Digitization of Museum Collections and Utilization in a Cultural Context

August 16, 2006

Jun-Hyun Jin, Curator

SNU Museum

SNU Museum -> http://eng.snum.org/

Contents

I. Introduction

History of SNUM

1946 :   SNUM opens, taking over the Gyeongseong Imperial
University Museum collection.

1975 :   Moves to its new campus at Mt. Kwanak
housed in the 6th floor of Univ. Library

1984 :   Construction begins on the new museum building.

1992 :   Restructured into five different departments :
archaeology and history, traditional art, anthropology
and folklore, contemporary art, and the natural history.

1993 : The new museum building opens on Oct. 14.

2003 :   Seoul National University MOA(Museum of Art) is
    seperated from SNUM(former dept. of contemporary art)

2006.3 :   Reduced into four different departments :
                archaeology and history, traditional art, anthropology
                and folklore, and the natural history.

***2006** :   MOA(Museum of Art) opens on June. 8.

*View of SNU MOA
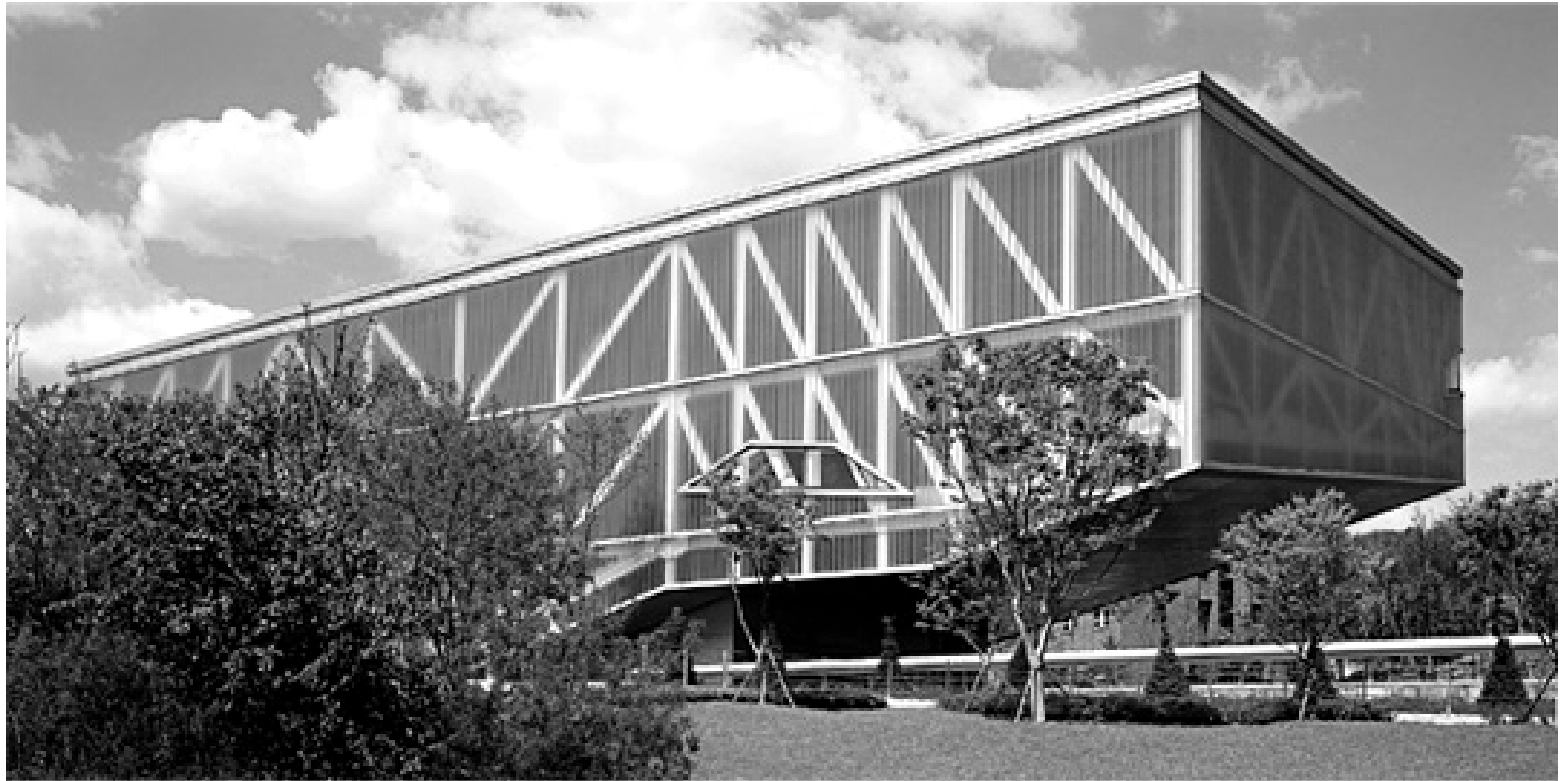
II. Museum Collections

- Museum Collections are categorized According to Seoul National University Museum Regulation

1. The Archaeology & History collection

   – Contains over 4,400 artifacts of
     various stone, ceramic, iron, bronze,
     jade and precious metal artifacts.
  – collected through more than 70 excavations
     carried out by the museum since the 1960s.
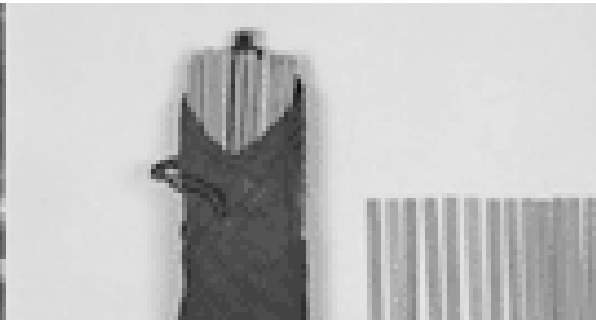
2. The Traditional Art collection

–   Contains paintings, calligraphy, ceramics,
    Buddhist sculpture, and various craft
    items, many of which were donated to
    the museum
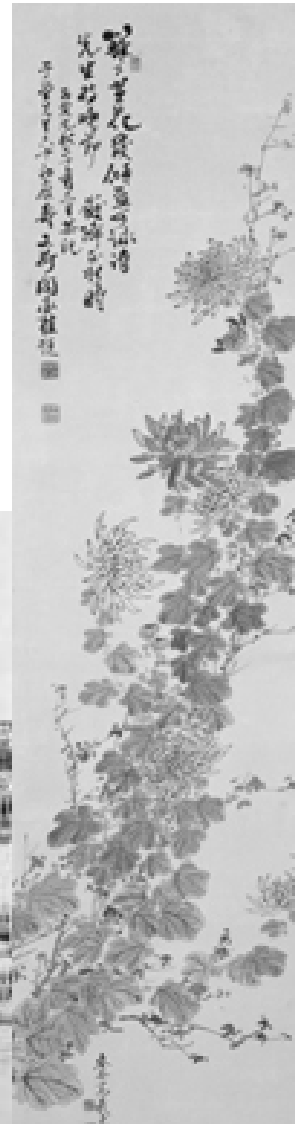
3. Anthropology & Folklore

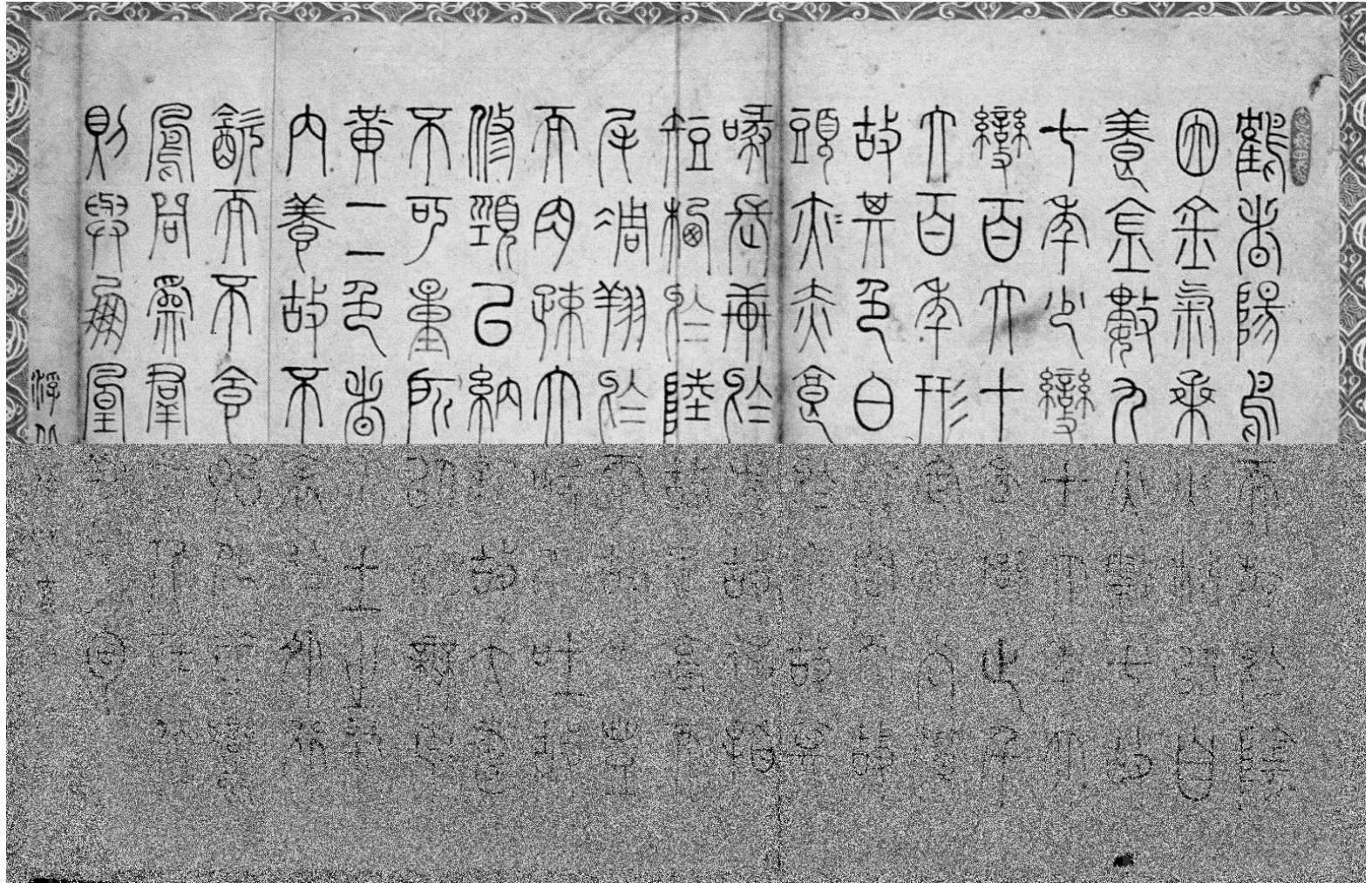- Department of Folklore holds more than 1900 objects of anthropology and folklore.

III. Type of Museum Collections

1. Paintings/Calligraphy
2. Metal works
3. Jade/Stone artifacts-
4. Potteries/Ceramics-
5. Bone artifacts
6. Wooden furniture/Paper works
7. Leather works
8. Textile
9. Costume
10. Others

Painting – Gathering of Scholars of Tokso-dang(Official Athenaeum), c. 1570 A. D. , Ink on silk, 102× 57. 5cm. (Treasure No. 867)

Painting – Shaman Deity

Calligraphy – Calligraphy by Yi Han-jin, 18th Century
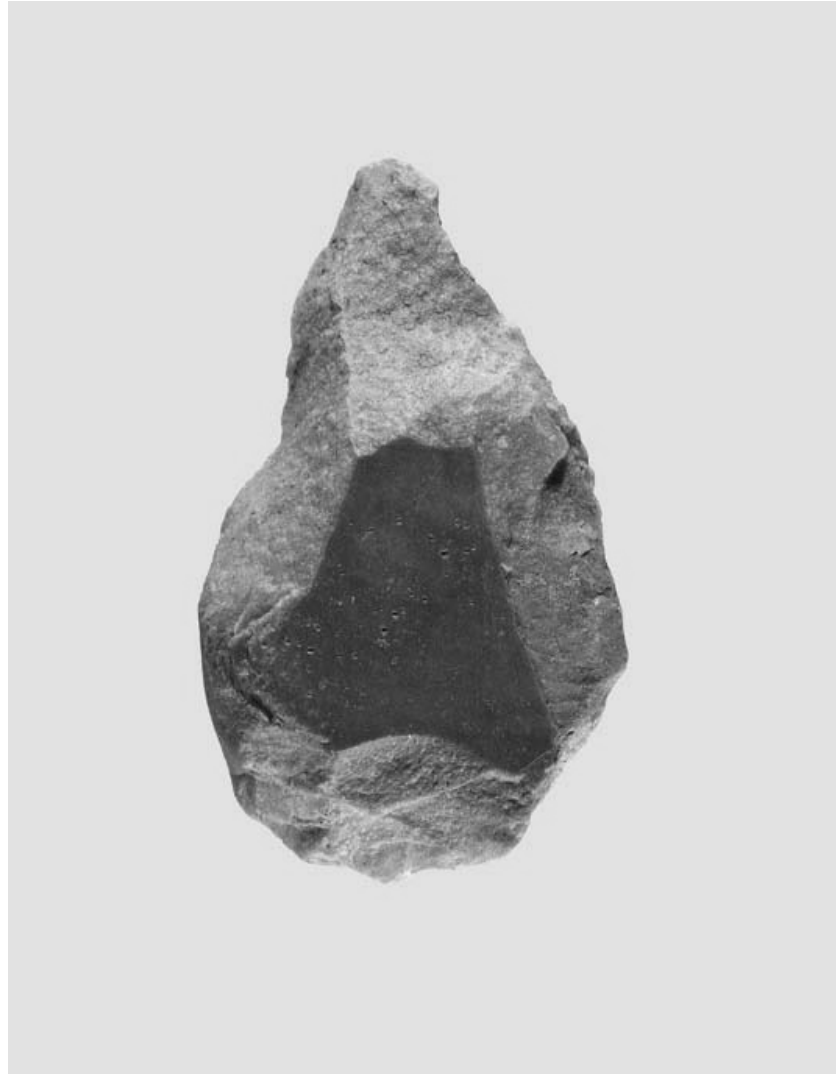
Wooden furniture

Metal works – Bronze Mirror

Stone artifacts – Hand Axe

Potteries – Neolithic pottery

Glazed Rooftile

IV. Digitization Processing and Data type

1. Process of Digitization(Image Data)

   Photographing

   ? color positive film

   ? Minute Scanning work

   ? Uploading to Server and Preserve
   DVD custody

2. Type of Digital Data

- Image Data(2D) : Painting, Calligraphy, a rubbed copy, a Pattern, Photography, A Dry Plate of Glass (? ? ? ?)
- Image Data(3D) : sculpture, Ceramics, etc.
- Video, Audio files of Exhibition, Lecture Meeting, Events, etc.
- Catalogue, various Publications and Report, etc,

3. Constructed Digital Contents of SNU Museum

Year	quantity	type of content
2003	919	Relics
2004	2222	Including Relics, A Dry Plate of Glass (? ? ? ?) 1,265, Rubbed copy 264
2005	860	Including Relics, Photography 323
Total	4001	About 10% of Collections

V. Digitization of Museum Relics and Utilization in Cultural Context

Digital Data of Cultural Context can be Utilized mainly in two Sides

1. Internal (by Museum)
2. External

1. Internal

- Maximize efficiency of Management of collections

  - Former management of collections was performed by Card or List system which was written by curator's hand.

  - If digitizing all kind of collection information were performed, it could maximize efficiency of management (research, investigation, cataloguing, preserving, accessing, exhibitions, etc.)

- It could be very important contribution in maintenance and restoration of original relics.

- Through Digitization the Vulnerable Relics could be kept safely in the Storage, and through the Digital Data we can proceed a lot of works .

- By using digital data, we can make reproductions, exhibition materials, and Information materials.. etc.

- Various data could be opend to the public through home pages.
- Service for the scholars or various research projicts
- Utilize as intellectual property rights.

2. External

- Through Digitization of Museum collections, cultural contents could be opened more easily to various external demands.

- Digital data is utilized in various field such as publications, designs, researches in academic as well as business field, etc.

- Digital data of a museum is valuable as Public Culture, but at the same time It has unique intellectual property rights
- A museum must serve for the external public demands, but at the same time must keep own identity and vision for it's own long term development
- Utilizing digital contents of museum must harmonize two aspects, one as public cultural asset, another as it's own intellectual property rights.

Thank you!!

Jun-Hyun Jin, Curator

SNU Museum