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E-review

Linde, S.J. van der

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CMAS E-Review

SJOERD VAN DER LINDE

The CMAS E-review section evaluates electronic resources, websites, digital archives, blogs, mailing groups and multimedia.

This issue examines on-line journals, a form of electronic dissemination that has gained rapid acceptance in the heritage management field. On-line journals could be described as serial publications which make use of digital distribution methods and/or provide online access to such publications. Whilst some online journals share some similarities with blogs and e-newsletters, they can usually be distinguished by their approach to editorial control of contributions. In this issue we focus on a range of online journals to provide our readers with links to some useful resources, but also to compare them in terms of accessibility and legibility.

English Heritage *Conservation Bulletin*

Available at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.11241>

The English Heritage *Conservation Bulletin* is a free, full-colour illustrated periodical that is now available for download from the English Heritage website. The bulletin is normally themed, with recent topics including Presenting Historic Places, Adapting to a Changing Climate, Training the Heritage Sector, European and World Perspectives, etc. Each issue has a guest editor, and contains news, articles, opinion pieces, and discussions. The bulletin covers not only conservation but also a wide range of other issues in the heritage management field such as planning, presentation, archaeology, policy and tourism. All 58 bulletins are now available electronically in PDF¹ format; including the back issues 1–40 which have been scanned from the original hard copy (although they are rather unattractive in terms of readability and layout since the hard-copy originals from which they were scanned only consist of undesigned text and images).

This complete archive comprises a very useful electronic resource, and not just for those interested in the management of the English historic environment. Many of the themes and papers are of wider interest in our field. However, it is rather time-consuming to search the bulletins, especially issues 41–58 since they can only be downloaded in parts. A useful and thorough index of the issues is provided as a separate PDF, although this only covers issues 1–56 and as such is in need of regular updating. An online search-engine, that would allow the reader to search the entire archive for specific topics, themes or authors, would be an extremely useful addition here.

Cultural Resource Management & CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship

Available at <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/>

The journal *Cultural Resource Management*, published by the US National Park Service, is now freely available as an online archive (25 volumes covering 1978–2002). The more recent issues (17–25) are available as downloadable full-colour PDF files (in separate parts), whilst issues 1–16 are available as text-only PDF files. The follow-up journal, *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*, which continued the series from 2003 to the present, is also part of the site (it can also be accessed through its own website at <http://crmjournal.cr.nps.gov/>). *CRM* is published twice a year, and contains peer-reviewed articles, viewpoint essays, interviews and reviews of exhibits, books, and websites. Together these journals provide a long multidisciplinary venue for sharing information and experience in the field of heritage management and constitute an important resource in the field: again, this extends far beyond US issues.

All the issues, of both *Cultural Resource Management* and *CRM*, are accessible through an index that brings you straight to the individual articles, and the whole archive is hosted on a dedicated and clearly defined website. In addition, the archive contains a simple search engine that enables searches by title and author, as well as by a standard list of subjects and years, which makes the archive a user-friendly electronic resource.

The separate *CRM* website (<http://crmjournal.cr.nps.gov/>) is easy to navigate, well designed and contains the complete archive of all volumes from 2003 onwards as fully designed webpages, as well as links to the *CRM* archive through its search engine. Every volume of the *CRM* journal is easily accessible and legible, something which is enhanced by using the same division of headings and pages for each volume and by dividing longer articles into several webpages, always with the addition of a supportive navigation bar and a print tool facility for the printing of complete articles. A minor drawback is that it is sometimes difficult to get a quick overview of the overall content of each volume; the index page of the volumes is a bit sparse, and a complete PDF of a single volume is not available. However, overall *CRM*, and its related archives, are accessible, user-friendly and an excellent electronic resource.

MONUMENTA

Available at <http://www.monumenta.org/>

A more experimental, interactive, and dynamic approach to online journals is offered by *MONUMENTA*, a free journal that aims to enhance the awareness, protection and management of natural and architectural heritage in Greece and Cyprus. *MONUMENTA* is available in Greek and English, and edited by a team of dedicated individuals brought together in the non-profit organization *MONUMENTA*.

The journal was launched in March 2007 and, whilst it was the original intention to publish quarterly, only three issues have come out since then. However, it is clear that these contain considerable information and experimental approaches, which makes it a great resource, albeit sometimes difficult to oversee. Each issue contains articles, viewpoint essays, news, events, a forum, and voting polls. They also include lists of monuments at risk, where professionals and members of the public can

provide information and calls for action on specific monuments that are thought to deserve protection. The website contains edited sections with information from a wide range of contributors. The website attracted over 32,000 on-line visitors in the first ten months, which seems to suggest that its aim of raising awareness and involving the public in the protection of heritage sites is working. However, most of the contributions to the journal and the forum (which is only in Greek) seem to come from professionals — an issue that is being addressed by *MOnuMENTA* through the organization of additional outreach activities.

The three issues published so far have covered: urban space and urban green space; the power of water; and biodiversity/interculturalism. They follow a dynamic and integrated (albeit if sometimes slightly chaotic) approach. Every issue is structured into several sections, such as background information, articles that deal with methodological and professional approaches to the theme under discussion, global case studies, interviews with a wide range of stakeholders, information on cultural and natural heritage under threat, relevant policy and planning documents, and a section where artists can express their views, hoping to trigger involvement in the protection of certain monuments.

The online journal contains an enormous amount of information, and will be of interest to anyone dedicated to the protection of natural and cultural heritage in Greece and Cyprus. It is also of wider interest to those interested in archaeological resource management elsewhere. The way in which the magazine invites and incorporates views and contributions from the public through its dynamic and integrated approach is remarkable, even if it sometimes complicates accessibility and legibility. It takes a while before one understands how to navigate the website effectively, and it is not always clear how certain contributions and sections relate to specific themes and actions: perhaps a stronger editing process and a clearer navigation structure might enhance this. Nevertheless, the inventive approach is very worthwhile, and whilst the editorial board mentions that ‘time flows like water’, it is hoped that the fourth edition of the journal will follow on swiftly.

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.

Note

¹ PDF — Adobe Portable Document Format.

Sjoerd van der Linde
 Faculty of Archaeology
 Leiden University
 The Netherlands
 E-mail: s.j.van.der.linde@arch.leidenuniv.nl
 Telephone: +31 (0)71 – 5276452
 Fax.: +31 (0) 71 – 5272429