

Baltic Audiovisual Archival Annual Conference 2012, Helsinki

# Copyright Law and Personal Data Protection: on the Example of the Photographic Collection of the Tartu City Museum

Eevi Kärkla

[eevi.kardla@katarina.ee](mailto:eevi.kardla@katarina.ee)



# The photographic collection of the Tartu City Museum (as of 24.08.2012)

- 43 700 photos
- 67,5 % of photos  
in the MuIS database  
([www.muis.ee](http://www.muis.ee))

Photos from the 19th  
century until 2012.



## Use of photographic collection

- Free-access photos – widely used.

90% of researchers use these photos both for study and business purposes.



- Photos in copyright – in use to small extent.



## Soviet-period photographs

- Where and how do you find an author holding a valid copyright, if there is no detailed information about them ?



Tartu City Museum has:

- usage right,
- ownership rights,
- ... but does not hold a copyright on the museum objects.



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## Material use agreement

as the museum's self-protection against possible litigations related to copyright issues.

According to the contract:

- legal responsibility in the issues relating to copyright lies with the customer.

## Personal data in the museum´s databases

- photographs
- documents
- diaries
- life stories
- case histories etc



## Changes in museum work

- paper era

Narrow circle of insiders possess information about museum objects.

- digital era

Information moves from museum's inventory books into Internet-based database.

Data selection has become essential.

But...Where does the general information end and the too personal information begin?



## Recording of contemporary city life

- recording people's private or working lives?

An open-access database may include limited-access information.

Photos:

The editorial office of the newspaper Tartu Postimees, 2011.





## Recording of contemporary city life

### Politically coloured graffiti

- art? - opinion? - insult?

An open-access database may include limited-access information.

Photos: Tartu, 2009 (below) and 2012



- Estonian museum workers proceed in their work from Estonian Museum Law (enacted in 1996).

For the first time new alteration to the Estonian Museum Law deal with

- the issues of copyright,
  - the issues of personal data processing.
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- The bill will become law as of January 1, 2013.

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Thank you!

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Tartu City Museum

