# Visible and Invisible Bulgarian Heritage

## (One research under the Bulgarian Heritage published on the Web)

Eugenia Kovatcheva

State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Sofia, Bulgaria
`e.kovatcheva@unibit.bg`

**Abstract.** This paper dials with presentations of the Bulgarian Cultural and Historical Heritage in the Cyberspace. The study was taking place at the *Information management* course with bachelor students in Information Technologies, Information Brokerage and Information Security –at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies. The students describe about 300 different objectives – cultural and historical, material and immaterial.

**Keywords:** Web Sites, Cultural Heritage, Historical Heritage, Presentation

## 1    Introduction

Nowadays the Internet presentation it is the fastest way for advertisement and to share information. How the cultural and historical heritage objects are presented in the cyber space, what kind of web sites are the most attractive to share these pieces of history and culture. These are a part of the questions of presented study. We should keep our heritage, preserve it and publicize. The possibilities for presentation increase each day from technological point of view: from static to dynamic and from text base only to the full multimedia and interactive sites. Of course the style of the websites depends of its purposes: officials, touristic or amateurs. In current research main goal is to be identified the official web sites of Bulgarian heritage objectives – cultural and historical, material and immaterial.

## 2    Background

The course for bachelor students in the *Information management* at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies is a core course in Information Security and Information brokerage and elective course for the Information technologies students. There enrolled students were more than 100 for the academic year 2012-2013. One of the goals of the course *Information management* is to develop students' skills in the describing, structuring and creating the ontologies for the any kind of information. The activities used in the course are selected according these skills.

It is face-to-face course but supported with the Learning Management System – MOODLE. The learning recourses and tasks are published there.

The students have to deliver few activities during the semester. They results from the tasks are part from the students portfolio. One of the compulsory activities is the study for identifying and describing the objectives from Bulgarian cultural and historical heritage presented with the web sites in the Internet. The structure of the activity is not strict but students should to describe some of the main features of the web sites of the objectives. The full activity description is listed in section 3.1.

## 3    The Task

The task for description of the objectives (Fig. 1.) is organized in the glossary in MOODLE:
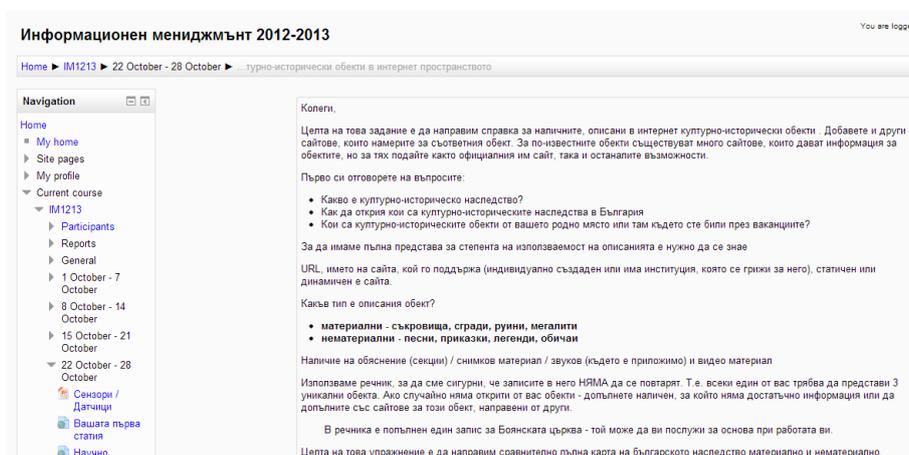


**Fig. 1.** Task description in MOODLE platform on http://unibit.itd-bg.eu

The objective description is about the Internet address, type of site, its owner, and possible additional sites. This study was not based on any ontology standards [1] for the heritage objectives – historical / cultural. The simple object description is:

- material
  - treasures,
  - buildings,
  - megaliths,
  - ruins
  - clothes
  - other stuff
- immaterial
  - traditions / habits
  - tales / legends / songs / proverbs
  - voices
  - paintings / icons / decorations

In previous task students create a classification of the objectives. The made a research of metadata for cultural and historical objects.

### 3.1 Task Description

*The goal of this task is to make a search, find and describe as much as possible cultural-historical objectives from Bulgaria. Description of these objectives should contain:*

- *picture / video / audio – to representation of the object*
- *type of the object – material (treasures, buildings, megaliths, ruins ...) or immaterial (traditions, songs, legends, voices and so on)*
- *official web site which describe the object:*
  - *URL*
  - *who is the owner of the site*
  - *dynamic or static site is this*
- *additional web sites where the object is presented, publish information: URL, what kind of site are each one of these*

  *First of all you should answer of the following questions:*

- *What is the cultural-historical heritage?*
- *How to find the Bulgarian cultural and heritage objectives*
- *Which cultural-historical objectives do you know from your native place or visited?*

  *Each one of you should add to the glossary (the MOODLE glossary) three unique objectives no repetition of the objectives is allow. You should enrich the already published descriptions as a comment with additional web sites.*
  *There is one record as example for the Boyana church – one of the Bulgarian object under the UNESCO protection.*
  *The main goal of this task is to make a picture of the Bulgarian cultural and historical heritage presented on the web. You should behave as experts in the information management.*

### 3.2 The Platform

The MOODLE glossary is an activity of the Learning Management System. The glossary is setup to accept only unique records and to rating them. These two features cover the requirements of the task. The glossary allows records to be listed in alphabetical order (Fig. 2.) in Cyrillic, too.
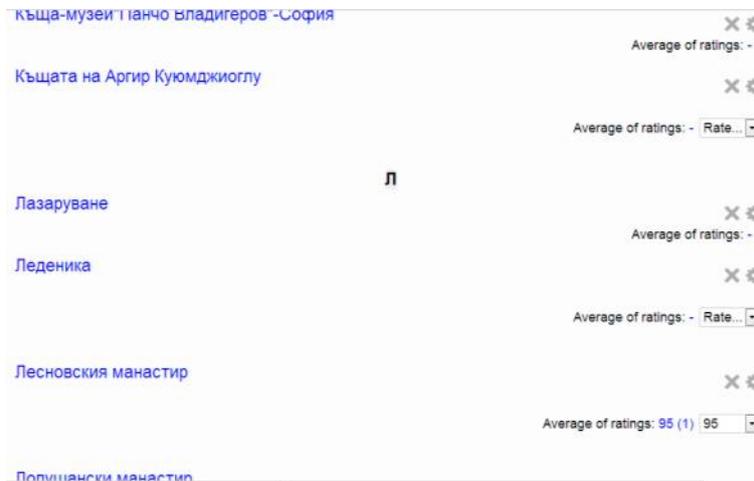
**Fig. 2.** List of records in the glossary browse by alphabet

Items list would be browse by Author (Fig. 3) and it support the teacher when count the number of reported items.
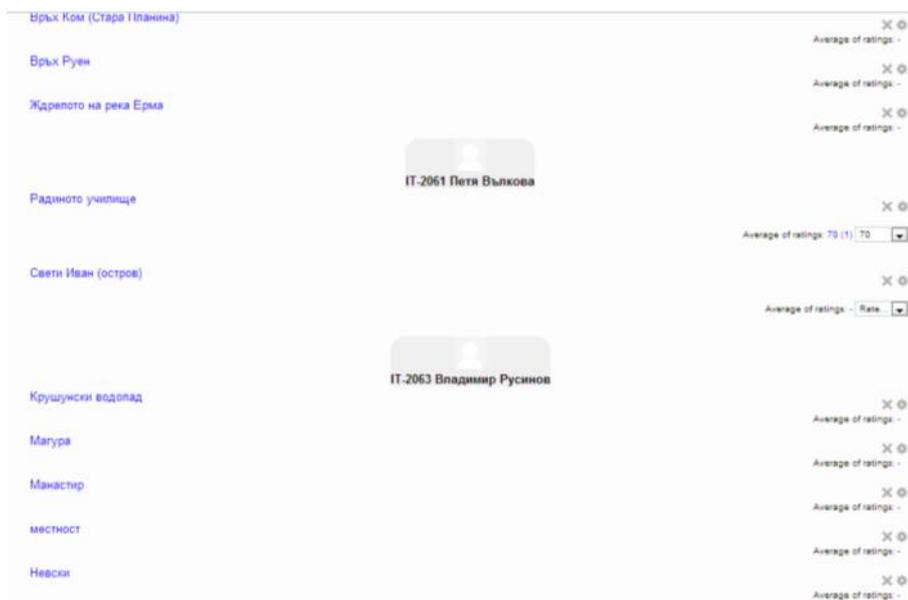


**Fig. 3.** List of records in the glossary browse by Author

### 3.3 Results

The results from the presented student study are 316 items described in the glossary. Unfortunately, the students are very creative and they found the way to duplicate some of the records. Finally, the unique records are 290 (Fig. 4), where:
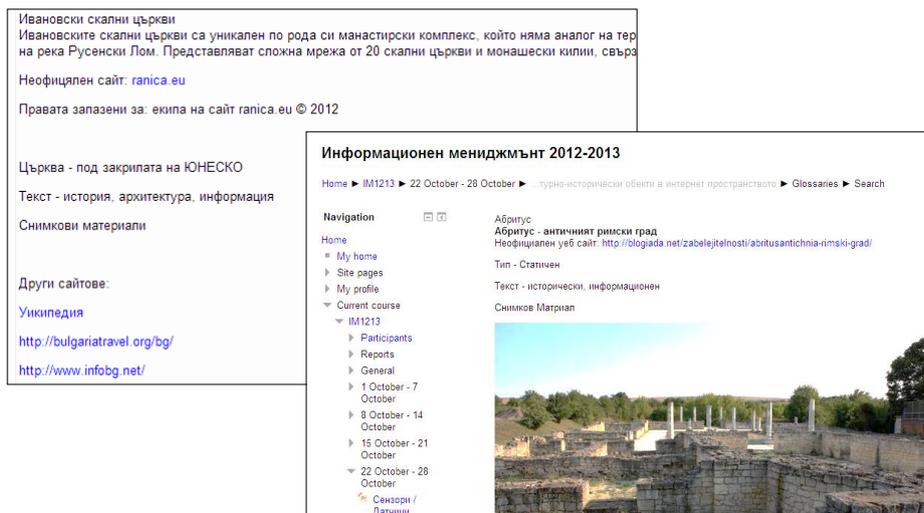


**Fig. 4.** Glossary records

- 94 describe museums, monuments, town-museums
- 72 - religious temple: churches, monasteries, synagogue
- 37 - the natural objectives
- 31 - fortresses
- 20 - galleries and other cultural objectives
- 20 - ruins, tombs;
- 7 - traditions: costumes, finery
- 7 - treasures: including the treasures from Borovo, Varna, Valchitran, Panagyuriste, Peslav, Rogozen, Trebniste
- 2 - literature: the History slavianobolgarskaia and Ivan Vasov – the greatest Bulgarian writer

The glossary records are not divided in categories. The statistic above is dragged out from the item descriptions. For the future it should be improved.

This research is not representative. The students described the most popular cultural and historical targets in Bulgaria. The famous objectives are well presented in cyberspace as Rila monastery and the Cathedral St.Alexander Nevski.

The information for location and hours of access or day / time of the year when they happen (custom) is available for most of the objectives.

According the main goal of the *Information management* course, there are two other considerable aspects, which stem from environmental and organizational dynamics

[3]. Firstly, it is not possible to access, collect and evaluate all environmental information being relevant for taking a certain decision at a reasonable price, i.e., time and effort [4]. Secondly, the organizational rules and procedures can prevent the taking of the most appropriate decision, i.e., that a sub-optimum solution is chosen in accordance to organizational rank structure or procedures.

## 4    Problems

There are two types of the problems:

- First the task: description, realization and results
- Second the situation of the cultural and historical objectives presentation.

Some problems with the activity were mentioned above as well as the way of their improvement but additionally:

- the template for the report should be develop, including:
  - the ontology of cultural and historical objectives
  - the type of web sites
  - multimedia and interactive elements
- the activity should be structured better
- the list of objectives should be listed in advance

The problems with presentations are reported by students:

- most of the objectives were no formally presented in the Internet:
  - some of them are mentioned as a part of touristic sites
  - some on as amateur presentation as a part of other sites.
- there are no common description of the Bulgarian traditions
  - one reason is the regional difference – slightly or bigger variations.
  - the Wikipedia is the only place for presentation. In this case the information should be carefully selected.

For example: the main information for the tradition Lazaruvane (shown on Fig. 5) is published on http://bg.wikipedia.org. The Lazaruvane is the festival not only the custom. The performances vary in the ethnographic regions. The information about Lazaruvane could be find on the official site of the Bulgarian church (http://bg-patriarshia.bg - http://bg-patriarshia.bg/reflections.php?id=212), too. The video and pictures can be found respectively in VBOX7 and YouTube, and after GOOGLE search (Fig. 6). Additionally the information is possible to be found on many touristic sites as BulgariaInside - the portal for tourism and travel.

In case like this the information is spread among the different sites. It means that there are copy/paste form one site to the other and the site developers / creators do not respect the copy rights. The experts in folklore could be the main source of the provided information.

The presented activity helps the student to develop the skills to identify the appropriate information, analyze and store it. The information management [3] is at the core of organizational and managerial competencies. Additionally develop their attitude to the cultural and historical heritage.
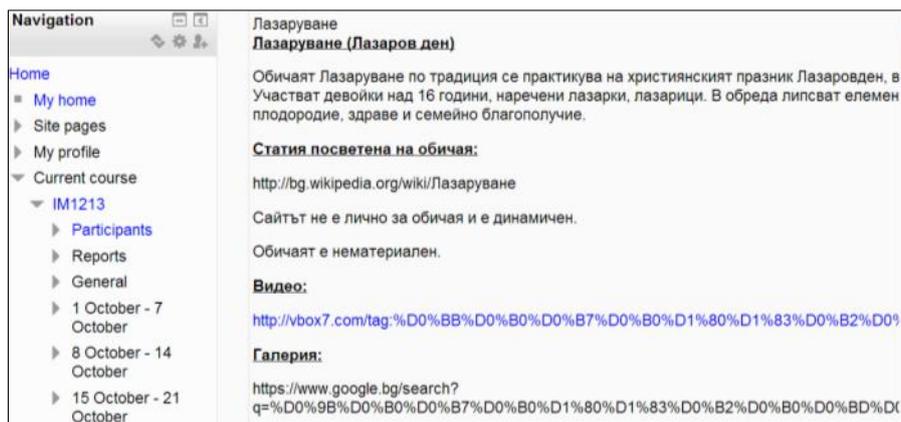


**Fig. 5.** Lazaruvane
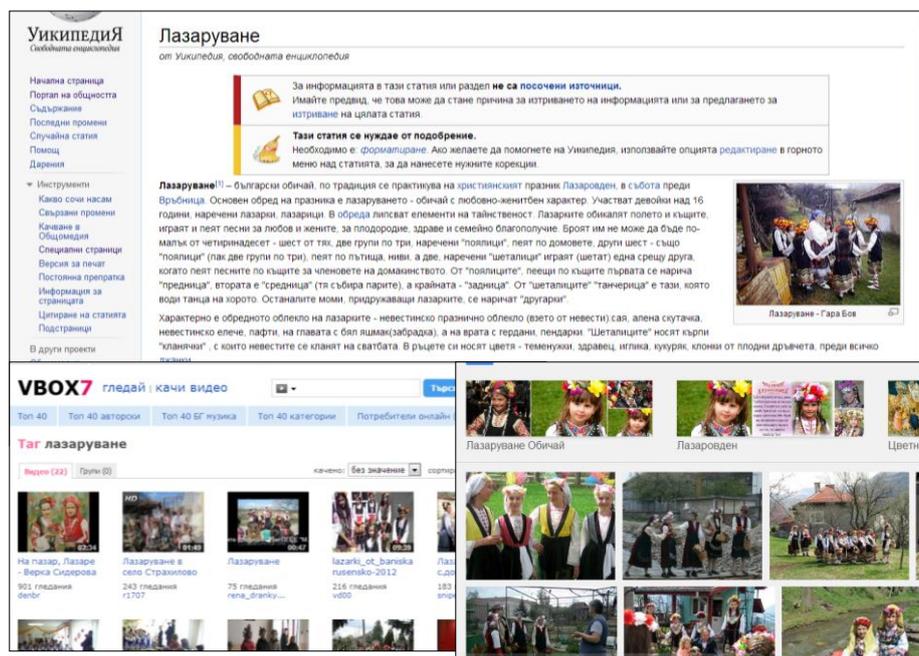


**Fig. 6.** About Lazaruvane on Wikipedia / Vibox / GOOGLE pictures search

# 5    Future Work and Conclusions

The academic year 2012-2013 was the first in this format for the course Information management. For next year the course should be improve in several directions as it was mentioned above:

- creation of the ontology, based on the standards
- development of the categories based on the ontology and separation of the records
- identification of unique information on the sites (not copy/paste and transferred without copyrights)
- separation of the sites: original / tourist / Wikipedia / or other comment in any practice

The students at *Information management* course have to identify the main organization design strategies [5] for increasing information processing capacity and reducing need for information processing. It could be illustrated by dynamically development of the Cyberspace. The next *improved* study for presentation of the Bulgarian cultural and historical objectives will be delivered next academic year.

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