

Michal Čudrnák



Job title: Head of Digital Collections and Services

Organisation: Slovak national gallery

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Abstract:

Title: Czech & slovak gallery collections online - Started from the bottom, now we are here

At lab.SNG, a research and development unit at the Slovak National Gallery, we develop websites and tools for the gallery and museum sector. Our main project is Web umenia ("Web of art" <http://webumenia.sk/>), which started in 2014 as a microsite for an exhibition (<http://dvekrainy.sng.sk/>), with around 240 searchable artworks, displayed in thematic sections. As a prototype, it soon moved on to become an online catalogue of public artworks, aggregating and showcasing 100.000 artworks from Slovak galleries. Instead of letting the galleries cope with the "online collections issue" themselves, our aim is to provide a one-stop shop for collections of (currently nine) galleries, equipped with high-resolution images, artist profiles, hand-curated collections and more. Aggregating metadata was the easy part - they all come from one source, in one schema, with unified terms and author names. Showcasing them, making them reach the public and touch their hearts was a little harder, but that is a SEO, social networks and PR story. Three years after, in 2017, we were approached by major Czech galleries - Moravian gallery (<http://sbirky.moravska-galerie.cz/>) and National Gallery in Prague (<http://sbirky.ngprague.cz/>) - to help them with the "online collections issue" and create their own websites. Our focus has branched out to include work with records and images from disparate sources, custom front-end, multi-language and other

decentralising issues. How did we get here and how do we progress from here on? With Google Arts around the corner, is another world possible? We don't know, but we will try to find out.

Bio:

Michal Čudrnák is Head of Digital Collections and Services at Slovak National Gallery. Michal's work is focused on cataloguing, digitisation and access to openly licensed online collections.