

Special Issue

Data in the Heritage Domain: Digital Datasets, Twins for Cultural Heritage, and Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

“Digital Twin” is a relatively recent concept rapidly developing across applied research fields such as engineering, architecture, aerospace, IoT, robotics, manufacturing, and healthcare. Originally, it referred to a high-fidelity digital representation of a physical entity, used to simulate, evaluate, and predict its behavior and performance. Over time, the concept has expanded to include semantic and formal representations of real-world entities. The BIM (Building Information Modelling) domain has played a key role by introducing “semantic digital twins” for representing buildings and construction processes. This approach has attracted the Cultural Heritage community, which is exploring “Digital Cultural Heritage Twins.” The 2022 ECCCH report highlights the importance of implementing such twins and their repositories. However, implementation strategies differ: some propose extending CIDOC CRM binary ontology, while others argue for more flexible n-ary or hybrid solutions. As a result, the field remains diverse, and this Special Issue aims to review current developments, challenges, and integration possibilities.

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Heritage is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that focuses on knowledge, conservation, interpretation and management of cultural and natural heritage, by presenting and enabling novelty and advances in sensing technologies, novel methods, best practices and policies. *Heritage* has the ambition to become a “cultural forum”, where scientists and experts offer answers to significant issues affecting cultural and natural heritage, by creating a knowledge bridge between different technological and social disciplines. *Heritage* has an Editorial Board of eminent international leaders and this ensures rigorous peer-review processing for high quality and novel papers. We strongly recommend *Heritage* for the rapid and professional publication of your innovative research and case studies.

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