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E-Review

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E-Review

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The E-review section evaluates electronic resources, websites, digital archives, blogs, mailing groups and multimedia relevant to our discipline.

UNESCO ICOMOS Documentation Centre — weblog

Available through <http://icomosdocumentationcentre.blogspot.com/>

The UNESCO ICOMOS Documentation Centre has developed a very useful ‘blog’¹, hosted on the website *Blogger*².

Since its inception in June 2008 the blog has provided regular news updates, in the form of posts, which are labelled with keywords and archived by date. The posts provide news about online journals and publications that have been added to the internet database of the ICOMOS Documentation Centre, as well as containing links to online journals, publications, newsletters, bulletins and websites by other cultural heritage institutions. The blog is well presented, with some very useful content. It is particularly useful that these posts are available through RSS feeds³, which make it possible for the dedicated user to be immediately informed every time news is posted on the blog.

The blog has also engaged with the possibilities offered by websites such as *Twitter*⁴ and *Delicious*⁵. The Documentation Centre site at *Twitter* (<http://twitter.com/icomos>) provides short news scraps on what the ICOMOS Documentation Centre is undertaking at the moment. Although well designed and easy to navigate, these news scraps mirror the information available in the blog and RSS feeds, and as such seem slightly repetitive.

A more useful feature is provided on the *Delicious* website, which makes it possible to share, manage, save and archive web pages from a centralized source. Linking from the blog (via the heading ‘my delicious tags’), or directly (via <http://delicious.com/icomos>), one can find a myriad of information. ‘Tags’ (<http://delicious.com/tags/icomos>) contain a collection of links to websites and online resources, grouped together under topics such as ‘Armed conflict’, ‘Libraries’ or ‘Restoration’. The site offers an interesting way of providing weblinks.

The attempts to link the blog to recent communication services such as *Twitter* and *Delicious* are promising, although at present probably only appealing to those familiar with these programmes and those wishing to follow closely the activities of the ICOMOS Documentation Centre. Judging by the amount of subscribers to the Documentation Centre’s profile at *Twitter*, and the amount of user comments on the blog, such dedicated followers are presently scarce — something that deserves to change.

American Journal of Archaeology — online reviews

Available through <http://www.ajaonline.org/>

The online version of the *American Journal of Archaeology* (AJA) has made their museum and book reviews available to non-members.⁶

Beginning with the January 2006 issue (110.1), over a hundred book reviews can be downloaded as portable documents (pdfs) from the website. These comprise both reviews that appeared in the print version of the journal as well as reviews that are only available online. A table of contents, for both types, is provided in every printed issue of AJA. In line with the focus of AJA, most of these reviews deal with publications in the field of classical archaeology, although increasingly they also cover heritage issues such as tourism, repatriation and conservation. For example, a review of *Conservation of ruins*, edited by John Ashurst and reviewed by Mary Stieber, is in issue 112.3, 2008.

Of a similar quality and focus are the reviews of museums. These are mostly from the USA, but also cover several exhibitions on the European continent: for example, H A Shapiro's beautifully illustrated review of *Homer: Der Mythos von Troia in Dichtung und Kunst Antikenmuseum Basel, March 16–August 17, 2008* (posted January 2009).

Although both types of reviews are easily accessible and very legible, one must browse through the complete archive to be able to search for a review of a particular book, museum or topic — unfortunately there is no dedicated search engine for the online review section, nor has the general search function of the online version of AJA been linked to this archive. The archive will therefore be most useful to those who know specifically what they are looking for. Nevertheless, it still constitutes an effective means of making large amounts of reviews easily accessible.

Association des Lauréats de l'Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine

Available through <http://www.alinsap.org/>

The website of the *Association des Lauréats de l'Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine* (ALINSAP) provides an excellent starting point for anyone interested in the conservation and management of archaeological sites in Morocco.⁷ ALINSAP is a non-governmental association of the graduates of the *L'Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine* (*National Institute for Archaeology and Heritage*) in Rabat (INSAP).

The website, which is in French, is well designed, easy to navigate and divided into nine sections. The first two sections contain information on the aims, objectives and activities of both ALINSAP and INSAP. It includes useful overviews of the research undertaken by graduates and staff of these organizations since the inception of ALINSAP in 1991. The third section, 'Patrimoine', provides detailed summaries on the history of a range of archaeological and historical sites in Morocco, although further references and links would have been helpful here.

The sections 'Textes et lois', 'Bibliographie' and 'Documents' are particularly interesting in that they provide downloadable portable documents (pdfs) of contemporary Moroccan heritage policies (in both French and Arabic), useful bibliographies on the

archaeology, history and conservation of Moroccan heritage, as well as excavation and conservation reports, opinion pieces and professional codes of ethics. The 'News' section contains information on archaeological excavations, exhibitions and restoration projects, although this section seems slightly outdated.

A promising feature is the well-designed 'Galerie' of ALINSAP, which contains a small collection of photographs and online videos on several archaeological sites in Morocco. Whilst the videos provide an interesting overview of the history of these sites, the photographs are less useful in that they do not contain descriptions (although the name of the site normally appears in the file name): this is something that should be worked on.

Overall, the website of ALINSAP is a user-friendly resource for anyone interested in the management and conservation of archaeological sites in Morocco. Contacting ALINSAP for further information seems well worth doing, considering the dedication it demonstrates on its website to the management of Moroccan archaeological heritage.

Contact

The E-review section of CMAS is a work in progress. We very much welcome comments and assistance by our readers to increase its scope and effectiveness, as well as suggestions for electronic resources (with or without written reviews) for consideration in future E-reviews.

Notes

- ¹ A weblog (or the contraction blog) is a website with regular entries, often ranging through comment, events, to other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.
- ² *Blogger* is a free online service that allows the public to develop, share and host blogs — see <http://icomosdocumentationcentre.blogspot.com/>.
- ³ RSS feeds are simplified versions of web content, containing short news descriptions that link directly to relevant web pages, which are collected automatically for the reader. As such, readers do not have to browse websites or read emails to check if new items have been posted: according to their pre-set criteria, users are automatically informed if there is relevant new material.
- ⁴ *Twitter* (<http://twitter.com/>) is a free service for 'friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected' through the exchange of quick questions and answers.
- ⁵ *Delicious* (<http://delicious.com/>) is a social bookmarking web service for storing, sharing, and discovering web bookmarks.
- ⁶ Via <http://www.ajaonline.org/index.php?type=oreview>
- ⁷ Thanks to Tarik Moujoud for pointing out this website.

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