

DIGITIZATION OF ART: constraint to rethink the management in Slovak National Gallery

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Abstract. Most people perceive a museum or gallery as an institution where they can see art displayed and presented through the exhibitions curated by educated people who try to show or appoint different topics from diverse perspective. What most people do not see is the complex of internal processes that must be performed on a daily basis in order to prepare an interesting exhibition.

When I am asked what do I do in Slovak National Gallery (SNG) and I say I am the director of Research and Development Department the immediate next question is what can a gallery develop and the laugh usually follows this second question. I am already used to it, so I smile. I understand people do not realize they are able to see maybe 10% of the whole collection that SNG manages. The rest is stored in depositories and must be taken care of. We are talking about more than sixty thousand collection objects. At the beginning of the digitization project we were not aware of the massive movement and logistics we will face. Conventional methods used by then, like using paper sticky notes, sending an email, or managing things via phone were not acceptable. Digitization taught us discipline. We were forced to use new information tools which at the end motivated us to implement new electronic processes to make collection management more effective and updated. The article will present the processes that public is not very familiar with, as well as information tools Atlassian JIRA and Confluence which SNG modified for the needs of cultural environment. Since SNG serves as methodical center for other galleries in Slovakia it sets up new standards and trends that could be applied for the whole network of galleries.