Royal Tropical Institute Amsterdam

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Mission and goals

Independent centre of knowledge and expertise in the areas of international and intercultural cooperation

Working on:

- sustainable development and poverty alleviation
- cultural preservation and exchange
- stimulating interest in and support for these issues in the Netherlands
- Through research, education, advice and information



KIT works in 6 key areas

- Economic development
- Health care and research
- Social and institutional development
- Cultural preservation and exchange
- Intercultural management and communication
- Information, documentation and publications



Cultural preservation and exchange

Examples:

- Safeguarding, preserving and presenting cultural and colonial heritage
- Podium for world music, dance, theatre and film. Around 175 performances and 30,000 visitors each year
- 10 exhibitions each year with approximately 130,000 visitors to the museum
- Providing advice and training to museums in developing countries (Yemen, Kenya, Zanzibar, Suriname, Indonesia)
- International cultural projects (Iran, South Africa, India/Suriname)



Information, documentation and publications

Examples:

- Providing information to policymakers, scientists and journalists: 5,000 visitors and 25,000 users annually
- Providing advice and training on how to build information systems (Mozambique, Ghana, Suriname)
- Publishing books on international cooperation and culture: between 75-100 books published annually



Strategy

- Independent research
- Long and extensive practical experience
- International networks
- Partners and sponsors:
 - government bodies
 - (international) business sector
 - multilateral organisations (UN, EU, World Bank)
 - civil society organisations
 - scientific institutes

KIT's approach to cooperation

- Complementarity between the partners involved
- Integrated approach

Success depends on:

- Respect
- Mutual understanding of each other's interests and differences
- Appreciation of culture and history



Project - Suriname

- National museum of Suriname
- Located in Paramaribo
- Collection of Surinamica
- Library and museum
- 2 locations, building renewed
- Temporary and permanent exhibitions

KIT's involvement

- Capacity building
- Management of the collection
- Conservation of library materials

Project - Sintang

- Located in Indonesia Borneo
- Regional information center
- Cultural exchange among several groups
- Museum and library
- Started 3 years ago with blank situation
- Building has been constructed

KIT's involvement:

- Partnership to develop capacity
- How to set up and manage a museum
- How to set up and manage a library
- Internetsite not a primary goal

The software

History: ObjectID project and software

Why CDS/ISIS:

- "installed base"
- Trained and knowledgeable people
- Library already using CDS/ISIS easy to manage once set up

The software - challenges

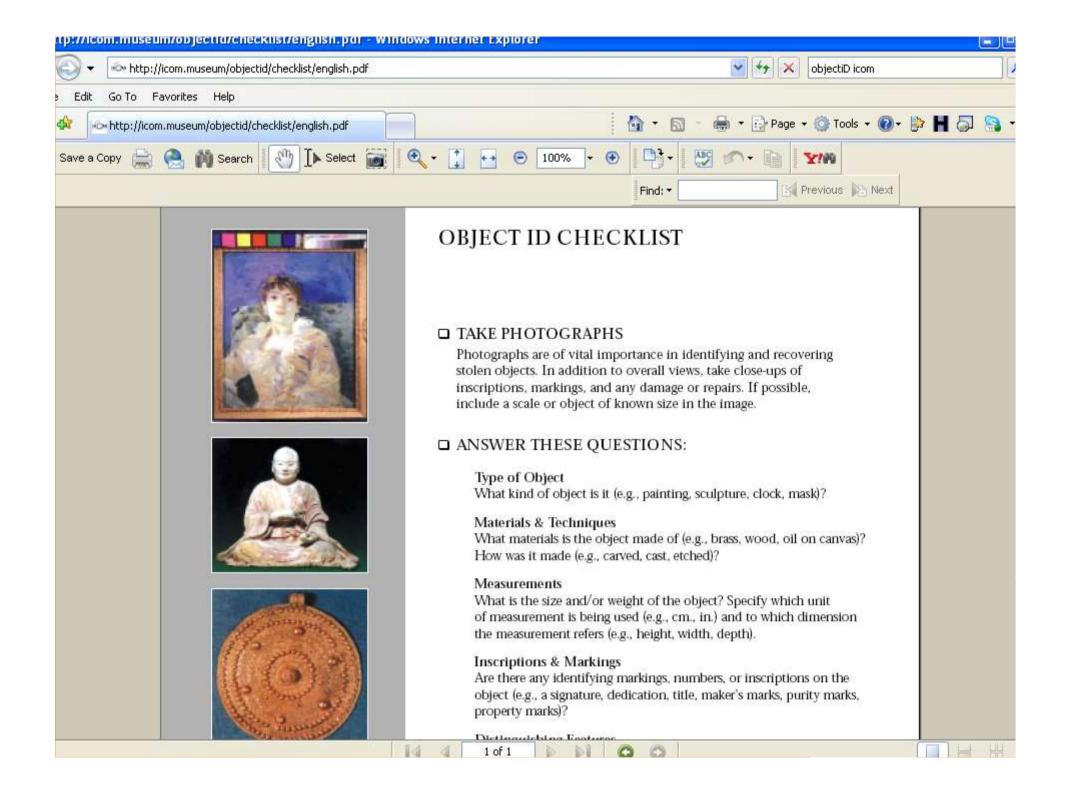
- Database design for museum collection
- Image handling
- Visitor friendly interface
- "workflow"
- Keyword lists

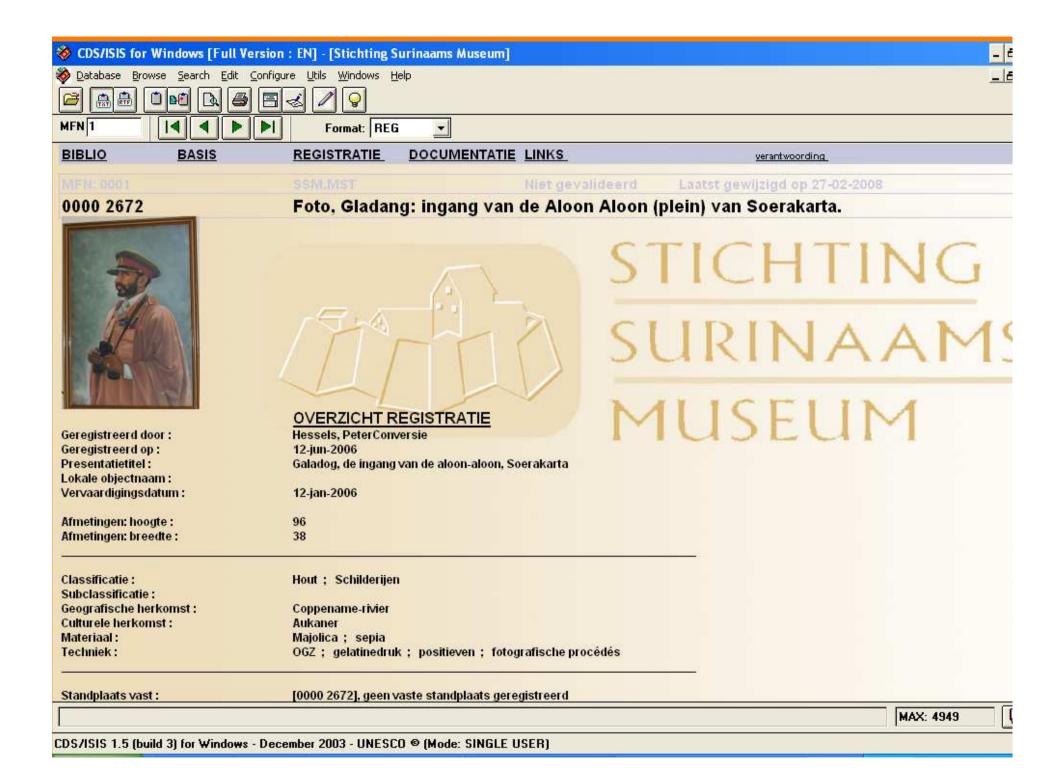
Activities

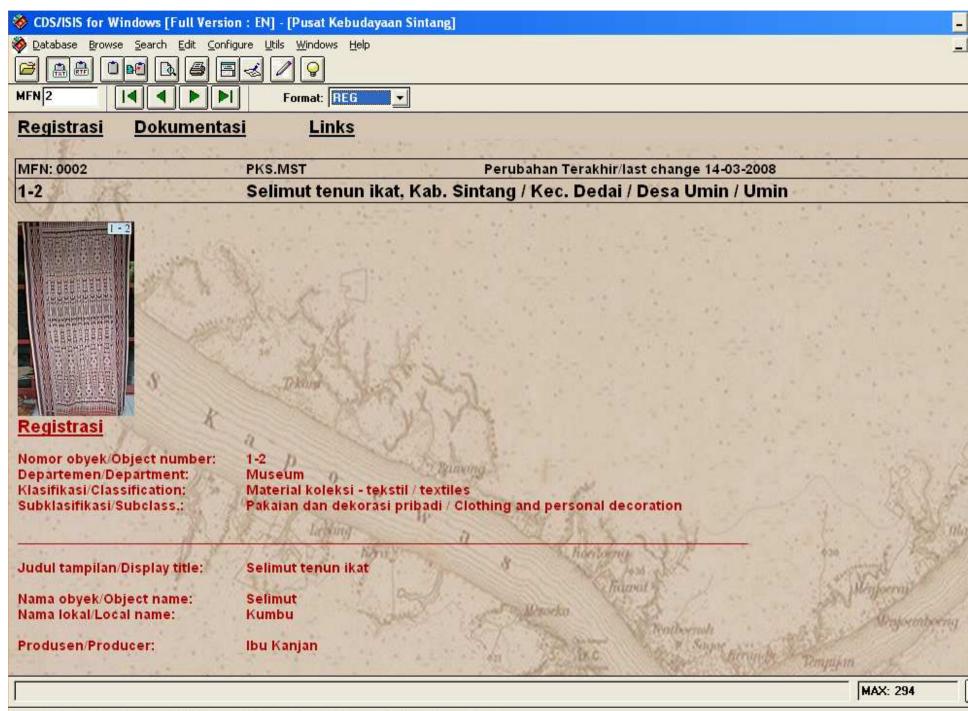
- Requirements for library and museum defined
- Development of database and interface in cooperation with partner
- Training and support in collection registration and collection management
- Installation of software in local network

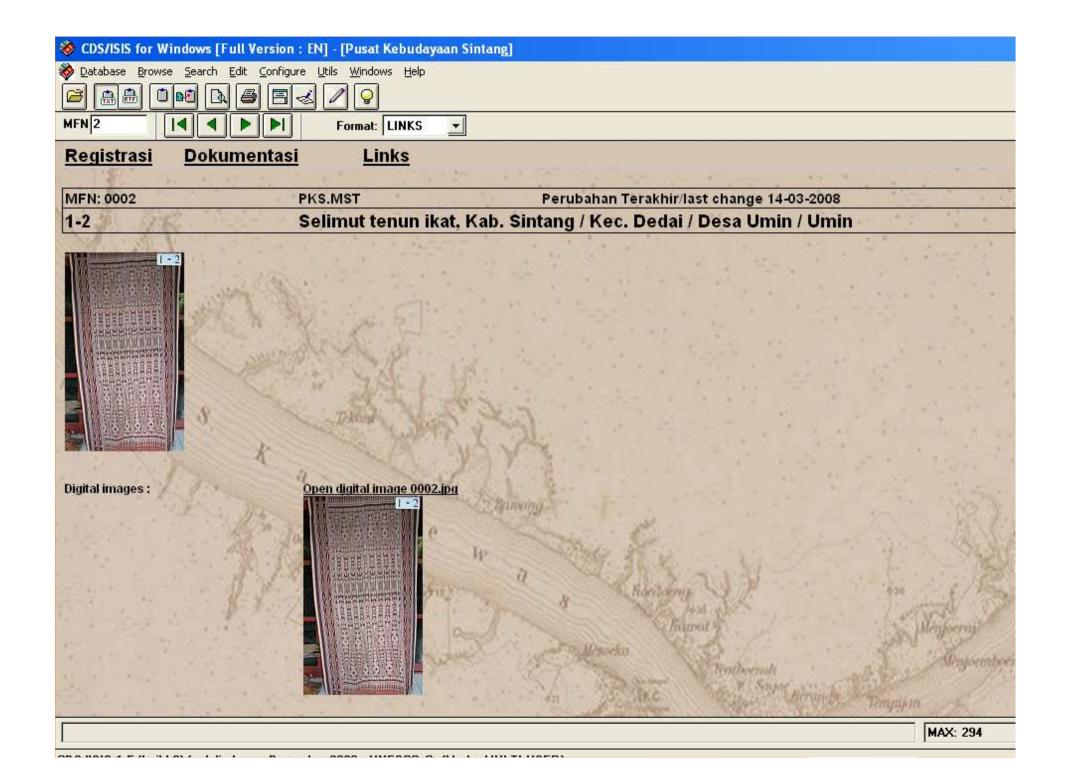
Result

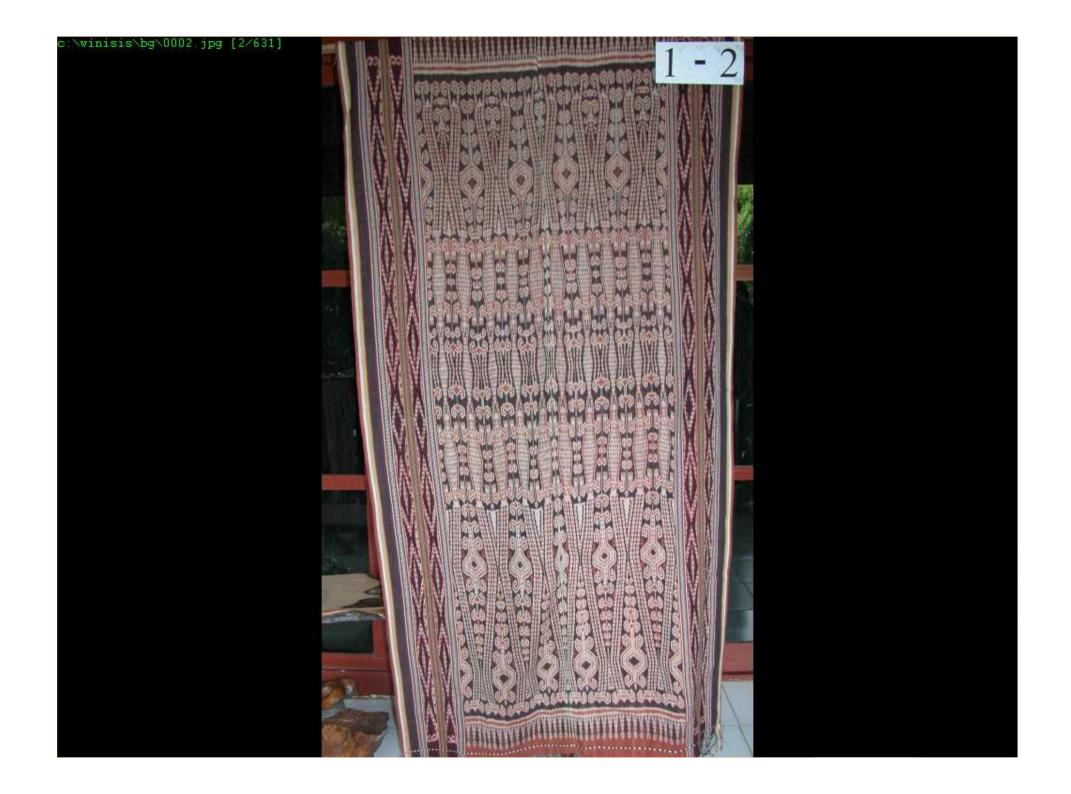
- Systems operating
- Overview over collections is available
- Search/retrieve in both museum and library collections
- Self supporting users, backstopped by KIT
- Sustainability is key; self support

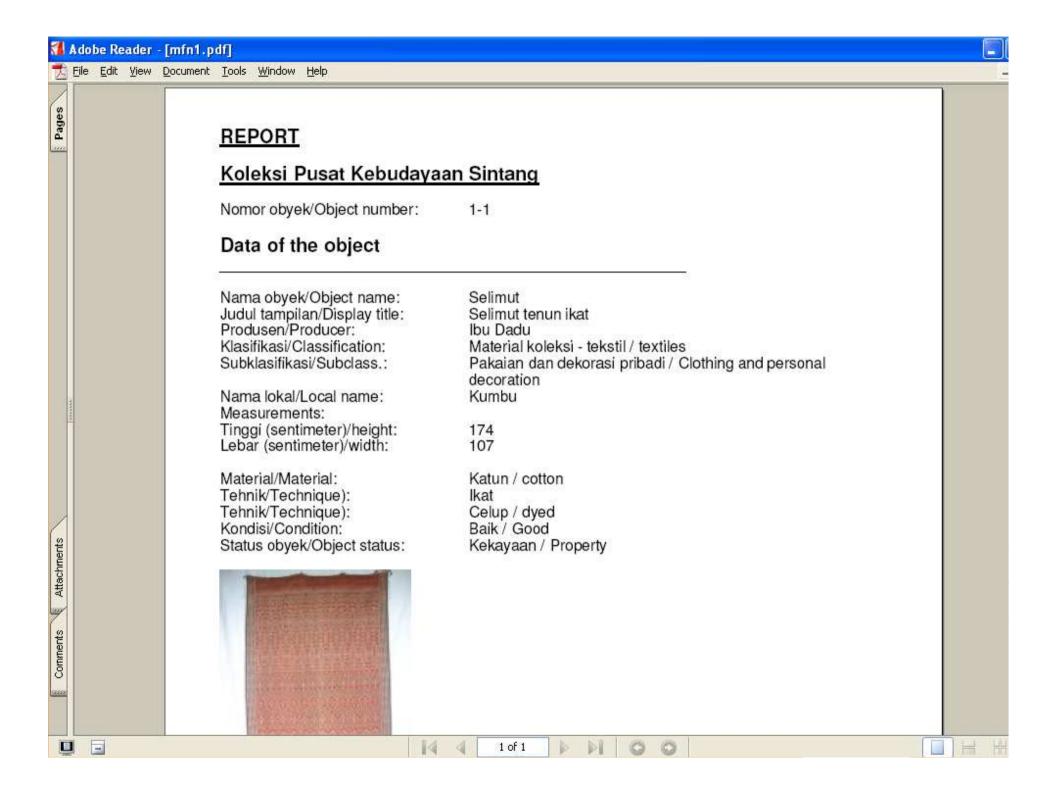






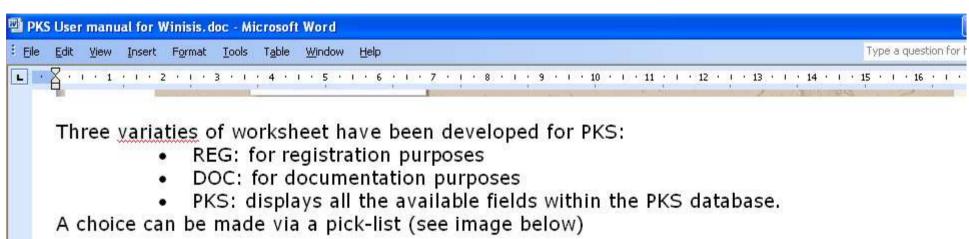


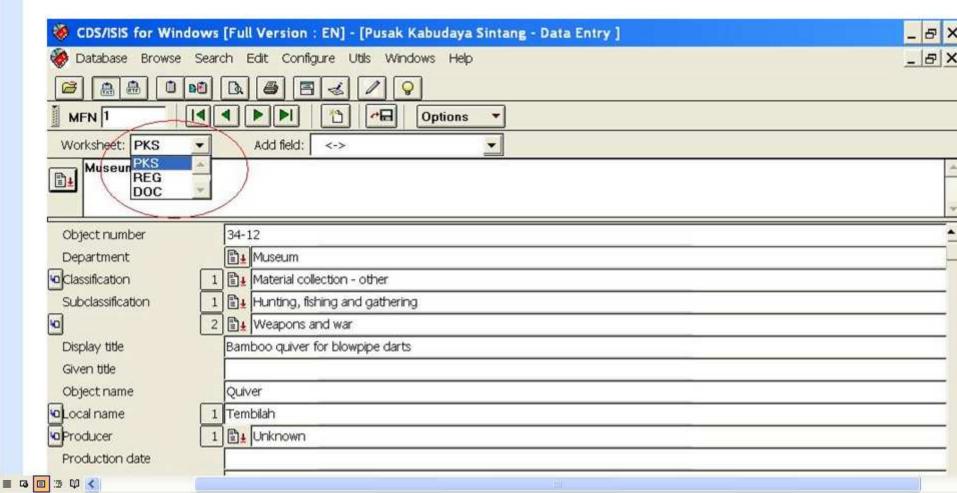




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Short demo?