

# Welcome to

## EVA/Minerva 2013

### Jerusalem

It is hard to believe that for the tenth time, we are meeting together in Jerusalem for our annual conference on the digitisation of cultural heritage and, for the fifth year running, we are coming together in the remarkable venue of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Over the previous nine years EVA/MINERVA has hosted the cultural heritage community in Jerusalem, to bring together like-minded people in the EVA tradition for two-days of intensive presentations, panels and discussions and un-conference opportunities to discuss the latest trends in the field where culture and technology meet. This is the phrase that we first heard, many years ago at the EVA conferences in London and Florence, and we have quoted **James Hemsley**, Founder of the EVA Conferences on **Electronic Imaging and the Visual Arts** over the years as we welcome our own guests to Jerusalem. We are delighted this year to be able to welcome James to Jerusalem, and are delighted that he will be chairing our Plenary on Tuesday and joining us here in the conference for our tenth anniversary.



We are delighted to be able to hold this, our tenth annual conferences for the fifth year together with Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and would like to thank **Prof. Gabriel Motzkin**, Director of The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute for hosting our conference yet again this year. In making this conference so successful this year we would like to thank **Carol Dreyfuss**, Director of Public Events and welcome back **Shulamit Laron** who together with their professional staff work so hard to make our event so successful. For the fourth year running year we are delighted to host a special museum track; supported by, the Ministry of Culture Directorate for Culture, The Department for Museums and Visual Arts and the Public Libraries Department. We would like to thank **Idit Amichai**, Director, Department of Museums and Visual Arts and **Shlomit Nemlich** who, over the years continue to lead the museum community so professionally and for showcasing their projects and the Departments' admirable developments.

EVA/MINERVA 2013 is delighted, yet again to host **Reuven Pinsky**, from the Prime Minister Office to learn how TAMAR – Action Guidelines for the Recovery and Empowerment of the National Heritage Infrastructures has progressed since our previous meeting in Jerusalem last

year. The report promotes the program for the recovery and empowerment Israel's Cultural Heritage Comprehensive Plan, launched February 21, 2010. The government's commitment to a comprehensive plan, to empower heritage infrastructure in Israel spearheads this highly ambitious project, supported by 16 government ministries. These Actions set to create two paths: a historical path including archaeological sites from biblical Second Temple period and other periods in the history of Israel, and an Israel Experiential path; connecting the main sites and numbers that mark the history of return of the people of his country. The comprehensive plan includes a nation-wide database, which will cover Israel's cultural heritage. Clearly, such robust, European models as MINERVA and Europeana that are already successfully disseminating cultural resources across information networks have become guiding principles for the Israeli model.

Together with **Reuven, Idit** and **Ram Shimoni** we would like to thank them for their hard work; for making our long term dream come true – for conceptualising, developing and delivering the Israeli Museums' National Portal. Coming close to fruition, the conference has the honour of acting as the location for the first public pre-view of the Museum Portal. We wish all the team continued success in their work and appreciate all the many hours of creative energy that has gone in to making this project materialize.

MinervaEC, the Thematic Network of cultural, scientific information and scholarly content brought together stakeholders and experts from all over Europe, capitalising on the results achieved by the previous Minerva frameworks, supporting the European Commission initiative "i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment" as well as the Dynamic Action Plan, launched in Bristol in November 2005 by the European Union Member States.

Since October 2006, the MINERVA Project has evolved into *MINERVA EC, Ministerial NETwork for Valorising Activities in digitisation, eContentplus*. Over recent years the conference has welcomed many of the projects that are committed to Europeana, including *ATHENA* which continued to upload museum resources into Europeana and now, its younger sibling, *Linked Heritage* which continues to enrich metadata through semantic web enhancement as it continues to bring collections into Europe's Digital Library; The European Commissions' flagship project. The digital library, museum and archive has now increased its volume to nearly 30 million digital objects; including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers.

The conference welcomes the leading European projects to the conference this year; many of which have frequented our conferences over the years including *Judaica Europeana*, *DM2E*, *Europeana Fashion*, *AGORA*, *Linked Heritage*, *Athena Plus*, *Eagle* and *V-Must*. We are delighted to host your project leaders here in Jerusalem, **Prof. Sorin Hermon**, **Valentina Vassallo**, **Elina Christoforidou**, and **Rafaella Santucci** with special thanks to **Dr. Cristina Marras**, who organized the session on Digital Humanities and brought this illustrious panel together. All these leading projects build the warp and the weft of *Europeana* and we are delighted that they were all able to come to Jerusalem and share with us their knowledge, experience and knowhow.

Together with *GLAM-Wiki Community* and *European Fashion* we are delighted this year to be able to host the workshop - *What Can Your GLAM Do for Fashion?* their edit-a-thon case study organised by **Marco Rendina**, TEchnical Coordinator at Europeana Fashion together with **Shani Evenstein**, GLAM Projects Coordinator at Wikimedia Israel.

This year perhaps could be recognized as the year that digital humanities have blossomed across our sector and our presentations represent the richness that this marks. These sessions this year include *Open Access to the Jewish Canon, and Digital Humanities*, and *A: Text - Edition – Research – Education*, chaired by **Prof. Carl Posy**, Professor of Philosophy and Member of the Centers for the Study of Rationality and for Language, Logic, and Cognition at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The impact of digital technologies is continuing to leave its impressive footprint not only the entire digital humanities sector but also across the entire education ecosystem. The sessions that perhaps best embody these developments include *Significant Learning: InnovAtive ICT Applications in the Classroom*, chaired by **Roni Dayan**, Director, Department of Computer Applications in Education, Administration for Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, *Digital Books - Current Dilemmas and Future Prospects*, chaired by **Prof. Yoav Yair**, Meital - Inter-University Center for e-Learning and the session *Open Access to the Jewish Canon, SEFARIA: New Interfaces for Jewish Texts*, jointly organized by **Brett Lockspeiser** and **Daniel Septimus**.

We are delighted also to host many of our long-term friends in Jerusalem including **Violet Radnofsky**, Littauer Hebraica Technical and Research Services Librarian, Judaica Division, Harvard Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA who brings her team to the conference to showcase their efforts towards *Digitizing the Index for Jewish Art: A Joint Project*. We are also delighted to welcome back two special friends and colleagues, *Prof. Sorin Hermon*, V-Must, Virtual Museum Transnational Network who will present his work *Digitizing the Holy - 3D Documentation at the Cenacle Room and Tomb of David Complex, Jerusalem* and **Prof. Dr. h.c. Jürgen Sieck**, Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin, who will present *Hidden Information and Communication Technology in a Museum - from Speaking Cubes, Magic Mirrors and Living Book*.

There are many new guest speakers this year including: *Dr. Zvi Weinstein*, TAU Laboratory for Contemporary Urban Design who will present his work *People Friendly Cities in a Data Rich World*, and **Avi Sabag**, founder and CEO Musrara School, The Naggar School of Photography, Media and New Music and **Avi Dabach**, Collection Manager, Musrara who will present their prize winning project, *Musrara Family Album*.

Our Networking Sessions this year include both new and old friends: **Revolv**, a local company that develops Augmented Reality solutions for the cultural heritage sector, who will present the implementation of seamless object and location based augmented reality, and **Zvi Halbrecht**, who will talk about Hadera Democratic School, Community Gardens in Israel. The Jerusalem Experience is presented by **Eran Frankel** and, **Inna Kizhner** together with **Igor Kim**, Siberian

Federal University will discuss their study on the social and economic incentives used to employ digital humanities (DH) methods in Siberian humanities research.

All conference guests are invited to The Israel Museum, Jerusalem on Tuesday evening to a special guided tour of the exhibition: *Herod the Great: The King's Final Journey* The first exhibition entirely dedicated to Herod the Great, Israel's greatest builder and one of the most controversial figures in Jewish history. Large reconstructions and new finds from Herod's palaces in Herodium, Jericho and other sites are on display. Exhibited to the public for the very first time, these artifacts shed new light on the political, architectural, and aesthetic influence of Herod's rule (37–4 BCE). Herod's tomb – discovered at Herodium after a 40-year search by the late Prof. Ehud Netzer of the Hebrew University – holds pride of place. The exhibition is held in memory of Prof. Netzer, who fell to his death in 2010 at the site of his discovery. Conference guests are invited to join the guided tours leaving from the exhibition entrance at The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

The combined strengths of EVA/MINERVA Jerusalem aims to bring best practice in advanced technologies to its dedicated community of cultural content holders, managers and publishers in Israel and Europe in order to augment the preservation, access and the re-use of Cultural Heritage through advanced education and training in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The conference also endeavors to stimulate cultural diversity in Europe; and to increase the technological, educational, cultural, economic relations between the European Union and Israel.

EVA/MINERVA 2013 yet again welcomes participants to Jerusalem for what we hope will be another exciting and informative event, and the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues in the EVA/Minerva tradition.

# International Program Committee

## 2013

**Rossella Caffo, Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle biblioteche italiane, Rome**

**Prof. Sorin Hermon, The Cyprus Institute**

**Max Kaiser, Austrian National Library, Vienna**

**Christina Marras, ILIESI-CNR, Roma**

**Prof. Franco Niccolucci, University of Florence**

**Marco Rendina, Europea Fashion Technical Coordinator, Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Firenze**

**Ram Shimony, Department for Museums and Visual Arts at the Ministry of Culture  
Directorate for Culture**

**Prof. Dr. Jürgen Sieck, Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin**

**Pier Giacomo Sola, Amitié, Bologna**

We would like to thank our international Program Committee for their dedication to EVA/Minerva 2013 as well as the the Israel organizations with Statutory responsibilities for Culture that are all members of the Minerva Israel Steering Committee.

<http://www.digital-heritage.org.il>

The Jerusalem Conference on Digitization on Science and Cultural Heritage was first convened in 2004 and forged the Jerusalem Declaration. From this first step the Jerusalem Declaration was later presented to the Knesset Internet Committee, a benchmark moment that continues to direct, and inform our activities.

Jerusalem, October 12, 2004

<http://www.digital-heritage.org.il/jerusalemdeclaration.html>

We look forward to hosting everyone again next year in Jerusalem.

**Dr. Susan Hazan and Dov Winer**

Co-chairs; EVA/MINERVA Jerusalem 2012

**Millie Hazan**

Conference Producer