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Music Folklore Archive Collection at the Institute of Art Studies – BAS in Sofia, Bulgaria, and its Restoration and Digitization

Key words: Digitization, Cultural Heritage, Archive, Database

This work has been partially supported by Grant No. DTK 02/54, Bulgarian Science Fund, Ministry of Education, Youth and Science – a project for digitization Bulgarian folk songs: *Information technologies for presentation of Bulgarian folk songs with music, notes and text in a digital library.*

In this paper we present archive collection with authentic Bulgarian musical folklore which is possession of the Institute of Art Studies, and its digitization.

The Folk Music Archive of the Institute of Art Studies keeps Bulgaria's folkloric heritage, which has been collected from the end of 19th century by prominent folklorists: Angel Boukoreshtliev, Konstantin Zagorov, Pavel Stefanov, Vassil Stoin, Rayna Katzarova, Ivan Katchulev, Elena Stoin, Nikolay Kaufman, Todor Todorov, Todor Djidjev and others. It

contains recording tapes with traditional Bulgarian folklore music, original papers (notated songs with lyrics and notated instrumental tunes), transcriptions, descriptions, copies and decodes from phonic recordings.



Picture 1. Manuscripts with notated songs and lyrics



Picture 2. Artifacts from Archive of the Institute of Art Studies

The urgent and timely collection, restoration and preservation of rare, valuable and rapidly vanishing traditional Bulgarian culture artifacts is the long-termed process which includes recording, scanning and digitization. Processing of the collected archive needs technical description, scientific recognition and etc. due to a general database is created.



Picture 3. Old technics used for recording on the terrain work

Project
Bulgarian Art Archives and Advanced Research Technologies
(BAAART)

Aims: The project BAAART of the Institute of Artstudies is prepared and implemented in the context of current directions for preservation of the Bulgarian cultural heritage. Urgently need to be collected, processed and cataloged artifacts and documents of Bulgarian culture as a part of national and European cultural heritage. The project aims are to be stored existing

archives in particular risk of irretrievable loss of musical, verbal, photo and video archives, also library fund of our Institute.



Picture 4. BAAART

Designed not only in local level and not just for this moment, it creates parallel opportunities to be processed another archives, and to supplement existing ones. The ultimate aim is that these records will be widely available.

The project is implemented by Institute of Art Studies - BAS with support from the National Science Fund of Ministry of Education, Youth and Science. Software Development – SoftLib LTD.

**Multimedia databases, developed by specialists of
Institute of Art Studies – BAS:**

Bulgarian Folklore Music
Incunabula, rare and valuable editions
Sound archives
Photo archives
Archive of events - music, exhibitions, theatre, cinema

HOBIT

New types of computers – from the diskless workstation LAN, allowing access to applications running on the server

Remote Access – various located buildings of the server and workstations

Workstation of a new type:

Without an operating system loaded

Without disk, floppy and CD

Without need for local installation

Without need for local support

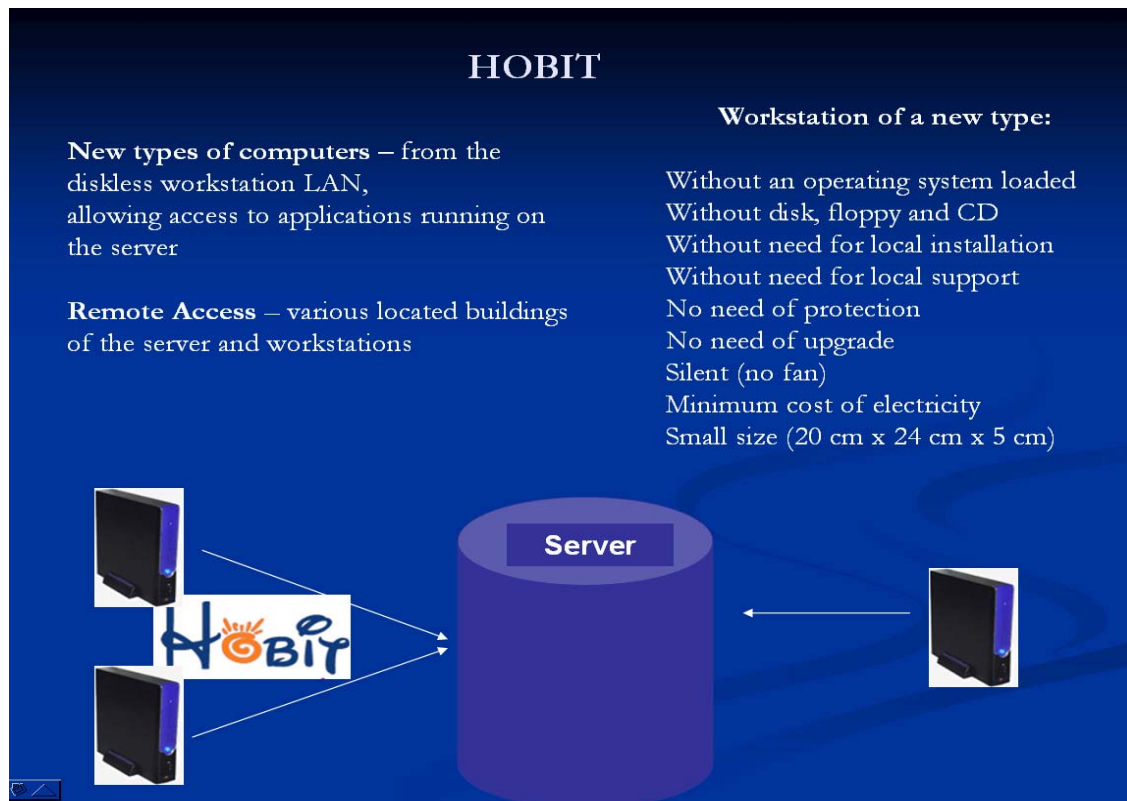
No need of protection

No need of upgrade

Silent (no fan)

Minimum cost of electricity

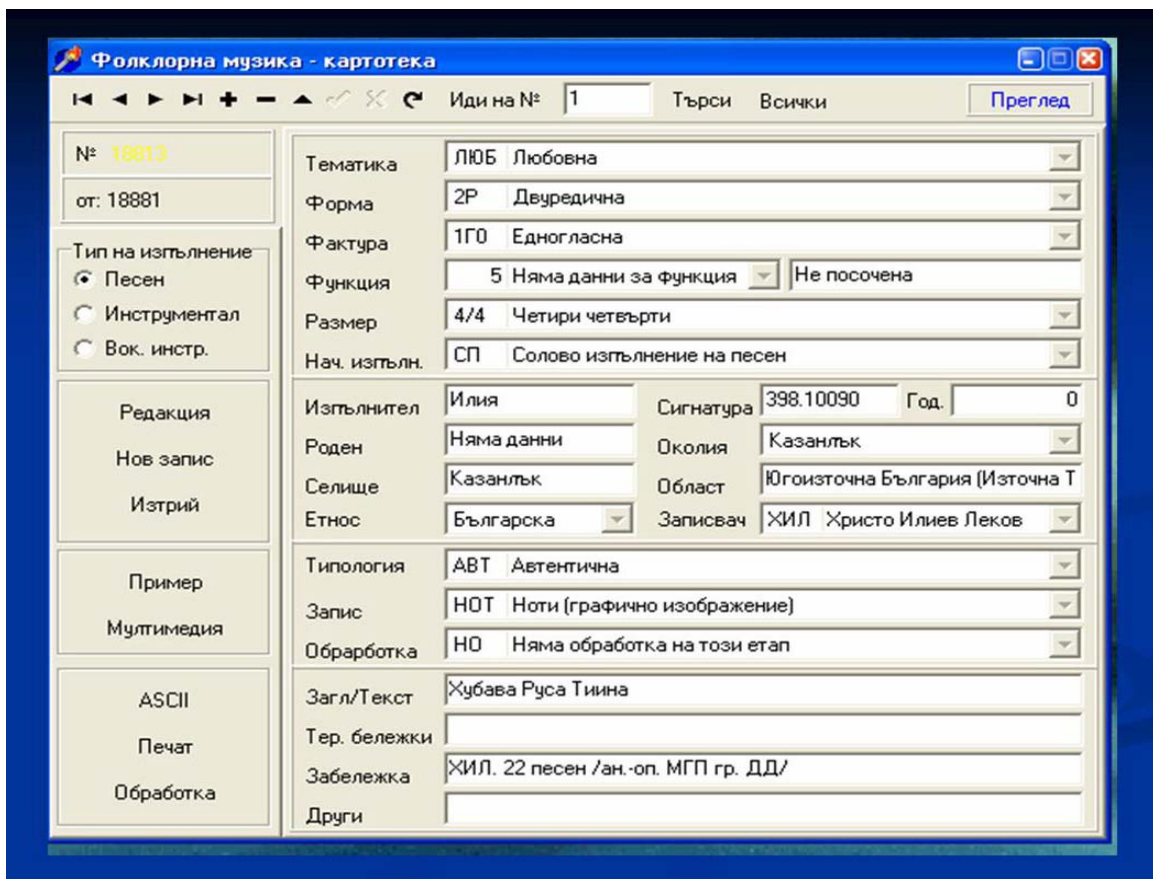
Small size (20 cm x 24 cm x 5 cm)



Picture 5. New technology

Due to specific nature of our work, we are going to present one of the multimedia databases in the development of a model which we have direct participation.

In the mid 90-ies of XX century Dr. Lyubomir Kavaldjiev has created multimedia database *Multimedia Database for Authentic Bulgarian Musical Folklore* - "This database has become available after long term efforts of the research team at the Institute for Art Studies working on preserving, systematization and computer digitalization of the collected for almost a century unique samples of the Bulgarian music folklore"¹.



Picture 6. Multimedia Database for Authentic Bulgarian Musical Folklore

¹ <http://musicart.imbm.bas.bg/EN/about.htm>

In Music-Folklore Archives of Institute of Art Studies – BAS there are different types archival collections – on paper and audio holders.

A big part of the field documents are old and are more difficult to use, so in need of urgent restoration through digitization to be saved and to facilitate access to them. We will show in projection how our archive work looked and how it changes in time to reach today's modern look.

Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music*

It contains over 19,000 recordings of Bulgarian folklore music, lyrics, ethnomusicologists' analysis, audio recordings, notes, photographs and video recordings.

Enter and search all the fields:

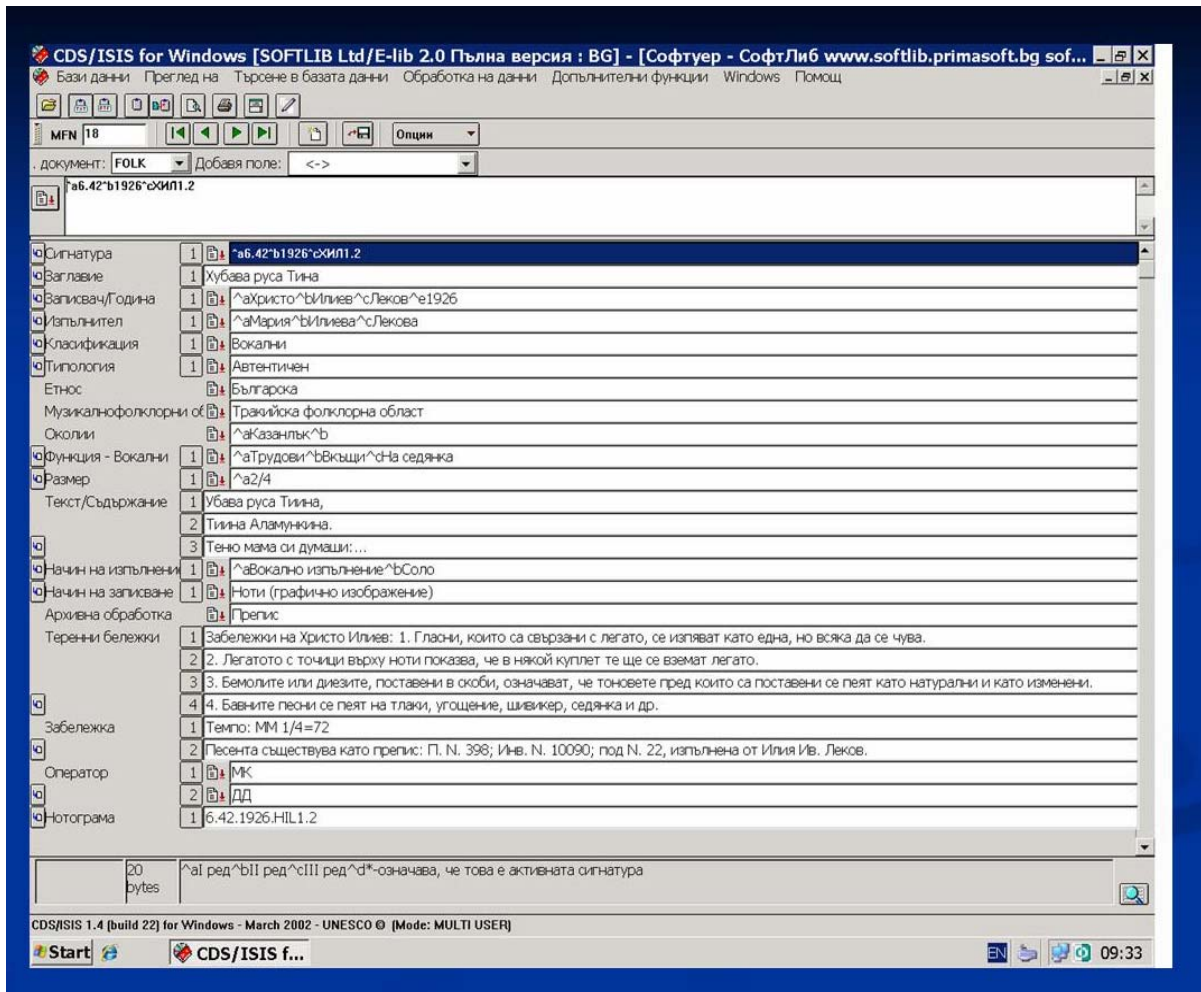


Picture 7.

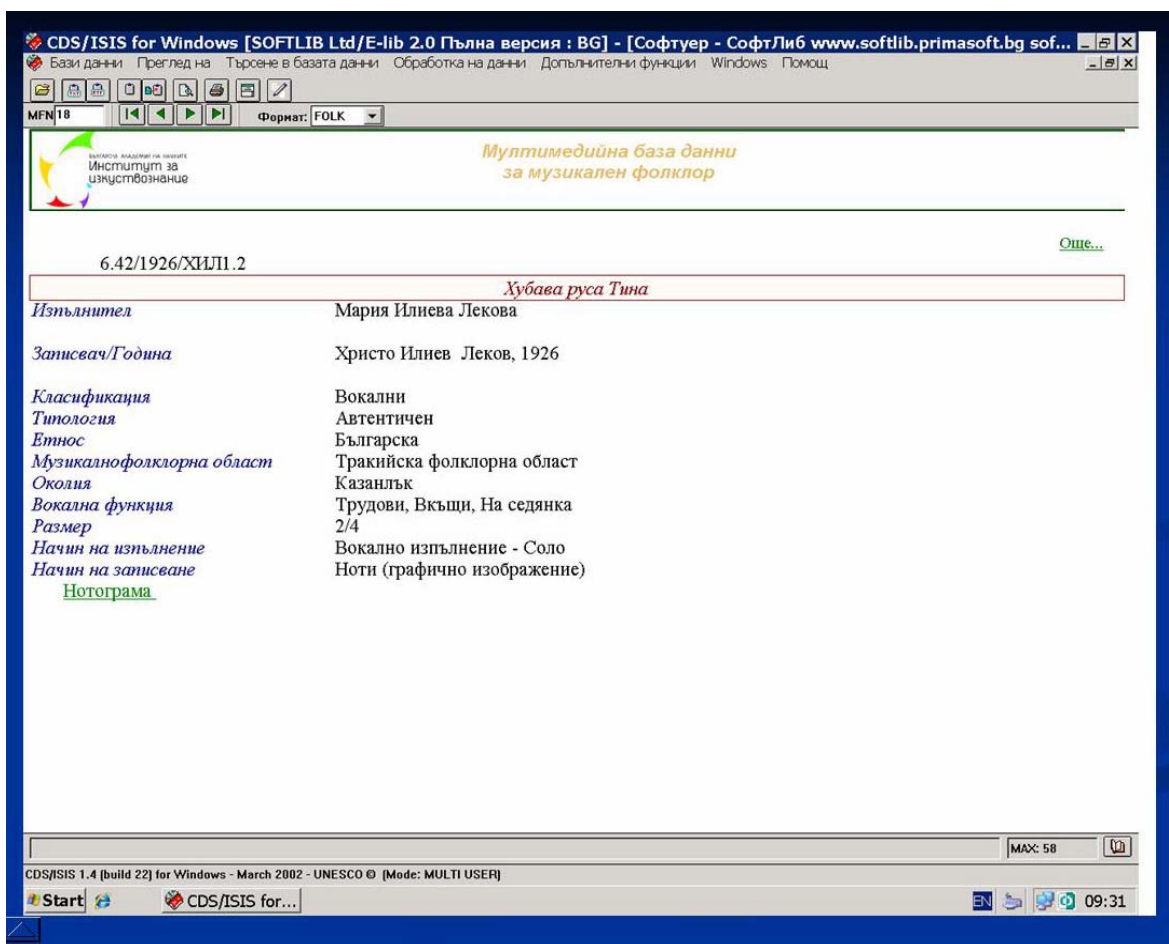
This is the most optimized model that contains enough objective information, enabling any researcher to make its own conclusions.

Authors
Title
Translated Title
Performer (name, place and year of birth)
Recorded by the folklorist/ Year
Classification (vocal, instrumental, vocal-instrumental)
Typology
Ethnic Data
Music Folklore Region
District
Meter
Function

Way of Performance
Way of Recording
Archive Elaboration
Terrain Notes
Bibliography
Remarks
Lyrics
Notated Instrumental Tunes
Sound
Video
Internet addresses
Clip
Text/Content
Operator



Picture 8. Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music* – work version



Picture 9. Database *Bulgarian Folklore Music* – Internet version (project)

By restoration, digitization and completing the database:

- more materials, stored in the archive, will go out of folders with text and tape's boxes and will be available for use not only in the traditional way - through site visits, but and interactive way
- the user is facilitated by the capabilities of modern multimedia product offering a complete and precise information
- expand the possibilities for audio examples of authentic music samples

Creation of this database aims to provide better conditions for using the Music Folk Archive.