

EDITORIAL

In recent years the scientific conservation of natural and cultural heritage items has become an inter- and trans-disciplinary science that uses modern analysis methods and techniques in order to find the best safeguarding solutions complying with unanimously accepted ethical and deontological professional principles in the field.

Conservation, with its proper meaning of unaltered keeping of items belonging to the cultural heritage and to nature, consists of a series of areas with specific activities: discovery/acquisition/transfer, scientific investigation, indexation/classification, passive preservation (climatization and other prevention procedures), active preservation (treatments against deterioration and degradation, or other prophylactic operations), restoration (consolidation, structural and chromatic reintegration) and the last activity, museum displaying and valorization. All those activities require advanced interdisciplinary knowledge, especially knowledge in material science and technology, together with architecture and structural engineering, environmental engineering, followed by history and theory of arts, archaeology, anthropology, sociology etc.

In this context, based on the experience gained from recent projects developed in the EU (LabSTECH, Eu-artech, EPISCON etc.) a continuous, detailed and thorough documentation became an obvious necessity. We should focus on problems concerning integrated scientific conservation, on modern analysis methods and techniques, on new materials and the preservation and restoration procedures thereof, on the current display and inventory methods etc. Moreover, one needs new knowledge gained by the interactive exchange of information and ideas between dedicated schools and institutions around the world, institutions whose objectives are setting up a solid domain nomenclature, the development of scientific interdisciplinary master and doctoral study programs for future specialists and experts in the field of scientific conservation and environmentally friendly sciences.

IJCS is a freely accessible quarterly journal that promotes the science of cultural and natural heritage conservation and it covers all the aspects mentioned above by publishing original, peer reviewed studies on any aspect of protection, investigation, preservation, restoration and display setting for cultural heritage items. Moreover, it includes studies on environment policies or on new procedures of air purification, of reducing pollution due to industrial and home waste waters, of environmentally friendly soil treatment, green technologies and other related issues. Additionally, it publishes short papers, book reviews, programs and presentations for scientific meetings and in the fourth issue of each volume there will be an index of authors and papers published in that volume.

In order to facilitate access to knowledge and information exchange, each issue will close with a section named Summaries (containing abstracts of recent papers and patents of authors who wish to promote their work). Papers presented at international symposiums, conferences and workshops can be published, if requested by the relevant scientific committees. Moreover, periodically our journal will publish the schedule of future international meetings of specialists in the field of Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage, and Environmentally Friendly Sciences.

Our journal is one of the few publications of this kind in Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the initiative to develop it belongs to a group of specialists with enhanced expertise in the field, currently members of the board of other periodic publications.

Editor in Chief