriality of the relationships established in this space of virtuality. The explored interrelationships, identified in recent years in the languages of contemporary art, as in video art, conceptual art, happenings, installations, ready-made and socially engaged arts performances. Artistical languages that present new challenges to museum spaces related to cultural mediation - educational actions - as well as curatorship and estates preservation policies.



2. Panoramic Research Installation Structure.

3. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Substantial portions of international museum institutions have departments and specific methodologies due to the preservation of multimedia works, such as Guggenheim Museum, London's Tate Gallery and San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art (Jill Sterret). Such spaces have qualified researchers staff who go in for more appropriate alternative studies applied to this estate typology preservation. Among the developed activities in art work field preservation that integrate digital formats in their production and reproduction, we have emphasized The Variable Media Network.

The program coordinated by Jon Ippolito and Alain Depocas, the Centre for Research and Documentation (CR + D) Daniel Langlis Foundation Director, aims to present recommendations for the documentation and art preservation, whose shapes tend to one almost instant obsolescence of the used technology. The mentioned recommendations are gathered in the Variable Media Questionnaire (VMQ), also planned by John Ippolito. The VMQ is an informational tool, similar to an interactive quiz where researchers, artists and museum professionals present problems and possible solutions concerning the preservation of multimedia works.

In Brazil, although it is possible to point out major advances related to the practices of art work preservation, formats and digital media which compose Brazilian collections are very poorly known. Similarly, we have realized how insignificant is the incentive to the discussion of strategies for the preservation of works in multimedia language. Until the present time, the Brazilian Institute of Museums - IBRAM, the highest organ of representation for the museum sector in Brazil, has not yet presented a either a short or a medium term plan, not even within publications aimed at meeting the growing demand for managing multimedia collections taking into consideration our museological hybrid realities. It has become imperative and even emergencial, the incentive and immediate fostering to this reflection, as well as the proposal concerning multimedia language works preservation strategies, considering the changes that our media files have been subjected to. The absence of these incentives, technical and conceptual, might result in irreversible losses.

4. PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The Project Strategic Planning takes into consideration three basic conductive themes, as described below:

THEME I - Technical support applied to multimedia: It is understood as activity related to this theme, the classification of the specific techniques of analogical and digital media, such as computers, hardware, digital formats and application codes, Interactive Panoramic multimedia productions by Fernando Rabelo and Twilights of the Idols by Jarbas Jacome.

Such data will be collected from the documentation provided by the artists themselves (work design project,) and bibliographic queries.

THEME II - Knowledge of the multimedia chemical compositions: Theme which comprises the identification of chemical agents, degradation and digital formats present in the storage and reproduction of the two selected works.

THEME III - Information management, database rearing and feeding: Theme that includes the development of a tool for managing multimedia collections (Database), based on the features identified in the classification of the two selected works. This tool comprises three fields of metadata management: Data on administrative management - GADM: This information comprises data on legal and administrative issues related to multimedia work.

Data for arts management - GART: This information comprises data on conceptual issues related to the work.

Data for the technical management - GTEC: These data include information on the technical issues (technology and preservation of supports/means) related to the work.

This way, the project is characterized as an innovative and dynamic initiative, since it establishes a level of accessibility and dissemination of knowledge aimed at the field of museum before limited by logistical issues, technological or even cash - assuming the constitution and territorial sociocultural realities, educational and economic status of Bahia State's municipalities, our current field. Similarly, possible means to create the use of a database suitable for this type of estate.

However, the use of such a management tool is not limited only to museological institutions, considering it can be applied to several types of cultural spaces, such as galleries, memorials, exhibition spaces and other environments that present estates of multimedia works, besides serving as a support tool to additional museum

professional training as well as current students and museum specialists.

5. REFERENCES

- [1] Museums in Numbers. Brasilia: Brazilian Institute of Museums, 2011.
DOI=<http://www.museus.gov.br/publicacoes-e-documentos/museus-em-numeros/>