

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2022

FOCUS SESSIONS - FS

FS-IC02

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY TO CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES: NEW PARADIGMS TO HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Keywords: Accessibility; Interpretation; Culture; Heritage Sites.

Although the term 'accessibility' usually tends to be thought of in connection to physical disability, in the particular cases of culture and heritage sites it also crucially involves the ability to perceive ideas and understand meanings and cultural values.

The term 'accessibility' is now customary to be defined as a generic concept and interpreted in relation to its double articulation as physical and perceptive accessibility. In general, accessibility means the ability of everyone to use a service or a cultural product, regardless of specificity (disability, age) or context of use. In other words, accessibility is, by definition, a matter of usability.

This session aims to explore tourism as a very common and widespread medium of accessing culture and heritage. Hence, the main aim is to investigate the existing level of accessibility to tourism facilities and cultural sites, in order to define elements that play important roles in experiencing (physical accessibility) and comprehending (perceptual accessibility) culture and heritage. The intent is to present research and good practices aimed at defining a satisfactory level of physical and perceptual accessibility to culture and heritage, in order to encourage new promotion and management practices, as well as redefine the new paradigms of heritage interpretation.

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