Between memory and oblivion in local contexts: using digital technologies during the archival process to highlight local cultural heritage

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ABSTRACT

The work presented here is the preliminary stage of a broader research based on the Joseph Keck – Michael Foifa fonds in Kalamata, Greece, containing tens of hundreds of documents, covering a large period, from the end of the 19th century until the mid-1950 and multiple activities: personal, consular, and commercial. Digital filing, documentation and web display of the archive bring to light unknown information covering historical, social and diplomatic aspects of the town of Kalamata.

3 Preliminary results and future work

Being at the initial stages of a doctoral research, so far, more than 4,500 single page records have been digitized. Parallelly, a first study of the content is under way in order to determine the axes of interconnection with local history. The first results have triggered a further investigation on adequate educational digital tools that will serve as a medium between the archive and the public. Furthermore, testing is being conducted to open-source web-based software that is suitable for cataloguing archival material according to international archival standards, such as ica-ATOM, Omeka and Collectiveaccess.

Our future work will focus on the use of online tools, collaborative interfaces and their educational potential such as maps, timelines, narrations and data visualizations, following the example of the Kounadis’ archive and digital museum [3].

REFERENCES

