

Call for papers

The 2025 First International Biennial Conference on Museology and Conservation

Future of Museums and Heritage Conservation: Tradition Meets Innovation

I. Background

In 2015, Taiwan enacted its first Museum Act, which has now been in effect for a full decade. The Act defines museums as permanent nonprofit institutions engaged in the collection, preservation, restoration, conservation, and research of both tangible and intangible evidence of human activity and the natural environment, and are regularly accessible to the public through exhibitions, educational outreach, or other forms of engagement, with the concept of museum space also expanding to include locations of distinctive cultural and artistic value.

As global society and cultural development continue to evolve, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) adopted a new definition at its 2022 Prague conference. This updated definition retained elements from earlier frameworks while introducing new values such as accessibility, inclusivity, diversity, sustainability, ethics, professionalism, participation, lived experience, and reflection.

Today, cultural heritage institutions—including museums—continue to foster innovation while rooted in longstanding knowledge traditions. For example, in the management and conservation of cultural property and collections, many institutions have moved beyond custodial responsibilities to explore emerging practices related to technology, workflow efficiency, and governance. In response to open-access movements and technological developments, a growing number of institutions have shifted from paid image licensing to open-access policies. Research in digital humanities and related technologies has enabled deeper engagement with collections and encouraged their broader, more diverse use.

Many institutions have also adopted equity-based, decentralized, and democratic approaches to contemporary collecting—working collaboratively with communities to document and interpret stories and objects that reflect public experience, and building

dialogue with existing collections. Across exhibition, education, research, and conservation practice, museums are increasingly guided by values such as accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and ethical professionalism—strengthening their role as communicators and interpreters of cultural heritage.

In light of these developments, this conference aims to promote innovative practices rooted in traditional foundations through keynote presentations and an open call for papers. It will foster dialogue among academic institutions, museums, and heritage conservation organizations in Taiwan and abroad, contributing to professional advancement and research development, and supporting the broader goal of sustainable development.

II. Objectives

This conference aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To promote academic development and knowledge-building in the fields of museology and heritage conservation.
2. To support benchmarking and professional exchange among institutions engaged in museum and heritage conservation practices, thereby strengthening the quality and effectiveness of museum services.
3. To foster dialogue and collaboration among museum and heritage professionals in Taiwan and abroad through conference presentations and scholarly exchange.

III. Organizers:

National Palace Museum, Tainan National University of the Arts

IV. Date and Venue:

1. **Date:** October 30-31, 2025 (Thursday-Friday)
2. **Venue:** Southern Branch of National Palace Museum

V. Call for Papers

The conference welcomes academic and professional submissions addressing themes related to museums and heritage conservation. Papers may explore traditional or innovative approaches, and may take the form of advocacy, practice-based reports, theoretical reflection, or critical inquiry. Suggested themes include (but are not limited to):

1. Responding to Social Needs and Change:

How museums and heritage institutions reflect and respond to evolving social demands—e.g., open access to collections, inclusion and equity, climate change adaptation, carbon reduction, resilience, sustainability, professional ethics, public participation, and community well-being.

2. Application of New Technologies:

Use of tools such as digital humanities platforms, artificial intelligence, virtual/augmented/mixed reality, and 5G technologies in museum and conservation contexts.

3. Refining Traditional Foundations:

Reviews, improvements, or innovations in museum practice (e.g., collections, research, exhibition, education, management, marketing, audience development) developed in response to practical needs.

4. Futures and Foresight:

Critical reflection on future challenges and transformations affecting museums and heritage institutions, including demographic shifts (aging, declining birthrate), rural–urban disparities, populism, extremism, social impact, and the evolving field of museology.

5. Cross-disciplinary Inspiration and Exchange:

Productive collaborations among libraries, archives, and museums; cross-sector strategies; and exemplary practices in collection, exhibition, and education that serve as models for others.

6. Conservation Techniques and Research:

Studies and applications of conservation techniques in response to diverse object types, materials, and conditions—from traditional artifacts to contemporary works—with attention to long-term sustainability and responsible resource use.

7. Collaborative and Participatory Conservation:

Case studies and reflections on conservation projects in which members of the community, source communities, or traditional practitioners actively participated in the decision-making or treatment process. Topics may include negotiated outcomes, shared authority in conservation planning, and ethical considerations in the collaborative preservation of culturally significant

materials.

8. Challenges and Limits in Conservation Science:

Case studies or reflections on analytical techniques, technical collaborations, diagnostic research, and the limitations or boundaries of conservation science.

9. Other Topics:

Additional papers aligned with the conference theme are also welcome.

VI. Submission Period: Deadline for submission: July 8, 2025, 12:00 PM

VII. Types of Submissions:

1. **Academic Paper:** Abstract up to 900 words(including research motivation, methods,and key findings).
2. **Practice-Based Report:** Abstract up to 600 words. (including research motivation, implementation process, results, and practical suggestions)

VIII.Submission Method: Online submission only.

1. Chinese URL: <https://reurl.cc/6K73V5>
2. English URL: <https://reurl.cc/La4z1a>

IX. Contact for Submission Inquiries:

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X. Submission Guidelines and Important Dates

Phase	Date	Requirement
Deadline for Abstract Submission	July 8, 2025 (12:00 noon)	Academic papers: Up to 900 words (including research motivation, methods, and key findings). Practice-based report: Up to 600 words (including research motivation, implementation process, results, and practical

suggestions).		
Notification of acceptance/rejection	August 7, 2025	Accepted abstracts will be announced on the conference website.
Deadline for Full Paper Submission	October 15, 2025	Academic papers: 6000-20000 words. Practice-based report: Finished presentation .
Conference Dates	October 30-31, 2025	Authors of accepted papers present their papers at the conference.
Conference Proceedings Publication	2026	Selected papers will be published in a conference proceedings (subject to author consent).

XI. Official Website

<https://theme.npm.edu.tw/2025seminar/en/>