

On Digitalization of Cultural Collections

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Abstract

Nowadays, any “form” can be digitalized is much realized than before. Besides of digital libraries, digital museums and digital archives are attracting people involved in. Digitalization becomes so popular that almost everything can be found on the Internet. In this sense, digitalization has already changed our daily life and our work. As a consequence, it will also shape our future.

There are some fundamental questions remaining unanswered though it is the trend of doing digitalization. These questions are like “what is information”, “what is digitalization”, “why is it so important”, “what are the impacts of digitalization on human cultures”, and “what are the future perspectives”? This paper is focused on some primitive theories which talking about these fundamental questions and giving some answers.

First of all, the relationship among information technology (*IT*), media, communication and cultural is reviewed in general, with some philosophical concerns.

Secondly, the term of information is defined in the sense of overall perspectives. In this definition, a set of clear concepts of information can be derived. This definition also can be served as a working definition for those who are studying the virtual reality of Tang civilization.

Finally, this paper will present a model that includes four levels of doing digitalization. The model has been developed from the Digital Museum Project and the National Digital Archives Program in Taiwan since 1997.