

Unique Mongolian Historical and Cultural Heritages Online

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<http://www.mongolheritage.mn>

Abstract (EN)

The Mongolian Government adopted over 200 objects as an heritage of the unique category selecting them from the remarkable historical and cultural heritages created by the Mongolian people for centuries by their historical, cultural and scientific significance. They are stored in the State Museums, Treasures fund, State Central library and in the Gandantegchinlen monastery. Until today these heritages are not introduced fully to the public in the form of book, catalogue and means of information.

The website will be an online handbook of lessons for children and it will be a fruitful work for the introduction of the unique works to the foreign and local citizens.

The website Unique Mongolian Historical and Cultural Heritage will publish 8 serial exhibitions in English and Mongolian and 8 serial lessons in Mongolian.

Keywords: heritage, culture, e-Learning, multimedia, portal, education, digitization.

Zusammenfassung (DE)

Die Regierung der Mongolei hat ueber 200 Werke, die aus den geschichtlichen und kulturellen Seltenheiten, welche vom Mongolischen Volk ueber viele Jahrhunderte hinweg geschaffen wurden, nach ihrer geschichtlich, kulturellen und wissenschaftlichen Bedeutung ausgewaehlt worden sind, als Meisterwerke akzeptiert. Diese Gedenkstuecke sind in den staatlichen Museen, der staatlichen Schatzkammer, der staatlichen Buecherei und im Gandantempel aufbewahrt und bis heute durch Buecher bzw. Massenmedien nicht oeffentlich bekannt gemacht worden.

Diese Webseite wird ein ausserschulische Nachschlagwerk fuer Kinder und Schueler und ist eine nuetzliche Arbeit zur Werbung der Information ueber die Meisterwerke sowohl inlaendischen als auch auslaendischen Buergern.

Die Webseite der Mongolischen geschichtlichen und kulturellen Meisterwerke wird insgesamt in 8 Serienausstellungen in Englischer und Mongolischer Sprache und 8 Serienunterrichte in Mongolischer Sprache zeigen.

Schlüsselwörter (DE): Kulturerbe, Kultur, E-Learning, Multimedia, Web-Portal, Bildung, Digitalisierung.

Résumé (FR)

Le Gouvernement de la Mongolie a choisi plus de 200 oeuvres d'art, d'histoire et de culture comme témoignages uniques du patrimoine, parmi l'ensemble du remarquable patrimoine historique et culturel créé par le peuple Mongol au cours des siècles. Ces oeuvres sont conservées dans des musées nationaux, dans la Trésorerie Nationale, dans la Bibliothèque Centrale Nationale et dans le monastère de Gandantegtchinlen. Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, ce patrimoine n'a pas été introduit auprès du public sous forme de livres, catalogues ou autres sources d'informations.

Le site Web deviendra un bon manuel d'apprentissage pour les enfants, les écoliers et les étudiants et il s'agira également d'un travail productif pour l'introduction de ces oeuvres inestimables dans les foyers.

Le site Web « Unique Mongolian Historical and Cultural Heritage » présentera une série de 8 expositions en anglais et en mongol, et une série de 8 leçons en langue mongole.

Mots clés: patrimoine, culture, enseignement assisté par ordinateur, multimédia, portail, éducation, numérisation.

Background

Although the Internet and computer application are penetrated among the population at high speed, there is only 1 museum website which is introducing the Mongolian cultural heritage to the public. The content of the program for the youth on the historical and cultural monuments of the native country is not sufficient on the other side and in particular the information in this field for the public also is not sufficient. It demands to select an electronic publication based on the new technology of information. In the last years the museum visitors are becoming few but for museum as a distributor of culture, education specialists are paying considerable attention to museum to become an environment of training. In this circumstance the installation of the online exhibition and lessons is very important because of long distance between cities and villages in the vast territory.

The Mongols like the other peoples of the world have created the great history and culture and passed them to their younger generations. According to the Mongolia's law of protection of the cultural heritage the historical and cultural monuments are classified as "unique", "valuable" and "ordinary". 227 items were approved as monuments of unique historical and cultural category by the resolution of the Mongolian Government in 1995-2004.

These items are kept in the museums and organizations including the Bogd Khan's Palace museum, Zanabazar Fine arts Museum, Choijin Lama Temple Museum, National Museum of Mongolian History, Museum of Natural History, State Central Library, and Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences.

Most of the unique items are cast sculptures. It witnesses that the development of the cast method for the creation of sculptures reached its peak between the late 17th century and the first half of the 18th century.

These works are inseparable connected with the name of the Mongolian First Bogd Zanabazar. The sculptures of the Zanabazar's style have changed the proportions of the Tibetan iconwork, which were observed then and introduced the classic proportions of the human body and its beautiful shape and the human kind heart and good desire were absorbed in the eyes and movement. Thus Zanabazar laid the foundation of the Mongolian national style of representation of gods.

Iconometric paintings and appliques highly developed in the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century and reached the highest level of representation. For example the big sized silk appliques including White Tara (1400x1040 cm), Tselhanamsum (1450x1000 cm), Sengiin Raa (1600x1050 cm) and Vajrapani (1120x1450 cm) are kept in the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts.

The books, skillfully carved printing blocks, masks and costumes of tsam dance, wooden, bone and iron carvings and other unique smith's works, created in the above mentioned centuries are kept in the museum. Battle weapons, household tools and different kind of decorations related to the bronze age are found everywhere on the territory of Mongolia and bronze knife with the image of ibex head at its end the rare remarkable items decorated with the images of animals.

The works of fine arts, created before the beginning of the 20th century had no tradition that an author to leave his name at his work. There are many Buddhist iconometric paintings, sculpture, and items among the monuments of the unique category. It is connected with the wide penetration of the Buddhist religion into art and culture in Mongolia after the Mongolian empire.



Fig1: “Dorjjodba” sutra



Fig2: Queen’s hat

As for cultural organizations which are lack of human resource and finance and in the present conditions when the digitalization of registration and information is at the beginning stage, as a result of this work the unique heritages, which are maintained in the Mongolian museums, will be digitized and their database will be created.



Fig3: “Yumsergiimaa” sculpture



Fig4: “Jugderna mjil” tanka



Fig5: “Tsogdogmarbu” tanka

Project goals

Production of this online exhibition – training makes valuable contribution in advertising the unique and valuable heritages of Mongolian history and culture in the worldwide and improves relations between audiences and arts works, particularly to make cost cheap contribution in cultural education of youths.

Project outcomes and importance

The unique and valuable heritages of Mongolian culture and history through Internet as series in language of Mongolian and English show for around of year and it will include total of 200 works and monuments, 20 works in each exhibits.

An 8 series of lessons related to curriculum of history and culture dedicated to secondary school pupil produce in Mongolian language.

Information about museums preserving these unique and valuable works distributes and advertises in English language through this online exhibition.

Design and programming

The website is a dynamic website which used the software PHP and MySQL. The website has a database, search system and a corner for entering a news. It is possible to build a new exhibition from the database by selection, to register an user and besides the exhibition of the related day an user-visitors can search the necessary information from the database and see it and can send them to others.

The title of a heritage, the name of author, the date of its creation, the place where the heritage is stored and the alphabetical order can make the search.

The databases of the web site consist of news, heritage's information, and users of the web site, each exhibition and lessons for students and they have the English and Mongolian versions.

Besides it the website has the corner of communication and mailing list.

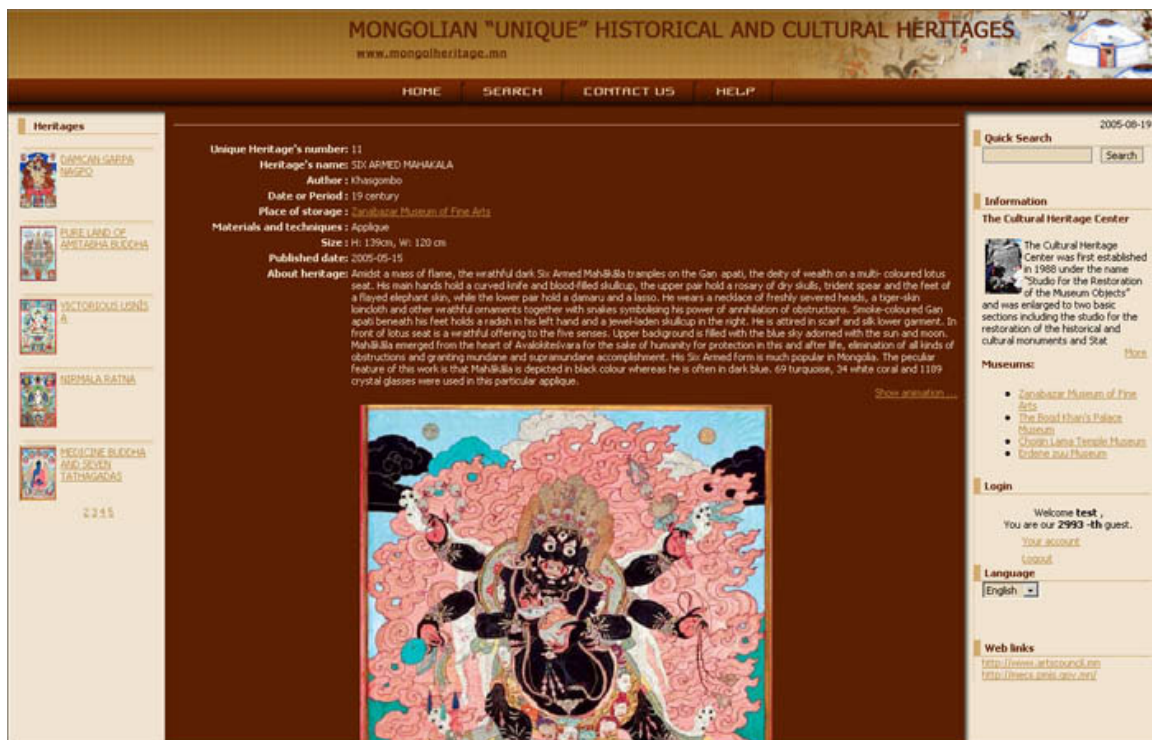


Fig6: page of online exhibition

Currently we have inserted information of 41 unique heritages in 2 exhibitions and the all over 200 heritages adopted by the Government as the unique heritages, will be shown during next months.

The heritages installed in the website are the heritages including the ancient monuments, a Buddhist iconometric paintings, sculptures, papier-marches, ethnographic items, sutra-books by their classification. As for the size only applique's sizes are from 81 cm x 67 cm / Avidiin Shangad/ to 1120 cm x 1450 cm / Vajrapani/, as well as the painting "One day Mongolia" which represents about 700 images of persons, animals, nature and weather in movement and live on the cloth with the size 130 cm x 165 cm.

The method to show the heritages in three different ways was made by the application Macromedia Flash.



Fig7: multimedia interactive file of unique heritage

One of the major works of preparing the original of the electronic introduction of the historical and cultural memorials and heritage was to prepare the multimedia for each creature. This work was executed by using the Macromedia Flash and the media is prepared with the following 3 different types:

1. The introduction of creatures with two coordinates such as the tanka, and the applique was made with the possibility to see it by enlarging and minimizing the creatures according to their wanted sizes.
2. It is possible to see the photo creatures with too much images by enlarging the detailed parts. For instance, the painting "One Day of Mongolia", which represents about 700 images of persons, animals, nature and weather in movement and live on the cloth with the size 130 cm x 165 cm.
3. In seeing the creates with the physical images, you can see them from the different sides by selecting the image and also, it is possible to see the selected parts of the images by enlarging as you wish.

Conclusion

At the result of this work, wide range of possibility to advertise and introduce the precious and unique historical and cultural memorials of Mongolia to the public was provided and is becoming the big handouts and training materials for the teachers and students. Youth and children can see the fascinating historical and cultural memorials created by the ancestors during many centuries as they are looking at them by their own eyes and gather the wide range of information about those memorials from our website. Also, introducing the Mongolian historical and cultural heritages to the world is one of the goals of our website.

Furthermore, we are having the goal to enrich the website with the information about other heritages and precious memorials and the mission is to found the virtual museum of Mongolian heritages and memorials and undertake the activity of electron museum with certain payments.

Next steps

- To introduce the cultural heritages, specially are existed in private collection to the public as inserting in our website.
- To add interesting cognitive web pages which could dedicate for children's and youth.
- To show artworks of the Mongolian artists.

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