

Invitation & Call for Contributions

AI will sort it ... out?

Practices of collecting, archiving and curating in the age of digital transformation

Summer School 2025, July 2-4, University of Continuing Education Krems

Additional questions to inspire possible contributions

1. Critical perspectives on collecting, collections and archives in the face of AI and digitization

- What challenges and opportunities arise from AI and digitization for the practice of collecting, preserving and making accessible tangible and intangible cultural heritage?
- How are the selection and evaluation criteria for including objects and information in collections and archives changing in the digital age?
- What ethical implications are associated with the use of AI in archives and collections, particularly with regard to data protection, copyright, and the representation of diversity?
- How can Large Language Models (LLMs) be used to index and analyze unstructured data in archives and collections, and what critical aspects need to be considered?
- How does the increasing digitization of collections affect the accessibility and usability of cultural heritage, and what new forms of mediation and participation does it enable?
- How might blockchain and digital identity solutions support authentication and provenance tracking of cultural objects, creating new gamified approaches to collecting while also safeguarding trust and transparency?

2. Organizational and structural challenges for archives and collections

- What impact do AI and digitization have on the workflows and organizational structures of archives and collections?
- What new qualifications and skills will be relevant for employees in archives and collections in the age of "big data"?
- How can archives and collections secure the necessary resources and infrastructure to manage digital transformation?
- What new models of cooperation and partnerships are needed to address the challenges of AI and digitization in the field of cultural heritage?
- How can archives and collections strengthen their role as places of knowledge transfer and social participation in the digital age?

3. Environmental and sustainability issues related to AI

- What influence does the use of AI have on the energy consumption and resource requirements of archives and collections?

- How can the environmental impact of AI applications in the field of cultural heritage be minimized?
- What ethical and social responsibilities do archives and collections have in their use of AI technologies in terms of sustainability?
- What role can archives and collections play in raising awareness of the ecological and social consequences of digitization?
- How do blockchain infrastructures for digital identity and secure record-keeping balance authenticity and trust with the need to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact (Proof of Stake (PoS); 2nd Layer Solutions, Anchoring etc.)?

4. Organizations

- How can organisations use AI to make knowledge management more interactive and engaging for their members?
- How can organisations reimagine their history and identity in the age of digital transformation?
- How can "innovation" and "disruption" be addressed and reframed to include environmental and sustainability issues?
- How do digital ways of collecting data and organising knowledge affect patterns of collaboration? How does digital space affect organisational hierarchies?

The Summer School is organized by the Department for Arts and Cultural Studies of the University for Continuing Education Krems in cooperation with in scope GmbH.

Participation is free of charge and limited to 40 people.

Participation is also possible without submitting a contribution to the programme. However, we strongly encourage you to actively participate in the programme and look forward to a lively exchange and discussion.