



STSM Report Template

REFERENCE: Short Term Scientific Mission, COST TD1201

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Project title:

Towards creating a Controlled Vocabulary for use in Cultural Heritage Visualisation

The purpose of this STSM was to create a means by which communication between COSCH members from diverse backgrounds, knowledge domains and specialisms could be improved and made more effective. This STSM was envisioned as a contribution to the work of COSCH WG5 Visualisation & Dissemination of CH and to the design of COSCH^{KR}.

The main outcome of this STSM was the realization that the aims of COSCH^{KR} would be a better fit for a tight ontological model, rather than the more organic and communicative aims around which this STSM proposal was created.

At the same time the need for a more fluid, nuanced and resonant approach to treating language was highlighted, as language is necessarily mutable and subject to change over time. This was visualized through the creation of the 'GlossMap' based on the idea of a mind map, but one that tried to mediate and soften hierarchical constraints.

Summary of findings:

During communication much time is devoted to defining the ways in which language is being used and terms applied. The potential for misunderstanding and communicative impasse is high. Time is arguably our most valuable resource; its inefficient use might undermine the achievement of deliverables, particularly in large- scale cross domain projects.

The development of a CV is highly desirable to the aims of COSCH^{KR}. However, from the point of view of communication and dissemination the importance of language, of defining its usage and of creating a shared vocabulary cannot be over-emphasized.

The purpose of this STSM was to address ways in which communication between the different knowledge domains in COSCH could be made more effective, and was therefore of interdisciplinary value by design.

