Open Karelia — An Informational Portal for Museums

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Abstract—Open Karelia is an informational portal powered by Geo2Tag platform [1]. The portal provides information in 3 languages: English, Russian and Finnish. It brings together museums from the Karelian region shared between Russia and Finland. Currently there are 10 museums participating in the system: National Museum of Karelia Republic, Kizhi Museum, Medvezhyegorsk regional museum, Cultural and Museum Center of Kostomuksha, Regional Museum of North Ladoga, Cultural and Museum Center of Kostomuksha, Fighter's House in Hattuvaara, Parppeinvaara Bardic Village, Pielisen Museum, Lieksa, North Karelia Museum, Outokumpu Mining Museum.

Open Karelia allows users to select museum via it's location or exhibit of interest and to find out extended description. On the museum page visitor can see it's history, exhibitions, excursions, work schedule, ticket pricing, contacts, location on map, indoors plan, links to social networks and to museum own site. Previews of current exhibitions and excursions are displayed on the page allowing to briefly get information on their theme, time and location.

The core of the information system is information about exhibits stored in the museums. Exhibits belong to one of 5 categories: folk culture, stone and architecture, war, transport links, and deposits. Visitors can see objects scattered on the map or pick one from the museum description page or lucky roulette on the main page. When selecting an exhibit the user may study it's identification card. The page displays exhibit description, category, class, type, dating, location on the map and list of similar objects from other museums. Object's similarity is determined by a set of different factors including automatically inferred tags.

The portal allows user to search exhibits using a set of filters including name, category, museum and visualises this information as a list or on the map. Visitors may see the exhibits on the timeline where concrete element takes place in accordance with it's date mark. All searches including timeline and map pages allow to quickly filter out elements based on the category or type.

Open Karelia tights exhibits together with the tag system. Visitor can observe tags on the object page and special page that displays top 50 tags. When clicking on a tag, the system shows all the objects that have the same tag.

For children Open Karelia offers several educational and fun games. The "By one word" game requires a user to describe 4 objects on the screen with the one word. A player should find links between displayed objects using his/her knowledge or hints and object descriptions, and make up the word with given letters. The other game is "Museum puzzle". A player has a map, marked areas on it and several objects. He/she should put objects on market areas on the map depending on object's actual location.

REFERENCES

[1] M. Zaslavskiy and K. Krinkin, "Geo2tag performance evaluation," in *Proceedings of 12th Conference of Open Innovations Association FRUCT, SUAI*, 2012, pp. 185–193.