AI & Heritage in a Digital World

How can we harness AI to support, rather than replace, community-led heritage stewardship?

As the possibilities of emerging technologies like AI expand, so do the questions about its impact.

This is why ICCROM is convening global heritage experts to critically explore the promises and pitfalls of AI. It is not just about the tools, but about the choices we make in using them.

Join us **20 and 21 November 2025** as we ask the hard questions, share real-world experiences, and chart a course for **ethical, inclusive, and effective use of AI in cultural heritage**.

Meet the Partners! ⟶

UGANDA MUSEUM

Through community engagement and new technologies, it ensures dynamic, inclusive cultural storytelling.

FIAT-IFTA

The global association of television and audiovisual archives, plays a leading role in shaping the discourse on how Artificial Intelligence is transforming media archiving and access. Through working groups, conferences, and strategic partnerships, promotes critical reflection on the ethical, technical, and curatorial implications of AI in the preservation and reuse of broadcast heritage.

Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine

Leads digital heritage transformation, safeguarding national identity and cultural memory during war and recovery.

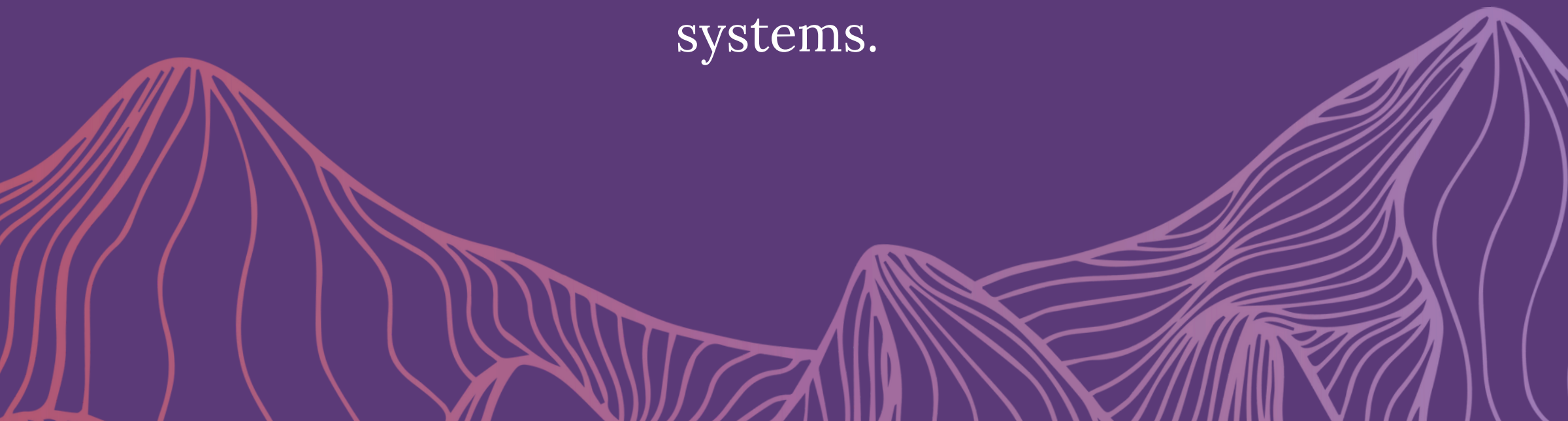## Flanders AI Academy (VAIA)

Their goal: to make AI knowledge accessible and applicable for all professionals in Flanders, and to promote inclusive, lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving digital world.

CIFAL York / ADERSIM

Part of the UN CIFAL Network, the center advances SDGs through training and research in disaster management, AI, and digital heritage resilience. Combines engineering, AI, and civic responsibility to support digital transformation in heritage and beyond.

AVP

Platform-neutral advisory firm that serves cultural heritage institutions, corporations, and nonprofits. AVP supports organizations through the planning, selection, implementation, and growth of digital asset management and other data management systems.

Meet the Scientific Committee of Ctrl+S Culture 2025

"AI offers exciting opportunities to enhance the storytelling power of heritage and strengthen its protection in times of crisis, contributing to the building of peaceful and resilient communities"

Aparna Tandon
Senior Programme Leader- ICCROM

"In today's volatile world, where crises are frequent, complex, and interconnected, a well-trained AI model can shift us from reactive response to proactive preparedness, helping heritage professionals anticipate threats and make timely, informed decisions to protect cultural heritage at risk."

Jui Ambani
Project Officer - ICCROM

"AI is shifting from potential to concrete impact across Africa's heritage landscape. AI holds the power to unlock knowledge and innovation, and empower youth to engage with their heritage through inclusive, ethical, and creative digital technologies."

Espéra Donouvossi
Programme Manager - Youth.Heritage.Africa

"Artificial Intelligence offers cultural heritage institutions new opportunities to enhance accessibility, while enabling more immersive and interactive forms of exploration"

Linda Neruba
Journalist - Uganda Museum

"If in an AI-driven world of information management, data is the new oil, then cultural heritage institutions are huge oil fields"

Brecht Declercq
Head of Archives - Radiotelevisione
Svizzera Italiana

How does AI move beyond the buzz to enable real, practical heritage projects? The field needs tools, methods, and collaborations that make a tangible difference on the ground.

Hilke Arijs
Cultural Heritage Consultant -
collaborator for ICCROM's Sustaining
Digital Heritage Programme

"AI opens a new era in heritage preservation — from documentation to reconstruction, from analysis to accessibility. For nations defending their identity in times of war, it becomes a tool that enhances our human ability to see the invisible and care for the fragile. It is a chance to preserve the past for the future — with greater depth, precision, and reach."

Anastasia Bondar
Vice Minister Culture and
Strategic Communications -
Ukraine

"During my PhD on medieval Greek manuscripts, I travelled across Europe to transcribe texts by hand. Now that so many are digitised, AI tools like handwritten text recognition could unlock these sources faster and make them accessible to a more diverse, global community of researchers"

Ilse De Vos
Coordinator of Flanders AI Academy (VAIA)

"AI and data science bridge the past and the future, transforming cultural heritage into living knowledge. By digitizing, contextualizing, and making heritage accessible, they empower communities today and ensure that future generations inherit not just artifacts, but the stories, languages, and wisdom that define human identity."

Maleknaz Nayebi
Associate Director CIFAL- Associate Professor
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (York University)

"In today's challenging world, heritage is increasingly at risk. Advances in AI and digital technologies offer powerful tools to predict, manage, and mitigate these risks—before, during, and after crises. This conference marks an important step toward integrating these technologies into heritage risk and crisis management."

Ali Asgary
Professor, Disaster and Emergency Management
Director, CIFAL York
York University

"AI presents an exciting opportunity to uncover hidden collections, but it also compels us to thoughtfully reimagine what a healthy digital commons should be, and how cultural heritage organizations can play a meaningful role in its evolution."

Kara Van Malssen
Partner and Managing Director AVP