DIGITISATION OF CULTURE HERITAGE IN LATVIA MUSEUMS: *PERFORMANCE, PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS*

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"Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums"

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Cultural heritage and memory institutions digitisation policy in in Latvia

- **_Cultural Policy documents_:**
  - Main Cultural Policy Postulates of Latvia (1995);
  - National Programme "Culture" 2000-2010;
  - Long Term Cultural Policy Guidelines 2006-2015;
  - Medium Term Strategy 2006-2008 for the Cultural Sector;
  - National Development Plan;
  - National Lisbon Programme.

Cultural heritage and memory institutions digitisation policy in in Latvia (2)

- ***State agency* "Cultural Information Systems":**
  - operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture.
  - its duty is to preserve and to make more accessible the information and cultural values that are stored by libraries, museums and archives.

Cultural heritage and memory institutions digitisation policy in in Latvia (3)

- *State agency „Culture Information Systems" implements three very important projects financed by EU Structure Funds and the state budget:*
  - State Integrated Library Information System,
  - State Archives Unified Information System,
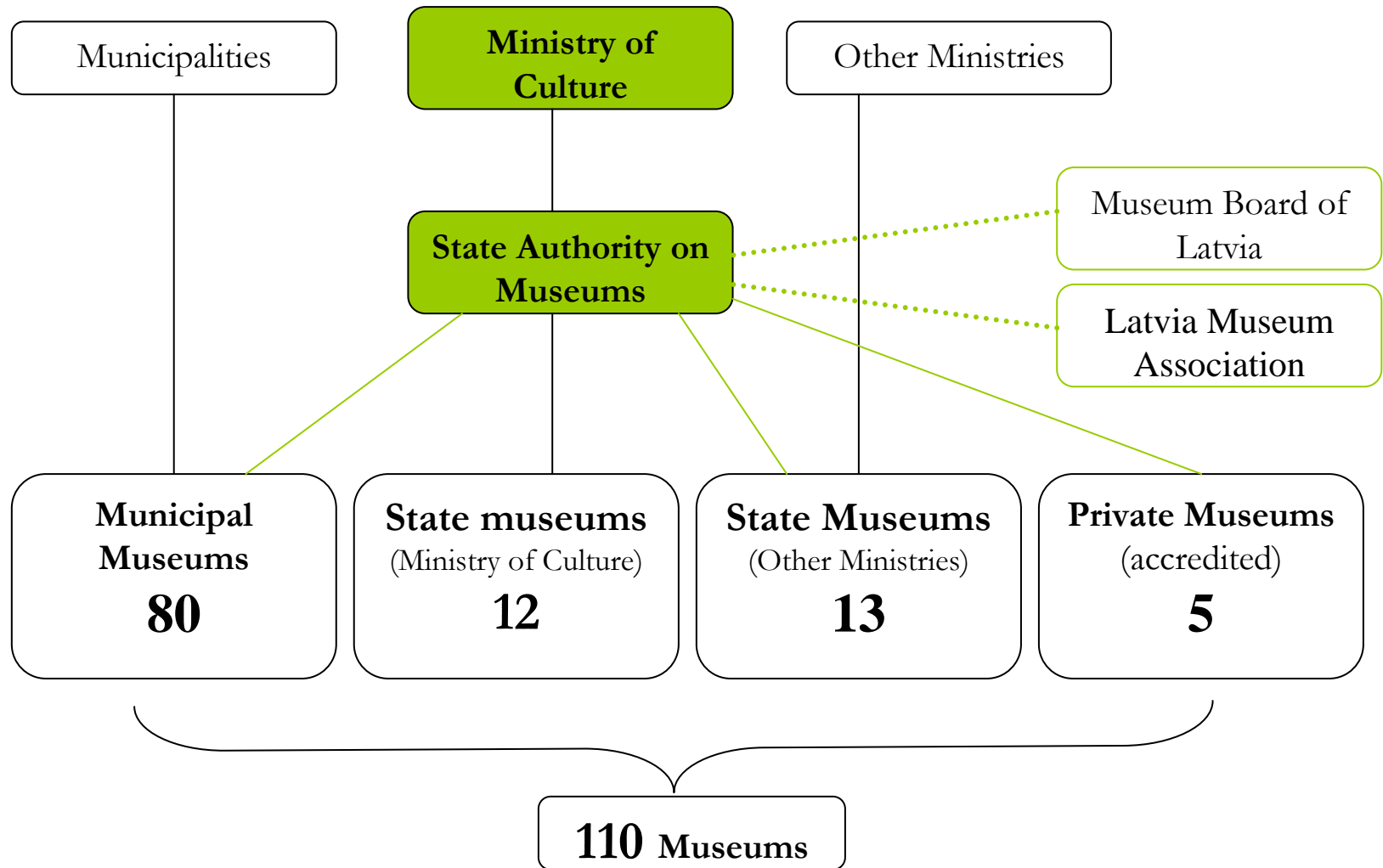 - Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums.

Museums system in Latvia
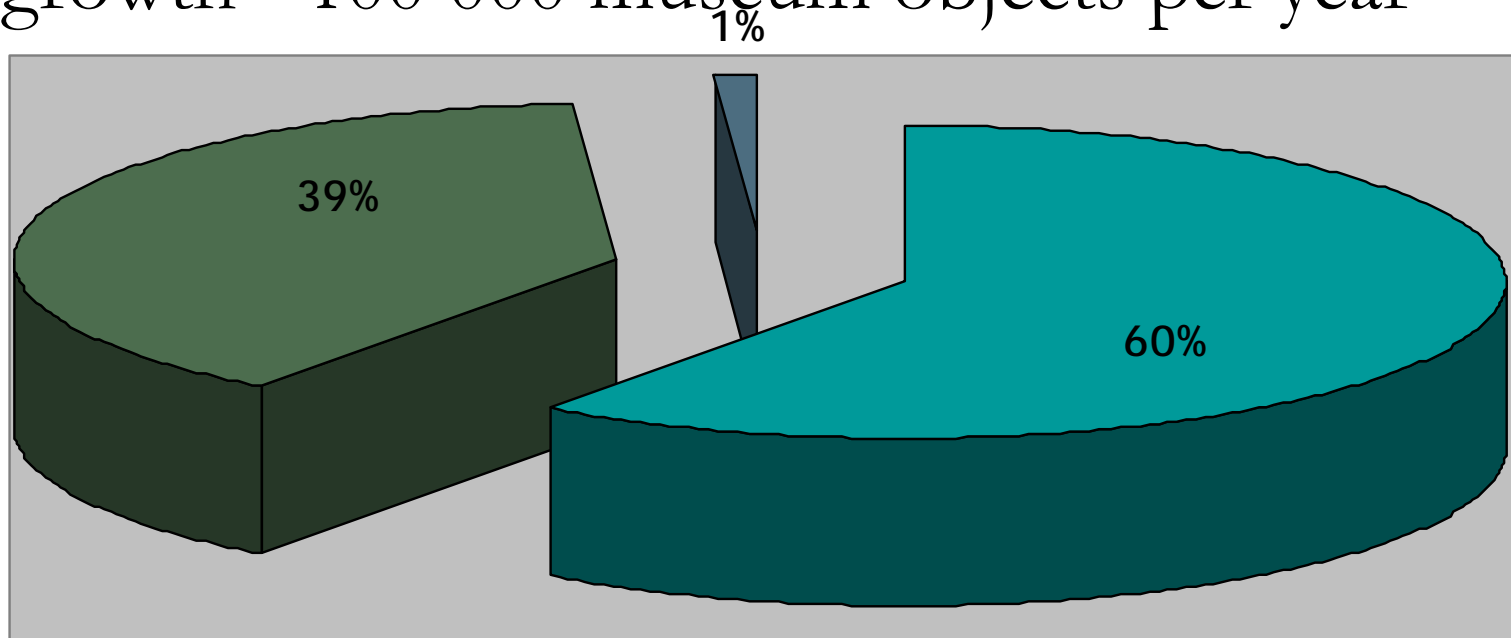
- **Laws and regulations:**
  - Law on Museums (2006);
  - Regulations of Museum Accreditation (2006);
  - Regulations of National Holding of Museums (2006);
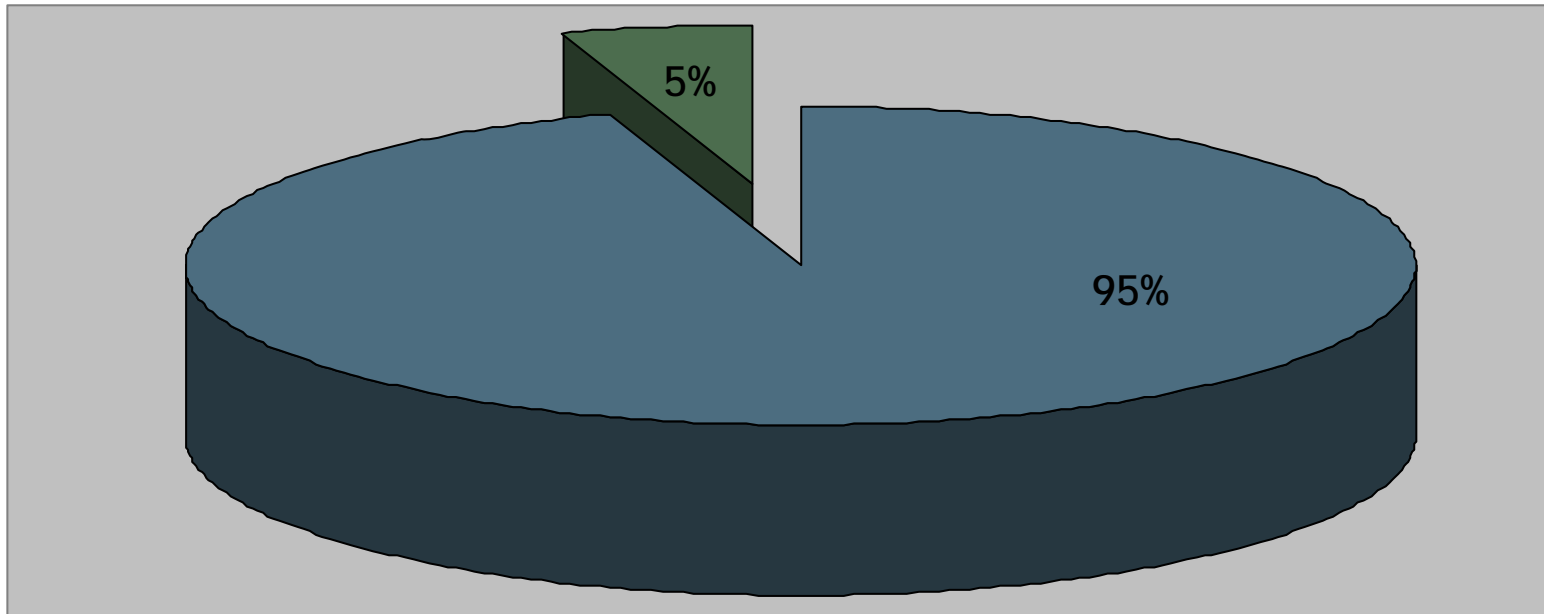 - Regulations of State Authority on Museums (2005).

Museums system in Latvia

National Holding of Museums

- about 5,1 mil. museum objects

- growth - 100 000 museum objects per year

1%

39%

60%

■ State Museums ■ Municipal museums ■ Private Museums

National Holding of Museums

5%

95%

■ other museum objects   ■ exhibited museum objects
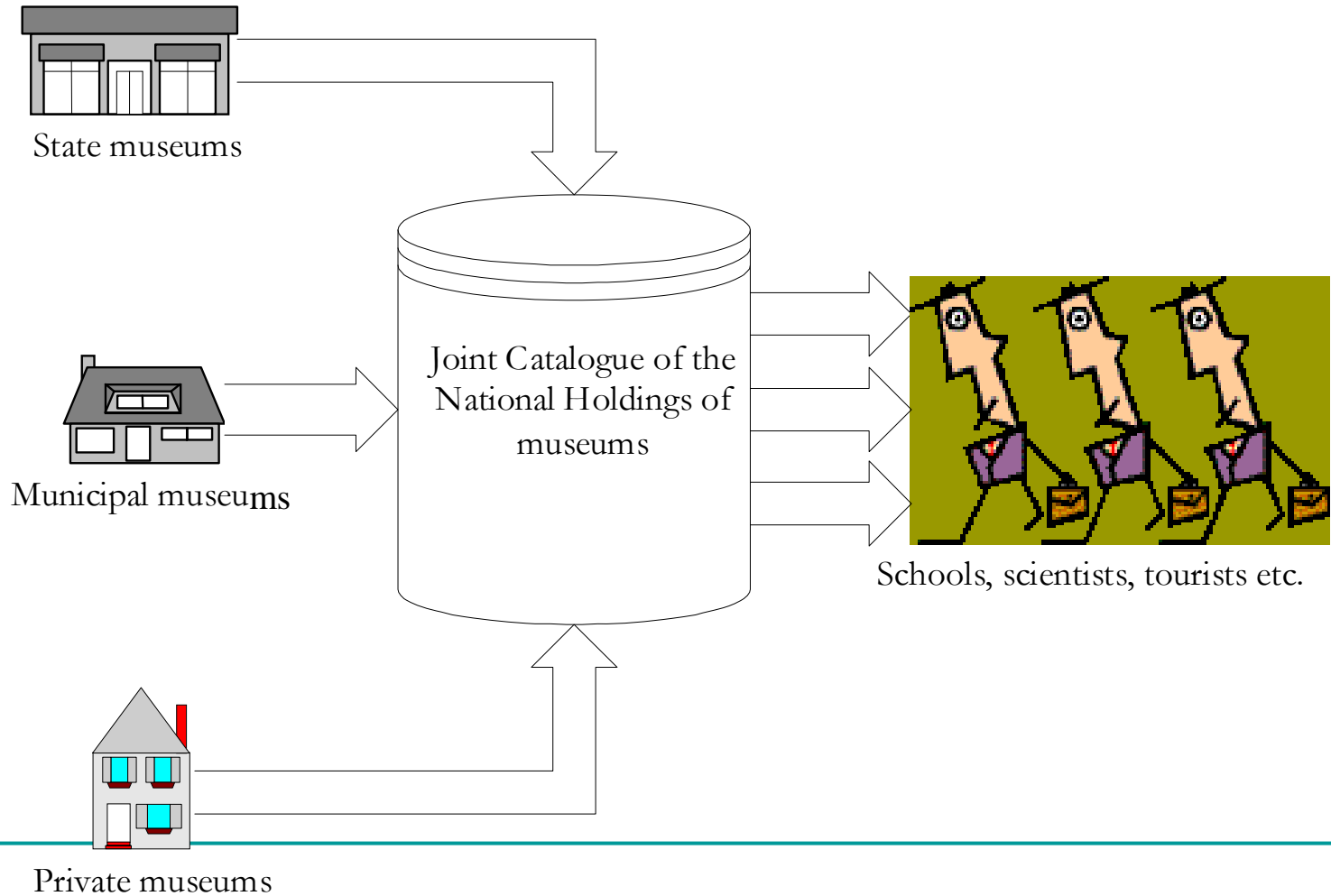
Why to create Joint Catalogue?

- effective museums information availability for society;
- integration of museums potential in education system;
- new possibilities for scientific investigations in museums;
- effective museum information availability for tourism industry;
- modernization of collections management in museums;
- improvement of the National Holdings of museum management
- museum information preparation for digital publications (CD, DVD catalogues) and virtual expositions;
- Promotion of Latvian culture heritage incorporation in Europe and world culture assets.

Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums

- **Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums** is a computerized information system, the database of which builds the core information of museum objects.

- Creation of Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of Museums is determined by:

  - Law on Museums;

  - Regulations of National Holding of Museums

Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums

State museums

Municipal museums

Private museums

Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings of museums

Schools, scientists, tourists etc.

Project "Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums"

- Implement by State agency "Cultural Information Systems" and State Authority on Museums

- September, 2005 – November, 2007

- Financed by EU Structure Funds and the state budget:

  - ❑ total: **759 559.00** LVL

    - ▪ ERAF **569 669,25LVL** (75%)
    - ▪ state budget **189 889,75LVL** (25%)

Project "Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums"

- Within the project it is being planned to:
  - create Information system and assemble Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums;
  - provide computer equipment, scanners, digital cameras and Internet connections to the museums;
  - train museum employees to work with the computers and software;
  - give information about Joint Catalogue of the National Holding of Museums to public
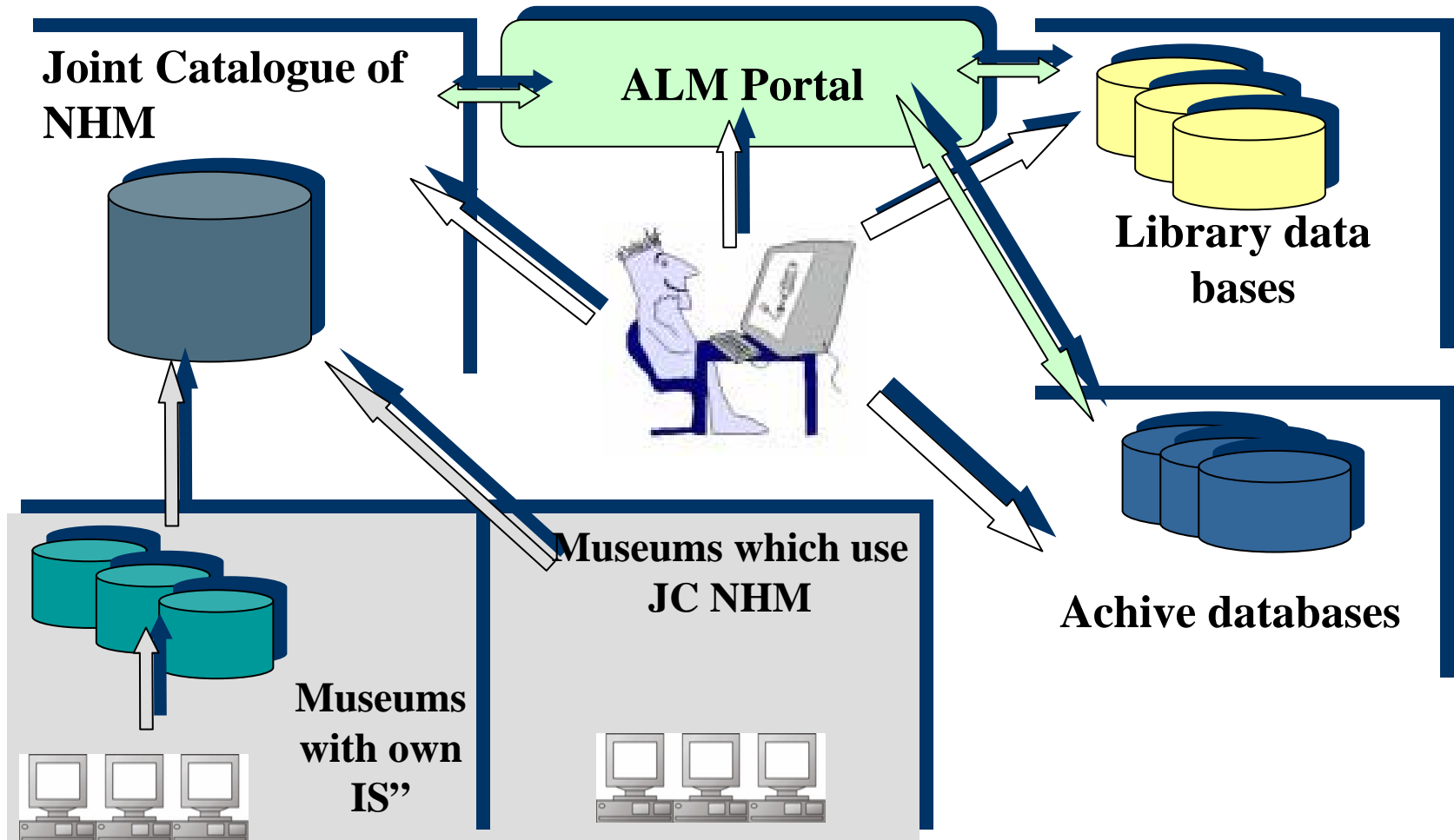
Problems...

- there is no unified standard in Latvia for museum object documentation;

- there is no unified museum object classifier;

- there are differences in museum object information processing in museums.

International standards

- CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (**CRM**)
- Data Exchange Protocol **SRU** (http://www.loc.gov/standards/sru/)
- Metadata or Data Content Standard **Dublin Core**
- Museum Documentation Standard **SPECTRUM**
- *Art & Architecture Thesaurus (**AAT**)*
- etc.

In future...

Thank you for attention!

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