Welcome to EVA/Minerva 2015

We are delighted to welcome our impressive lineup of speakers to **EVA/Minerva 2015**, our **XIIth annual conference** with five professional tracks that reflect their distinct professional sectors: Museums, World Union of Jewish Studies, Harvard Judaica, Israel Antiquities Authority and Digital Archaeologists, and the Association of Israel Archivists – all dealing; in their own way with the digitization of cultural heritage. Essentially we perhaps share more in common that we previously thought and this year's conference is an excellent example of the ways our various sectors intersect and cross-pollinate each other.

This year is a landmark year for Israel with the inauguration of **The National Museum Portal**, designed, developed and launched by the Ministry of Culture and Sport together with the Prime Minister's Office, the Heritage Division and Israel's dozens of officially recognized museums. This is a true milestone in the digital preservation of Israel's museums: Art; Judaica; History; Archaeology; World Cultures; Nature and Science - bringing together some 1.5 million items in a single portal.

The fully-responsive portal serves as Israel's national gateway to a wealth of content and information on the museums of Israel, their permanent and temporary exhibitions, and the museums' collections. The portal is open and freely accessible to everyone and has been developed to meet the needs of a number of audiences: researchers, students, teachers, tourists (domestic and international), families, visitors to museums on a regular basis, and new or walk-in visitors. Visitors around the world will be treated to an inspiring visual experience, rich in content and intuitively accessible through user-friendly tools designed for inquiry, retrieval, comparison and personal use.

The portal is organized into three main sections – Museums, Items and Exhibitions.

Museum Section

Museums are represented through their collections.

Beit Lohamei Haghetaot   Ashdod Art Museum   Aaronsohn House - NILI Museum

On the individual museum page you will find the museum's mandate, activities, opening hours, contact and travel information, as well as direct access to collections and their descriptions. This is the first time such rich visual data – covering dozens of Israeli museums – have been consolidated in a single portal.

A system of filters directs visitor to a specific museum based on either area of specialization or region, as well as directions to the Museum via Google Maps or Waze.

Item Section

Hundreds of thousands of objects have been uploaded by the Museums drawn from their vast collections with high resolution photographs, and rich information including artist/creator; period; style; description; history; technique; and origin.

The Portal features world-renowned items side-by-side with lesser-known works that are now revealed to the public for the first time. Taken together, they reveal the wide-ranging patrimony and heritage that creates the unique mosaic of Israel's cultural landscape. The Portal also features embedded tools for retrieving items and comparing between them.

In addition, and as the result of close cooperation between Israel and Europe, the Portal can be used to access Europeana, the pan-European digital library, for visitors to may wish to discover, retrieve, and enjoy the 40 million objects and range of services that Europeana now offers.

Exhibition Section

The Portal a cross-section many of the exhibitions currently on show around the country, as well as an archive of exhibitions that have since closed. Exhibitions can be accessed using search tools and filters, based on a wide range of criteria: museum; field; range of dates; exhibition name; curator, etc.

Past exhibitions are featured together with information regarding their theme, images of selected items shown on them and even a downloadable catalogue when available.

We are delighted to host **Ram Shimony**, **Ronit Marco** and **Mariane Aaron** to present the Portal at our conference and hope that you will continue to visit the site that is now live and appears in English, Hebrew and Arabic. The Portal, as we heard last year from **Ben Kalifi** is truly gorgeous and is already receiving accolades and acclaim from around the world. Our heartfelt thanks go **Shlomit Nemlich** together with **Maria Yariv** from the Ministry of Culture who continue and help and support us and who are always there even when things sometimes don't quite work out how we had hoped.

This year we have reached more than full capacity and in addition to our two traditional parallel tracks you will see that we had to book an extra space to get everyone into the program. We would like to thank **Shulamit Laron** and **Limor Sagi** for professionally, and patiently helping us make everything run so smoothly. We so enjoy holding our annual conferences at this venue and would like to thank **Prof Gabriel Motzkin** for hosting us yet again here in the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Over the two full days we are holding 5 academic tracks; over 10 sessions. We have 98 speakers from 9 countries: The Netherlands, USA, Italy, Greece, the UK, Poland, Germany – and even a few from Israel. We are hosting an impressive series of exhibitors in our Networking Sessions – we hope that you will all enjoy visiting them and hearing from them directly during your coffee and lunch breaks.

Our conference would not be complete without hearing our annual update from **Reuven Pinsky** from The Prime Minister's Office who no doubt will amaze us with the projects that have been developed and have emerged over the last year – including, of course the Museum Portal.

For the first time we are delighted to welcome our Keynote Speaker **Dr. Matthew Adams**, from the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research who will present the state of the art in Paperless Archaeology – it is truly impressive that this is taking place in Israel and we can all learn from the Institute's inspiring work which resonates for all of us across the different sectors.

Our conference would not have been possible had it not been for the hard work of our industrious Track leadership. We would like to show our appreciation to all of our Track Chairs: **Michal Henkin**, Chair of The Association of Israeli Archivists, Director of the City of Haifa Archives, together with **Larisa Shnitkind**, Director of the City of Tel Aviv – Jaffa Archives, and **Dr. Aharon Azati**, Director, Yad Tabenkin Archives who together organized the rich presentations in the archive sessions.   We would also like to thank **Gideon Avni,** Head of the Archaeological Division in the Israel Antiquities Authority, **Liat Weinblum**, CAA – Israel Antiquities Authority and **Sveta Matskevich**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem who organized the Digital Archaeology: Data Management Session who together are introducing us to the state of art in digital archaeology. Our perennial swallow, **Violet Radnofsky**, Littauer Hebraica Technical and Research Services Librarian at Harvard University has flown in again and organized a fascinating session; keeping us updated with what has been happening over the year in the Judaica Division of The Widener Library.

Last but by no means least, we would like to thank **Yaacov Deutsch**, the Executive Director of the World Union of Jewish studies whose day-long panel has brought together the leading digital humanities projects and activities in Jewish Studies. It isn't always customary to drop names, but we can't but help mentioning some of our distinguished presenters; **Prof. Yaacov Choueka**, **Dr. Menachem Katz**, **Dr. Roni Shweka**, who will share with us recent news from the internationally-acclaimed *Friedberg Genizah Project* amongst many others and **Prof. Nachum Dershowitz, and Prof. Lior Wolf,** Tel Aviv University from *The Friedberg Project*.

We are delighted to welcome back many of our presenters again to Jerusalem, our dear friends **Pier Giacomo Sola** who will talk about The Creative Museum Project and **Anat Harel**, Policy maker / Project manager at Jewish Cultural Quarter who is presenting the new (Dutch) Jewish

Monument and will be discussing challenges in creating an interactive memorial for four generations

Delving into our Museum-Makery we will hear from **Vassilis Tzouvaras**, NTUA who is presenting the *WITH* platform: Co-creating and sharing cultural collections that uses the Europeana API and other available APIs to discover and re-use data to create collections and exhibitions. **Elena Voltsinger**, Exhibition Curator of *Mechanics of Miracles* will share with us the experiential design, augmented reality and multiple screens that she introduced in the temporary exhibition using original stage sets from the opening ceremony of 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics held recently at the Cosmos Pavilion, VDNH Moscow, Russia.

We are thrilled this year to be hosting **Prof. Jonathan P. Bowen**, London South Bank University / Museophile Limited, one of the makers and shakers of the digital museum community, and on sabbatical here at the HUJI who will be talking about Alan Turing: Founder of Computer Science in a way that only Jonathan can. Flying in especially from the US, **Linda Levi**, Director of the JDC Global Archives and **Jeffrey Edelstein**, Digitization Project Manager, JDC Archives will present their case study - Accomplishments and New Challenges from the JDC Archives.

Another very special guest this year is **Emiliano Degl'Innocenti**, SISMEL - FEF Head Digital & Multimedia Lab. who will be breaking through Frontiers in Digital Humanities to present the latest in developments both for the *CENDAR*I project - Digital Archives for the Medieval and World War as well as a report on Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, *DARIAH*.

Sunday afternoon include two Workshops, the first from our Museums Track: meSch Material Encounters and ways to make museum objects smart and adding a narrative to an exhibition presented by **Dr. Daniela Petrelli**, meSch, Professor of Interaction Design, Art & Design Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University and **Hub Kockelkorn**, Museon, museum for culture and science, The Hague. The second Workshop organized by **Kate Fernie**, 2Culture Associates shares the results of the *LoCloud* project to stimulate discussion and collaboration between curators, experts and stakeholders in digital libraries, cultural heritage, tourism and local communities. It will also showcase work in supporting small and medium sized cultural institutions in making their digitized collections discoverable online, via portals such as Europeana and other applications. We are delighted to welcome **Błażej Betański**, Poznan Supercomputing Centre, **Prof. Walter Koch**, AIT, and **Holly Wright**, ADS together with **Vassilis Trouvaras**, NTUA and **Dimitris Gavrillis**, Athena Research Centre, Digital Curation Unit to Jerusalem for this unique opportunity to learn directly from the leaders of the LoCloud Network.

Please note that Mondays' sessions, in addition to the upper and lower halls, will open in the Polonsky Academy with the **National Scientix Workshop,** chaired by **Roni Dayan**, Director Division for Information Technologies, Administration for Technology, ICT and Information Systems, Ministry of Education. The numerous project to be discussed include a Survey of the projects of the Division for Information Technologies, by **Roni Dayan** and a presentation of the Scientix project, the community for Science teaching in Europe by **Dov Winer**, Scientix NCP for Israel.

Additional, and very dear perennial friends, presenting a host of Europeana projects include **Marco Rendina**, (mazal tov Marco and Katerina) Istituto Luce Cinecittà, and **Maria Drabczyk**,

Polish National Audiovisual Archive and *EUscreenXL*, From access towards curation and creative partnerships. **Kerstin Herlt**, Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (ACE) Head of Office c/o, Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF will discuss *FORWARD* project – Framework for a EU-wide Audiovisual Orphan Works Registry.

This rich session will conclude with a **Round table**: *Joys and sorrows of granting online access to audiovisual content*. Everyone is welcome!

Dov and I would to thank all our Chairs, Speakers, and Workshop Leaders who have made this conference so interesting. Our appreciation also to **Millie Hazan**, our Conference Producer whose quiet patience and professionalism always works magic.

We welcome you to Jerusalem

Dr. Susan Hazan and **Dov Winer**, Conference Co-Chairs, EVA/Minerva 2015