



[Volume XXXVIII-4/C26](#)

Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci., XXXVIII-4/C26, 25-28, 2012
www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net/XXXVIII-4-C26/25/2012/
doi: 10.5194/isprsarchives-XXXVIII-4-C26-25-2012
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EXPLORING CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IN A 3D COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

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Keywords: Information Visualization, Metadata, Cultural Heritage, 3D Collaborative Environment

Abstract. Cultural heritage is a complex and diverse concept, which brings together a wide domain of information. Resources linked to a cultural heritage site may consist of physical artefacts, books, works of art, pictures, historical maps, aerial photographs, archaeological surveys and 3D models. Moreover, all these resources are listed and described by a set of a variety of metadata specifications that allow their online search and consultation on the most basic characteristics of them. Some examples include Norma ISO 19115, Dublin Core, AAT, CDWA, CCO, DACS, MARC, MoReq, MODS, MuseumDat, TGN, SPECTRUM, VRA Core and Z39.50. Gateways are in place to fit in these metadata standards into those used in a SDI (ISO 19115 or INSPIRE), but substantial work still remains to be done for the complete incorporation of cultural heritage information. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to demonstrate how the complexity of cultural heritage resources can be dealt with by a visual exploration of their metadata within a 3D collaborative environment. The 3D collaborative environments are promising tools that represent the new frontier of our capacity of learning, understanding, communicating and transmitting culture.

[Conference Paper](#) (PDF, 583 KB)

Citation: Respaldiza, A., Wachowicz, M., and Vázquez Hoehne, A.: EXPLORING CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IN A 3D COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT, Int. Arch. Photogramm. Remote Sens. Spatial Inf. Sci., XXXVIII-4/C26, 25-28, doi: 10.5194/isprsarchives-XXXVIII-4-C26-25-2012, 2012.

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