

Documentation Under Crisis: Four Lessons from Ukraine

Ihor Poshyvailo

PhD in History, Fulbright Scholar,
Director of the National Maidan Museum and Memorial,
Co-founder of the HERI and ACURE,
Coordinator of the CER Black-Sea Regional Hub
(Kyiv, UKRAINE)

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Lviv, Ukraine. Photo by: André Luís Alves

Why documentation changes during crisis



OPERATIONAL



MULTIDISCIPLINARY



CONTINUOUS



DECISION-ORIENTED



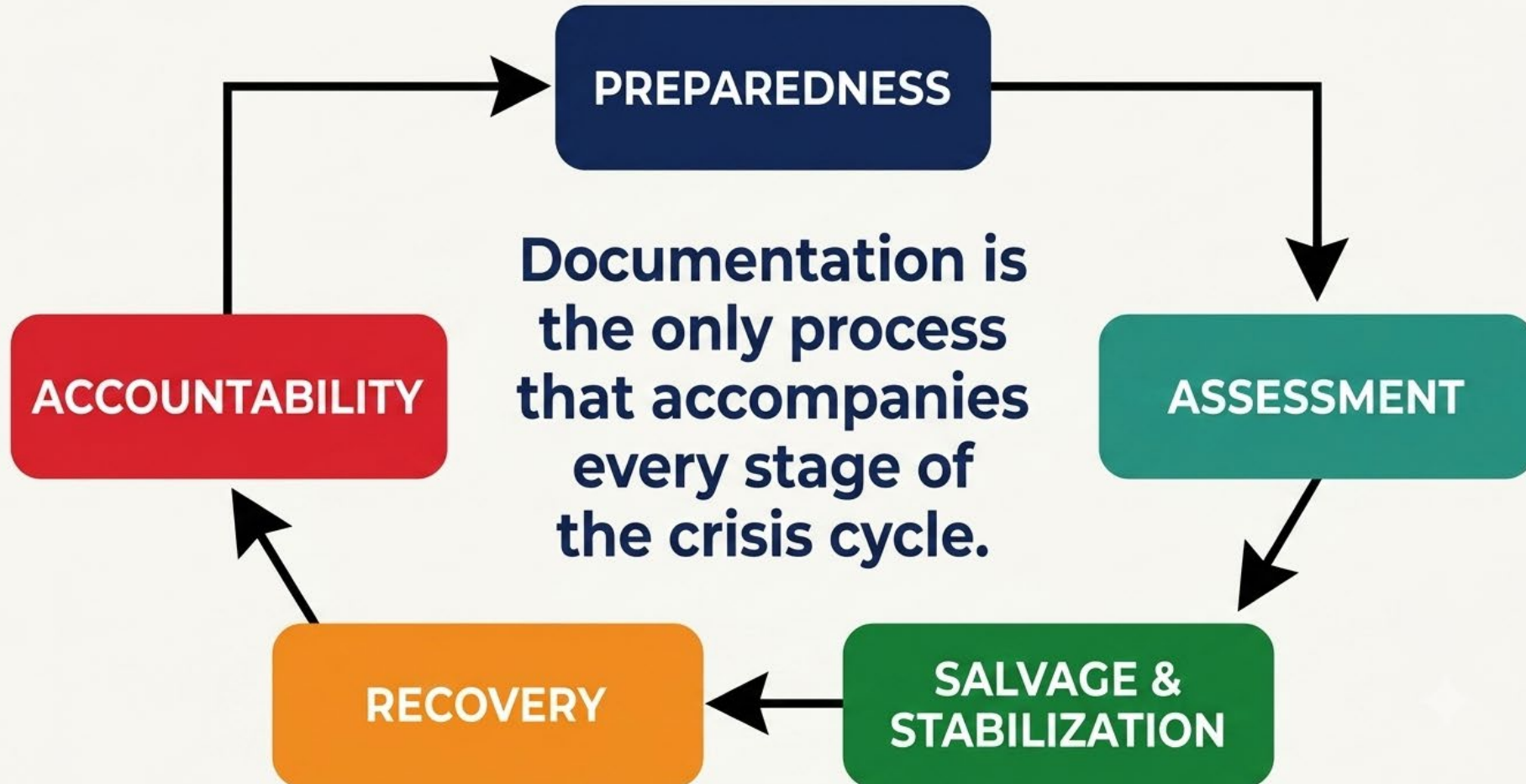
Reliable information enables informed decisions.

Question 1

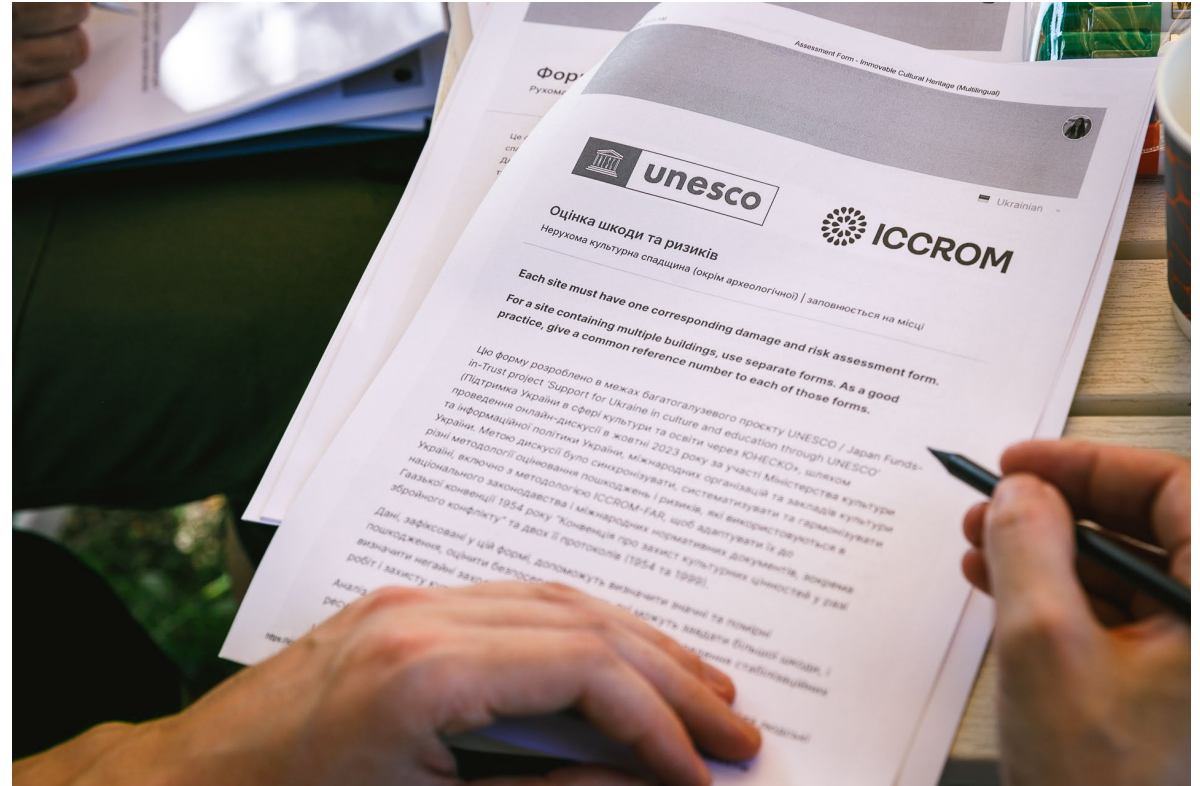
How do we make informed decisions after a museum has been damaged?



Documentation Across the Crisis Cycle



Emergency Documentation Methodology



**Ensure
safety**



**Document
before
intervention**



**Use common
terminology**



**Prioritise
risks**



**Share
information**

Key Lesson

Documentation enables
informed professional decisions
under conditions of uncertainty.

Question 2

How should documentation accompany the rescue process?



Effective stabilization begins before the first object is moved.

Documentation During Emergency Salvage

Practical Toolkit

-  Maintain object identity
-  Record context
-  Document every intervention
-  Maintain continuity
-  Coordinate multidisciplinary teams



Identification



Context



Condition



Intervention



Continuity

Question 3

How can museums strengthen documentation before the next emergency?



Preparedness begins before crisis.

Mobile Digitization Laboratory (ALIPH, CER)



Preparedness Toolkit



Digitise
collections



Digitise
documentation



Train
staff



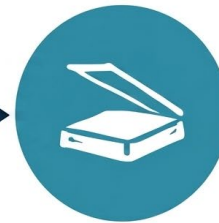
Share
equipment



Build
capacity



Prioritisation



Digitisation



Quality
Control



Secure
Backup



Capacity
Building

Question 4

How can museum documentation contribute to accountability, restitution and justice?



Museum Documentation



Damage Assessment



Context



Metadata



Chain of Information



Evidence

Developing a common methodology together with museum professionals, investigators and prosecutors.

Five Practical Recommendations

1

Prepare



2

Document before intervention



3

Maintain continuity



4

Protect documentation



5

Invest in people



- Every museum hopes it will never need emergency documentation.
- Our responsibility is to ensure that if such a day comes, museums are prepared.



Thank you!

www.maidanmuseum.org

www.acure.in.ua

ihorua@ukr.net



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