

Museum of Country Life- A Digital Record Management Case Study

Abstract

In today's digital world paper documents are giving way to digital records. Images and digital data recording are increasingly becoming a popular communication and record keeping tool. This case study explores National Museum of Ireland's approach to digitalize the various artifacts related to Ireland's portable material heritage and natural history and to manage and preserve those images and audio-visual data.

About National Museum of Ireland

The National Museum of Ireland was founded under the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act of 1877. The museum's collections had been divided between Leinster House, originally the headquarters of the Royal Dublin Society, and the Natural History Museum in Merrion Street, built as an extension to Leinster House in 1856–7. In 1900 the control of the museum was passed to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. In the year 1908 the name of the museum was changed to 'National Museum of Science and Art' from 'The Dublin Museum of Science and Art'. In 1921 the name was changed again to 'National Museum of Ireland', which continues to this day.



Project Requirement:

Several artifacts are not publicly displayed so the Museum wanted to give digital access to those artifacts and for this they required 3D models and rendered Images of the artifacts. The project required digitizing the many archeological findings, artifacts, and other materials in the museum i.e. take the images of the different artifacts, store them through a proper indexing system and create 3D models of them. The creation of images was becoming increasingly important due to the changes that the National Museum of Ireland was incorporating in their exhibitions.



COLLAR- Late Bronze Age (800-700 BC)

The Solution

eCeltic developed a quick and innovative approach in consultation with team at the museum. A new image based record management was first designed to solve the problem. High quality images of all artifacts and materials having historical importance were taken by professional and a unique indexing system was created for storing them. Each image was assigned a unique alpha numeric code along with a detailed description,

making retrieving of the images from the system easy and quick.



Implementation of 3D technology involving laser scanning and imaging of the objects were carried out for 3D visualization. Initially fifteen artifacts were chosen for the 3D visualization project. Most of the objects chosen dated back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age period. The items were chosen in view of the Second Level school curriculum.

Results Achieved

The new system achieved success as it received praise from different other organizations in Ireland. The digitization process greatly helped the National Museum of Ireland to promote and exhibit all examples of Ireland's portable material heritage and natural history and make them accessible to visitors at home and abroad. The 3D visualization and received a warm welcome from students of archeology