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Digital collection of Turbe listed as national monuments in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina¹

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Introduction

Turbe (mausoleum) refers to the resting ground of someone's remains, across Bosnia and Herzegovina Turbe "were built over the graves of pashas, sheikhs, or some other prominent or wealthy persons. Some were built by individuals for themselves, others were built by descendants or admirers of the deceased" (Bejtić, 1952). When it comes to the visualization and digital presentation of the Turbe, as an invaluable part of the tangible cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its cultural tourism, this research is focused on the role of metadata in identification of Turbe in online environment. The purpose of the research is to further examine necessary metadata for identification of Turbe, with reference to CIDOC's International Core Data Standards for Archaeological and Architectural Heritage and data generated from the analysis of the literature and documentation about Turbe, and consequently create a digital collection of selected Turbe, available in open access, which is equipped with appropriate metadata that enable easy discovery of Turbe.

Theoretical framework and Research questions

In the digital representation of cultural heritage, appropriate metadata can increase accessibility of heritage objects and have a vital role in facilitating resources discovery and interoperability in networked environments. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, only few projects acknowledged the important role of metadata in the presentation of digital collections. In the project *Application of new technologies in reconstruction of cultural heritage and identity of Bosnia and Herzegovina* Sotirov-Đukić (2016) demonstrated the importance of metadata in the appearance of heritage collections in online environment, also, the visualization and mapping of Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural heritage within knowledge management was discussed in research by Handžić and Dizdar

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(2016, 2017) that used metadata to visualize respected collections. The role of metadata in increasing visibility of Turbe has been investigated so far in a pilot study of authors of this poster presentation that included 10 mutually different samples of Turbe, and with this research authors seek to determine the type and amount of identification metadata necessary for identification of quite specific and complex corpus of Turbe, identified as national monuments in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Methodology

Metadata model for Turbe included six main categories of metadata, each having different metadata subgroups. When it comes to the creation of digital collection, the basic criterion for selecting Turbe for inclusion in the digital collection was geographic – the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, additionally, only those Turbe that have a status of national monuments were included in the collection, which is a total of 25 Turbe from the abovementioned territory.

Research Results and Discussion

Metadata about each of 25 Turbe were created and uploaded on Omeka, that will be available in 4.0. creative commons licence, along with accompanying photos of each Turbe. All items were described with the metadata element fields created in Turbe as a new item type, and mapped. Not all Turbe in digital collection have all identification elements from main metadata group, others vary in terms of amount of additional available information for metadata subgroups, given the existing differences between selected Turbe (for example type or individuals and organizations related to the history of Turbe). It is expected that created digital collection of Turbe will facilitate easier access to metadata about selected Turbe to all those interested in Bosnian and Herzegovinian tangible cultural heritage, promote research, teaching and learning, and enable connection with a broader community by building scholarly sources for digital humanities research.

Conclusion

Research on the role of metadata in identifying and increasing the visibility of very specific tangible cultural heritage to which Turbe belongs demonstrated that on the basis of the CIDOC's core standards it is possible to identify all the necessary metadata for representation of selected Turbe in a given digital collection which is a step towards presentation and promotion of Turbe in online environment.

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