

**The Mexican Cultural Heritage Data Model: speeding up the pace towards a holistic documentation of the Mexican cultural heritage (Full length paper)**

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Mexico is a country with a vast and extraordinary cultural heritage that is the result of rich history of cultural exchange, syncretism and transculturation. This circumstance is materialized into the consolidation of a long and prestigious museum tradition, which at the same time is sadly characterized by an endemic lack of technological resources, rather than professional skills.

As a result, we find that Mexican museums produce a very heterogeneous documentation (often not even managed using information technologies), and most of them deploy *ad hoc* solutions that directly limit the usefulness and value of the documentation process itself.

Because of that, the recently founded Mexican Ministry of Culture is undertaking the development of the Mexican cultural heritage data model (“Modelo de Datos México”), which is aimed to contribute to the cultural heritage domain of our country through the correct characterization and documentation of its cultural objects. It’s the first documented experience in Mexico of a large scale CIDOC-CRM-based data model that is complemented with a set of terminological tools that attempt to capture the singularities and idiosyncrasy of the Mexican cultural sector.

Despite there still are a lot of open issues, in the present paper we’ll describe the motivations and decisions made so far to adequate the data model to the Mexican reality, and the development of the project that will define a set of local terminologies built on the expertise of linguists, information architects, developers and, especially, museum professionals.