

1.4 The Development of Standards for Cultural Heritage

Tim Yates

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The development of standards for cultural heritage

Building a better world together

Tim Yates, Chair of British Standards Committee B/560

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Standards and standardisation

- The original purpose of standards was to ensure that fixtures and fittings were of a consistent size and quality
- Over the past 100 years the purpose of Standards has shifted towards providing a minimum quality and making sure that methods and materials reflect good practice.
- Standards and codes of practice allow specifications to be written in a clear and concise way.
- Standards can also be used to support accreditation schemes for conservators and building conservation craftsmen.

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

European Standards - 'Standardisation in the field of conservation of Cultural Heritage'

- Started in 2002 -based on earlier work undertaken by UNESCO.
- Terminology relevant to movable and immovable artefacts, and to the conservation of the artefacts and the material constituting the artefacts
- Guidelines for a methodological approach to the knowledge of the artefacts and of the materials constituting the artefacts, of the deterioration processes, and of preservation/ conservation work
- Test and analysis methods for the diagnosis and for the characterisation of the artefacts
- Tests and analysis methods for the evaluation of the performance of conservation products
- Test and analysis methods for the evaluation of indoor conservation conditions – particularly transport, packaging and exhibition environments

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

European Standards - 'Standardisation in the field of conservation of Cultural Heritage'

".....it seems only sensible that building conservation also should develop standards and codes of practice.

However, there is always a risk of standards being developed internationally that do not reflect local (or regional) good practice and which may also stifle innovation and the development of new skills.

Therefore, the 'industry' must make sure that its views are represented on both national and international standards committees."

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

Why do we need standards for cultural heritage?

- Conservation, like many other activities and businesses, has become increasingly global.
- As a result there was a need for a common set of conservation principles
 - **The Venice Charter** (1966) (which stresses the importance of setting, respect for original fabric, precise documentation of any intervention, the significance of contributions from all periods to the building's character, and the maintenance of historic buildings for a socially useful purpose)
 - **UNESCO Recommendation for the Protection of Moveable Cultural Property** (1978) (which defines the broad range of items that make up moveable cultural property and identifies measures to safeguard property and to indemnify in case of damage, alteration or loss of the property resulting from transport and exhibition, environmental conditions, handling, faulty packaging, and other unfavourable conditions).

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

Why do we need standards for cultural heritage?

- As the trend towards globalisation has continued a need for a common language and common framework within which to work has become important and it is this that the European Standards are trying to achieve.
- The intention is not to provide rigid and prescriptive solutions but to provide common questions, and common ways to describe and evaluate cultural heritage.
- The national standards can take this further on and focus down on local needs but still within the same common framework.

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

British Standards – Committee B/560 Conservation of Tangible Cultural Heritage

- BS 7913 *Guide to the principles of the conservation of historic buildings* (2013).
- BS 8221 Part 1 *Code of practice for the cleaning of natural stones, brick, terracotta and concrete* (2012)
- BS 8221 Part 2 *Code of practice for the surface repair of natural stones, brick and terracotta* (2000/2012)
- BS 6270 Part 3 *Code of practice for cleaning and surface repair of buildings – Metals (cleaning only)* (1991/2013)
- BS 5454 / PD 5454 *Guide for the storage and exhibition of archival materials* (2000/2012)

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Standards and Cultural Heritage

European Standards – CEN/TC 346 Cultural Heritage

Working Group Number	Working Group Title
CEN/TC 346/WG 1	General methodologies and terminology
CEN/TC 346/WG 2	Characterisation and analysis of porous inorganic materials constituting cultural heritage
CEN/TC 346/WG 3	Evaluation of methods and products for conservation works on porous inorganic materials constituting cultural heritage
CEN/TC 346/WG 4	Protection of collections
CEN/TC 346/WG 5	Packing and transport
CEN/TC 346/WG 6	Exhibition lighting of cultural heritage - Joint Working Group CEN/TC 346 and CEN/TC 169
CEN/TC 346/WG 7	Specifying and measuring indoor/outdoor climate
CEN/TC 346/WG 8	Energy efficiency of historic buildings
CEN/TC 346/WG 9	Waterlogged wood
CEN/TC 346/WG 10	Historic timber structures
CEN/TC 346/WG 11	Conservation process
CEN/TC 346/WG 12	Show cases
CEN/TC 346/WG 13	Investigation of architectural finishes – Procedure, methodology and documentation of results
CEN/TC 346/WG 14	Monitoring of cultural deposits
CEN/TC 346/WG 15	Exhibition lighting of cultural heritage
CEN/TC 346/WG 16	Specification for the management of moveable cultural heritage

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – describing and sampling



- EN 15898 - Main general terms and definitions
- EN 16096 - Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage
- EN 16752 - Glossary of technical terms concerning mortars for masonry, renders and plasters used in cultural heritage
- EN 16085 - Methodology for sampling from materials of cultural property - General rules

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – characterisation



- EN 16302 Test methods - Measurement of water absorption by pipe method
- EN 15886 Test methods - Colour measurement of surfaces
- EN 16515 Guidelines to characterize natural stone used in cultural heritage
- EN 17187 - Characterization of mortars used in cultural heritage
- EN 16455 Extraction and determination of soluble salts in natural stone and related materials used in and from cultural heritage

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – conserving



- EN 16581 - Surface protection for porous inorganic materials - Laboratory test methods for the evaluation of the performance of water repellent products
- EN 16872 - Cleaning of porous inorganic materials – Laser cleaning techniques for cultural heritage
- EN 17488 - Procedure for the analytical evaluation to select cleaning methods for porous inorganic materials used in cultural heritage
- EN 17036 - Artificial ageing by simulated solar radiation of the surface of untreated or treated porous inorganic materials

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – climate change



- EN 15759-1 - Indoor climate - Part 1: Guidelines for heating churches, chapels and other places of worship
- EN 16141 - Guidelines for management of environmental conditions - Open storage facilities: definitions and characteristics of collection centres dedicated to the preservation and management of cultural heritage
- EN 16242 - Procedures and instruments for measuring humidity in the air and moisture exchanges between air and cultural proper
- CEN/TS 16163 - Guidelines and procedures for choosing appropriate lighting for indoor exhibitions
- EN 17429 - Procurement of conservation services and works

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – conserving



- BS 7913 Guide to the principles of the conservation of historic buildings
- BS 8221 Parts 1 and 2 Cleaning and Surface Repair of Buildings
- PAS2030, PAS2035 and PAS2038 standards for retrofitting buildings

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Standards and Cultural Heritage – Looking to the future

- The development of standards is set to continue for the foreseeable future
- The work programme for CEN TC346 is reviewed every three years but there doesn't seem to be any shortage of topics for the committee to work on.
- The continuing interest in museum collections and exhibitions means that there is a continuing need to develop and apply standards to assess and protect them.
- There are also new challenges for the cultural heritage:
 - Climate change and the need to make buildings (including museums and collections) carbon neutral – whilst maintain our cultural heritage
 - The challenge of new materials and new styles of building to conserve and protect for future generations.

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Thank you

BRE Group
Watford, UK
WD25 9XX
+44 (0)333 321 88 11
enquiries@bre.co.uk
www.bregroup.com

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