Cultural heritage: from preservation to access to promotion to where?

Abstract: In this presentation I will give a review of the progress made in Digital Cultural Heritage (CH) over the last 20 years, and taking us right up to what is available now. I include a series of examples of digital CH projects on which I have worked, showing my own involvement in several projects across areas from Celtic manuscripts, preservation of minority sports, access to media for journalism practices as examples of digital CH. There is a special focus on capturing intangible culture where the steps are Preservation - Accessibility - Access-Promotion. In terms of both access and promotion, the looming hurdle in promoting digital CH that we must get over is all about content-based access. I then give a review of content-based information access, especially for visual media in CH domains and I outline some of the techniques that are now available. My conclusions are that there will be a trickle-down effect for such technologies into digital libraries for cultural heritage and that in 10 years from now we will have new technologies and new media forms, new forms of digital cultural heritage, new interaction modalities including tablets, augmented reality, brain sensing from wearables, and new ways to navigate our CH libraries where we control what is accessed.