

Topics covering a wide range of issues related to security in a museum have, so far, functioned separately: research, analyses and implementation plans were usually focused on individual areas of conservation, physical safety, evacuation, etc., treated as separate domains.

In the times of growing public interest in museum institutions, which is reflected in the attendance data, museums are increasingly using new technologies not only to make a visit more attractive, but also to improve security. In recent years, it has become necessary to initiate an interdisciplinary reflection on the integration of security principles in cultural institutions, as well as on the issue of updating and harmonising standards and developing good practices.

In 2015, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów inaugurated '(In)-Museum Security', a series of seminars in the field of museology devoted to the questions of broadly understood security. The aim of the series was to familiarise its participants with the currently implemented solutions aimed at integrating safety rules. The topics of the meetings included conservation issues, security in the organisation of permanent and temporary exhibitions, protection of the collections in terms of sustainable development, methods of evacuation and manners of proceeding, both for staff and for the visitors, in the event of emergency and crisis situations (including the context of migration and rapid cultural and religious changes), as well as the presentation of systems supporting the risk assessment and management of the museum in difficult situations. The event was conducted under the auspices of the International Council of Museums ICOM, the National Committee ICOM Poland, with the support of the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections. An international group of specialists in specific fields was invited to conduct the seminars.

From 2015 to 2018, several thematic seminars and an international conference were organised as part of the cycle.

1. 'Museum Risk Wheel', 2015

Speakers:

Martina Lehmannová, Chairperson of ICOM Czech Republic

Pavel Jirásek, ICOM-Czech Republic Independent Heritage Consultant,
ICOM Security Expert

COMMUNICATION

'(IN-)MUSEUM SECURITY'. A SERIES OF SEMINARS AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED 'FIRST AID FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESCUE ACTIONS'

Anna Czarnecka

Martyna Sowińska-Pasek vel Paszkowska

Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

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The seminar was devoted to a synthetic instruction for dealing with crisis situations (e.g. flood, fire, theft, the need for a sudden evacuation of the collection, etc.), which was successfully introduced in Czech museums: ‘Kolečko první pomoci a záchranných prací’ (‘First Aid and Rescue Actions for Cultural Heritage’, known under the working name ‘Museum Risk Wheel’). The manual was prepared by the Czech Committee of the Blue Shield. Its advantages are a simple visual form of presenting commands and procedures, the conciseness and clarity of information, the lightness (paper print) and small size, as well as its independence from the functioning of electronic systems, power supply, etc., so that there is no risk of the information being manipulated in any way. In addition, the set of safety instructions is universal for museums; hence the decision to implement and disseminate the solution in Poland. For this purpose, in 2018–2020, a license was obtained from the Czech Committee of the Blue Shield, the manual was translated, printed and distributed country-wide among the museums and institutions responsible for disseminating the collection management standards, such as the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections or the Polish Committee of the Blue Shield.

2. ‘Organisation and security of exhibitions’, 2016

Speaker:

Freda Matassa, expert in exhibition organisation and museum management, director of Toffolo Art Collections Management, author of training programs for museums, recognised as one of the *Top 50 Women to Watch in the Arts*, member of the Royal Academy of Arts

The lecture concerned the safety of exhibitions, including the practical and social aspects of the safety of their organisation and maintenance processes. The meeting was combined with the premiere of the Polish edition of the book entitled *Organizing Exhibitions: A practical guide for museums, libraries and archives* published by the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów in 2015, as part of the *Museology* series.

3. ‘Heritage in the face of contemporary threats and challenges. Programme of Operations’, 2016

Speaker:

Krzysztof Sałaciński, Counselor to Minister at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Chairman of the Polish Committee of the Blue Shield

The seminar was devoted to security aspects and new challenges, especially in the light of armed conflicts, programme issues for the preservation of endangered cultural heritage, and new initiatives for the protection of cultural heritage as well as procedures for their implementation.

4. ‘Recognizing and avoiding threats during the exhibition organisation process’, 2016

Speaker:

Sandra Rust Ph.D., expert in exhibition organisation and museum collection management, head of the publications department of the Albertina Gallery in Vienna

The seminar was devoted to aspects of security during the organisation of exhibitions (how to organise an exhibition: from planning to organisation, daily operation of exhibitions, and creation of travelling exhibitions).

5. ‘Risk management and HR management’ international conference and workshop with the participation of ICMS ICOM specialists in security, 2017

Co-organizers:

Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, International Committee for Museum Security

Speakers:

Suay Aksoy, ICOM Chairperson

Anette Hansen, ICMS Chairperson

ICMS specialists:

Vernon Rapley (United Kingdom)

Dick Drent (Netherlands)

Stephan Thefo (Interpol France)

Hans-Juergen Harras (Germany)

Pavel Jirásek (Czech Republic)

Willem Hekman (Canada)

Experts from Poland:

Jacek Olbrycht, representative of the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections

Paweł Jaskanis, Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów

Piotr Cywiński, Director of the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau

Dariusz Stola, Director of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Jarosław Sellin, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

During the workshops held at the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the initial review concerned the state of protection of collections and objects at both

institutions. The workshops conducted by a group of international experts in the field of security made it possible to identify many problems concerning infrastructure, procedures and legislation faced by Polish museums. As a result, a museum working group devoted to security was established. Due to the very broad thematic scope of the problems, the group includes the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów, the Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections. The selection of these institutions was primarily guided by the need to gather, within one body, a variety of experiences, substantive knowledge, and competences resulting from the function performed in the structure of museum institutions. The works began with defining the reasons for the occurrence of the main threats. The key conclusion of the talks was to identify the disproportion between the role played by contemporary museums and the number of tools and means available to perform this function at the highest level and in accordance with statutory obligations. Contemporary museums, according to the extended museum doctrine,¹ not only guard the national cultural heritage, but also work for such areas as the digitisation of resources, environmental infrastructure, landscape environment, and social education. Increased competency scopes and a growing area of care should be supported by adequate funding mechanisms for museums, as well as an appropriate amount of institutional subsidy.

6. 'Evacuation of collections in special cases – rules of conduct. Law and practice', 2018

Speakers:

Paweł Jaskanis, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

Dorota Folga-Januszewska, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

Martyna Sowińska-Pasek vel Paszkowska, Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów

Krzysztof Sałaciński, Counselor to Minister at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Chairman of the Polish Committee of the Blue Shield
Włodzimierz Strupiński, Warsaw University of Technology

Maria Kurpik, National Museum in Warsaw

Anna Bogdańska, National Museum in Warsaw

Paweł Ogrodnik, Main School of Fire Service

Sławomir Wilemski, National Library

Representatives of ArtApp company and Otwock European Health Centre (ECZ Otwock): Jakub Kamiński, Mateusz Kierepka, Łukasz Kownacki, Łukasz Makowski, Artur Winiarski

Anna Bogdali-Balicka, State Archives in Warsaw

¹ icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ICOMs-Resolutions_2016_Eng.pdf (accessed 23 September 2022).

The meeting was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Polish Committee of the Blue Shield, the National Committee ICOM Poland and the Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów. The program included such issues as the principles of preparing and conducting the evacuation of collections in special cases, a presentation of worldwide solutions, the rules of handling modern collection carriers during evacuation, legal solutions, as well as directions of necessary changes in the scope of evacuation of cultural heritage items.

ANNA CZARNECKA

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6744-355X>

Art historian and iberist in spe, graduate of the University of Warsaw and the Warsaw School of Economics. Deputy Head of the Development Department of the Museum of King Jan III's Palace in Wilanów, formerly associated with non-governmental organizations implementing projects in the field of popularization of knowledge about 20th/XXI century architecture. Member of the International Council of Museums ICOM. At the museum, she leads national and international projects in the field of dissemination of knowledge and exchange of good practices. Since 2017, she has been leading Erasmus+ international educational projects. She is also involved in efforts to protect the spatial-functional integrity of the palace-garden-farm complex in Wilanów.

The study was conducted as part of the Museum's statutory work.

Contact: aczarnecka@muzeum-wilanow.pl

MARTYNA SOWIŃSKA-PASEK VEL PASZKOWSKA

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5722-2021>

MBA, anthropologist, cultural scientist, museologist. Since 2009 she has been professionally tied with the Museum of King Jan III's Palace in Wilanów, since 2015 in the position of Head of the Development Department. As part of her work, she and her team identify, pilot and incubate innovative projects and strategic partnerships. Coordinator of national and international projects, such as exhibitions, conferences, book publications. Supervises the implementation of the assumptions for stage 1 of the 'Masterplan for the King John III Palace Museum in Wilanów' – spatial and functional reintegration of the areas of the former palace-garden establishment in Wilanów through the purchase of the Royal Manor grounds and its revitalization. Member of the National Committee of ICOM Poland, certified coordinator of management control in public administration.

The study was conducted as part of the Museum's statutory work.

Contact: msowinska@muzeum-wilanow.pl