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Dear friends and supporters of ICARUS!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are now ready for an inspiring start into the autumn season with ICARUS!

The past weeks have been full of exciting developments and there's more to come in the near future!

At the beginning of September, we celebrated the kick-off event of the global **DTI - Digitise, Transform, Inspire** initiative in Vienna. The event brought together partners from around the world, sparking lively discussions, new collaborations, and a shared vision for the future of digital cultural heritage - a huge success for everyone involved!

Meanwhile, our **Topotheque** continues to flourish and has recently surpassed the incredible milestone of 2,000,000 entries - a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our growing community of contributors.

And looking ahead, don't forget that our **ICARUS Convention #35** will take place in **Venice, Italy**, from **12-14 November 2025**. It's the perfect opportunity to reconnect, exchange ideas, and explore new horizons together. Make sure to **submit your papers and finalize your travel plans soon!**

As the archival community is gathering for the **ICA Congress in Barcelona** (27-30 October 2025), you are most warmly invited to join the **EURBICA General Assembly**, which will be held as a side event (on 27 October).

Last, but not least: the interregional project "**MetaHeritage**" offers the chance to showcase your organisation on an interactive map aiming to help shape the future of Europe's cultural heritage through collaboration and innovation.

We're excited for all that's ahead and we're glad to have you with us on this journey.

Your ICARUS team

**DTI - Digitise.Transform.Inspire - Successful
Kick-off of the Global Initiative in Vienna (1-2
September)**

Not just the weather was glorious in Vienna at the beginning of September, also the spirits were high when a crowd of around 200 global experts gathered for the inaugural **DTI - Digitise.Transform.Inspire conference** on 1-2 September 2025 to explore how digitisation, AI, and international collaboration are transforming archives. Led by ICA President Josée Kirps and ICARUS's Thomas Aigner, the event featured keynotes from Europeana's Harry Verwayen and FamilySearch's Torsten Kux, and workshops and panel discussions on AI, sustainability, and ethics.

A major highlight was the signing of the [DTI Declaration](#), uniting ICARUS, ICA, Europeana, FamilySearch, Time Machine Organisation, Transkribus, AI4LAM, and CBG in a shared commitment to responsible innovation in archives.

The DTI initiative is setting a new benchmark for global cooperation in preserving the past and inspiring the future - stay tuned for more!

[Read more](#)

2 Million Memories: Volunteers Fill the Digital Treasure Chests of Communities

"If the Topotheque didn't exist, it would have to be invented!"

With an impressive **2,000,000 uploaded entries**, the [Topotheque](#), ICARUS' platform for local and regional history sources, has reached another milestone. Since its founding in 2008, more than 3,000 volunteer topothequarians in over 450 municipalities in Austria and beyond have contributed countless historical photos, videos, and documents that help keep regional identity alive.

Whether it's the legendary *Bonanza bike* of the 1970s, a glimpse into a traditional home butchering on a farm, or a cheerful family celebration in 1968 at the village inn - all these memories find a safe and accessible place in the digital treasure chests of the Topotheque. Countless gems, especially from private albums, shoeboxes, and old film reels, become visible only thanks to the dedication of volunteers.

Since its beginnings in Lower Austria, the platform has expanded far beyond the borders of the province. The Topotheque connects people, local history, and modern technology to preserve memories for future generations. Anyone worldwide can rediscover their roots, family history, or cultural highlights with just a click.

"Nothing is unimportant, because time and again, a faded, unremarkable photo has unexpectedly become a source of private nostalgia for someone else," explains **Alexander Schatek**, founder of the Topotheque. *"By embedding a Topotheque into community life, we build a bridge between generations, both online and offline. Whether at Topotheque cafés, lectures, or school events—memories come alive and are preserved."*

The Topotheque is a successful example of how citizen science creates a living mosaic of collective memory - a virtual place where history becomes visible, tangible, and accessible to everyone.

[Visit the Topotheque...](#)

ICARUS Convention #35 "Bridging Centuries: Digital Pathways for Medieval Charters and Beyond"

With our **35th ICARUS Convention** approaching (**12-14 November 2025** at the State Archives of Venice (Archivio di Stato di Venezia)) we'd like to kindly remind you of the upcoming deadline on **15 October 2025**.

Call for Papers:

While centred on medieval charters and their digitisation, the scope of the Convention embraces a wider spectrum of archival digitisation, digital methods, AI/blockchain applications, paleography, and more.

Topics for presentations may include (but are not limited to):

- Databases for archival sources
- Digital technologies for research, study, and conservation
- Digitisation workflows and case studies
- AI and blockchain in archival collections
- Technologies supporting paleography and diplomatics

Presentations can be given in **English** or **Italian**

Proposals for presentations (approx. 20 min) shall be submitted via e-mail to **as-ve.eventi(at)cultura.gov.it**, clearly stating your name, institution, the title of your presentation, and an abstract.

Submission deadline: **15 October 2025**

Funding & logistics:

[Mobility grants](#) may be available for ICARUS members, who are speakers at the Convention; application deadline: **15 October 2025**

Our friends in Venice compiled a **detailed list of accommodation and restaurant suggestions**, as well as guides on how to reach the Convention venue and Venice in general (information is available in English and Italian). Find it [here](#).

Registration will open in mid-October - stay tuned!

[Read more...](#)

EURBICA General Assembly in Barcelona - Extended Deadline for Registration

As you may know, the [ICA Congress](#) in Barcelona will take place from 27 to 30 October.

The [EURBICA General Assembly](#) will be held as a side event, and if you have not yet registered, there is still time to do so until mid-October using the link

below.

When: 27 October, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Where: Archive of the Crown of Aragon, Carrer dels Comtes, 2, Ciutat Vella, 08002 Barcelona

Following the Assembly, participants are warmly invited to join a guided tour of the Archive, kindly hosted by the Spanish State Archives, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Please complete the pre-registration form to confirm your attendance at the EURBICA General Assembly **by 15 October**.

Register now

Invitation to Promote Your Organisation on the MetaHeritage Map

The [MetaHeritage](#) project ("Metaverse and Heritage Routes as Innovative Approaches for Networking, Capacity Building and Interregional Investments") is an EU-funded initiative that aims to strengthen innovation in cultural heritage, especially using digital technologies, across different European regions. The project now invites cultural institutions to become part of an interactive community to foster sustainable cultural heritage development through **digital innovation** and **cross-regional cooperation**.

What's in it for you?

- Gain visibility by being featured on the interactive MetaHeritage Map.
- Connect with experts and institutions across Europe.
- Access practical tools, resources, and best practices to enhance your projects.
- Contribute to the development of future heritage policies and practices.

Participation is **free of charge**.

To take part:

- > Complete the MetaHeritage [questionnaire](#).
- > Register to join the MetaHeritage community [platform](#).

Learn more

All ICARUS community members are most welcome to share their news, updates, events, etc. with us to distribute them further. Just get in touch with our communication team.

Contact us



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