

## **Challenging the provenance of knowledge and the authenticity of museum documentation in virtual space.**

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### *Abstract:*

Museum documentation fulfils its purpose through the presentation of collection objects, serving as an outstandingly rich source of information for the scientists, scholars and wide public. Enhancement of modern presentation forms with elements of virtual/augmented reality also expands our ability to communicate the museality to its recipient. On the other side, we are also facing the risk of information distortion and the occurrence of various misinterpretations. This paper tries to sum up the experience acquired during the transformation of a real museum exhibition into its virtual imprint. Case of Sered Holocaust Museum (Slovakia) provided the vivid background for critical reflection on the virtual exhibition emergence. There are still many stories to be told and many views on them - allowing for various interpretations using the different (or even the same) objects documented in museum collections and archives. Presentation in digital world no more relies on the techniques used many decenia ago, but the structure of human perception and understanding remains anchored in the ancient biological past. The key point of museum documentation and presentation is their ability to recount on strong narratives without embezzling the raw facts, which are quickly withering away from our shared historical memory. After all, manipulation of facts and the creation of an alternative reality have already led (and can lead again) to the phenomena the Sered Holocaust Museum is devoted to.

- *The presentation will be based on the real virtual exhibition and thus slightly more demanding on the internet connection. Anyway, I will try my best to prepare a fully functional offline instance of the Sered Holocaust Museum virtual exhibition.*
- *Preferred format is the short paper (10 min + questions), but I am open to the full-length paper (20 min + questions) too. Possibility of exhibiting the poster to supplement the live presentation would be great!*