Collective documenting in wartime Ukraine:

From tangible to cloud and back again

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Living Response to Conflict

Responding to the vulnerability of digital cultural heritage, collective documentation efforts to preserve digitised and born-digital heritage in Ukraine formed via online platform. This collaborative approach between museums, archives and heritage professionals supports and protects endangered documentary heritage and considers its challenges for long-term storage *in situ* and in cloud: how might these be best positioned for future restoration and digital repatriation?

First artist commission in the series of artworks to commemorate the efforts of saving and protecting Ukrainian culture. Artist: Vlad Kholodnyi, 2022.
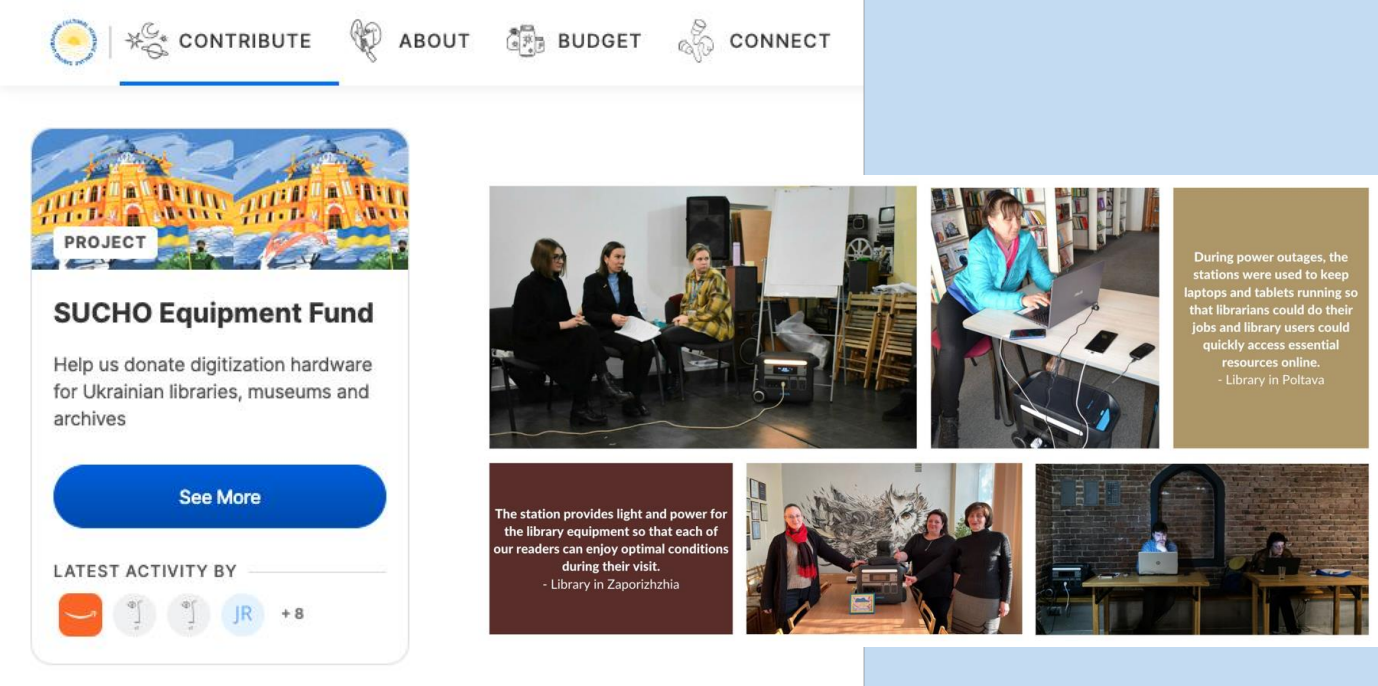

Exploring Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online. Inspired by Ukrainian folk artist, Maria Prymachenko
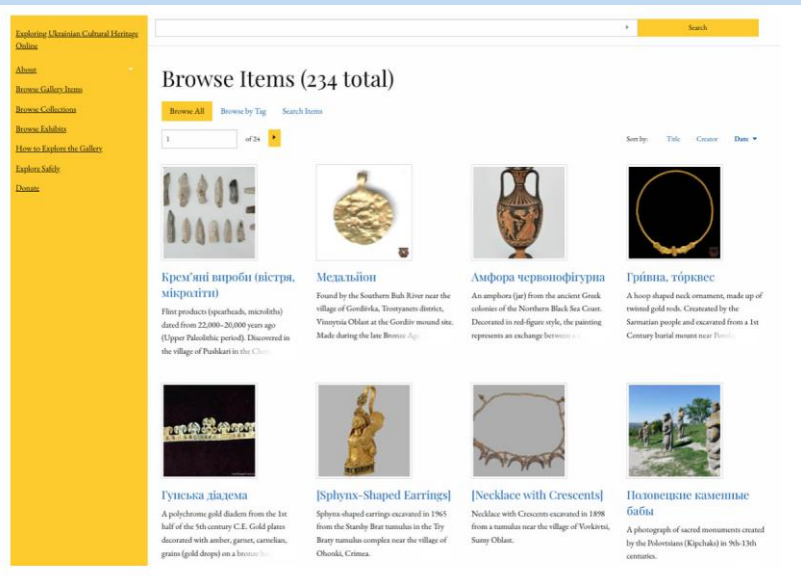Artist: Daria Filippova, 2024

The SUCHO Project

In immediate online solidarity for safe archiving, **SUCHO, Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online,** was formed in 2022 by a small team of international researchers and programmers. Along with a group of volunteers, they began their work together to 'archive at-risk sites, digital content, and data in Ukrainian cultural heritage institutions while the country is under attack' through collective action.
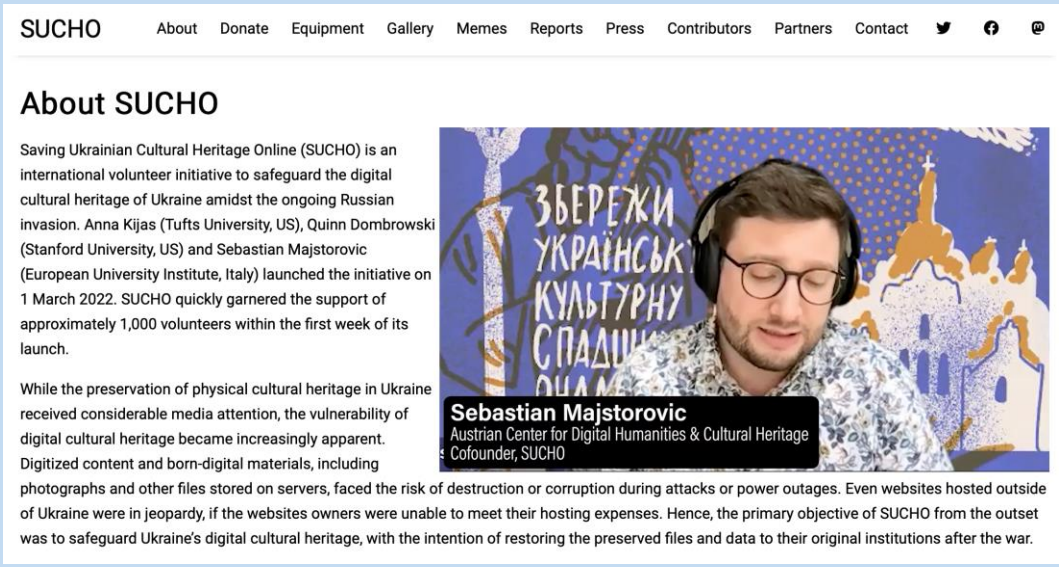

Equipment donations

www.sucho.org/gallery

Securing the servers

Gallery

(al) Wedding flower crown with two hoops, Ivan Honchar Museum;
(ar) *Ivasyk-Telesyk*, Ukrainian folk tale puppet theatre
(r) *Wild Chaplun*, Maria Prymachenko, 1977

Supra/national Context

By late 2022, a searchable Gallery emerged for "Exploring Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online", providing snapshots of the material gathered and archived while creating educational opportunities, and in 2023, a Memory Savers programme. Efforts include coordinated and collective governance of data space, digitisation capacity-building, workshops on protecting sites for the future, preservation in 3D via polygrammetry tools, handling new equipment and designing new formats for digital projects in museums.
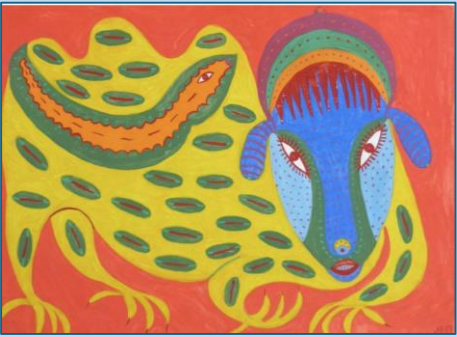

(r) Skeiron [skeiron.com.ua]; (l) Google Arts and Culture
[artsandculture.google.com/project/ukraine-the-next-chapter]

Memory Savers 2023

www.sucho.org/memorysavers

Digital Repatriation

This raises discussion on how cultural memory is managed and interpreted in the future: is it international? local? in hybrid format? What can be learned from Ukraine's model for an open participation, one allowing for wider documentation and collective responsibility? What becomes of the material afterlife in the cloud and how best to securely repatriate and restore?

(l) *Girl*, Lyubov Panchenko, part of Ukrainian 60s Dissident Movement
[https://treasures.ui.org.ua];
(r) http://www.sucho.org