

**Feedback for
EwaGlos (European Illustrated Glossary of Conservation Terms for Wall Paintings and Architectural
Surfaces)**

Summary

Since the publication of the pilot version of EwaGlos in February 2015, all members of the consortium have received a lot of feedback from all continents (except Australia), especially via the contact form of the project website. Almost all of the responders have agreed on the need for such a glossary and have been very positive about this project.

One larger group from some East European countries have requested an extension to the project. They would also like the inclusion of painted wood in architecture, i.e. paintings on wooden walls and ceilings of historic buildings, because a great number of restorers of wall paintings have to deal with these contexts as well. Furthermore, these findings are particularly endangered nowadays by climate change, air pollution, etc. This is culture heritage at risk.

Numerous users would like to see more illustrations due to the broad cultural diversity across different times and different regions of Europe.

Others see a great need for a similar glossary in other fields of restoration besides wall paintings or architectural surfaces; they also hope that such a glossary would be available in more languages. Some users from Asia see a necessity to broaden the geographical range of the glossary. Twelve people offered to support the project by volunteer work; three of them have been working on translations into Arabic, Mandarin and Russian. The first book was bought by the Getty Conservation Institute, which has recently started to extend its Art and Architecture Thesaurus with translations into other languages. In sum, the remarkable number of more than 70 contributors to EwaGlos testifies to the large interest in such a vocabulary.

The survey which was made available on www.ewaglos.eu from April to July 2016 in Croatian, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Turkish, and which was disseminated by social media, newsletters, and articles in restoration journals generated the same positive echo. Responses included comments such as “Helpful definitions, some of them were not clear before” or “it can become fast a reference”. Most of the answers were in English, while fewer were in German, Croatian, and Spanish. Some would like to have a greater number of more essential terms for conservation-restoration included.

Some responses pointed to a methodological problem. The focus of this project was on consensus across Europe—i.e. finding a definition on which the numerous colleagues from different European countries could agree. The result is that some translations are a bit rough and perhaps it is not useful to insist upon the sometimes-demanded “one language version” at this stage.

46 of the answers contained detailed suggestions for improving the terms. Here are some examples: Some users would like

- longer texts for indoor climate study, material analysis and examination, mineralogical examination, pigment, spot test
- the addition of five terms: architectural surfaces, lustro, mortar, pastiglia, retouching with lines (*Strichretusche*), resin/synthetic resin
- a clearer separation between building archaeology, building and site survey, object investigation, architectural paint research, and stratigraphic investigation. Furthermore the materials appendix should be more homogeneous by giving all entries the same structure (substance, a material, or a compound).

Next steps:

The consortium will discuss these suggestions in the middle of September during a face to face meeting. We then plan to publish a revised 2nd edition as a PDF on the EwaGlos website by the end of October. During the next years, we will continue to collect users' experience with the glossary (we appreciate feedback also from external users via the EwaGlos website), and after five years we will decide if there is a need for a new printed book.

Recently we have been trying to encourage greater participation from all users via new media. Therefore, the consortium – due to the slightly adjusted topic– is applying for new funding in order to extend the already published glossary with some of the essential requests from the feedback. These extensions include conservation terms for painted wood in architecture and many illustrations showing the different appearances of cultural heritage in Europe and its neighbours. We would like to publish this material as a free Wiki so that everybody can participate via the discussion pages. In addition, this Wiki could be easily extended by other conservation specialists with further terms, illustrations, and other restoration specifications as was requested in the survey responses. At the very least, a free App will bring the glossary directly to the conservation professionals on the scaffolds and offer the possibility to send illustrations of other examples of cultural heritage to the editors of the Wiki and photos of damages to the national preservation services.

The following comments provide a sample of the feedback received on some of the glossary terms.

Abrasion: The fact that the term is precisely defined, and compared with other deterioration types it is clearly distinguished. One can understand really well the differences between the different deterioration types. The translation is also very accurate in the languages in which I read them (Romanian, German, Hungarian)

Crack: The illustration is well selected, and compared with the static crack illustration or hairline crack illustration it is well selected and pertinent with the definition

Freeze-thaw cycles: Excellent illustration (2x)

Edging repair: Good combination photo and text; I only knew the term in German and never could find a good translation. Now I have one!

Plaster-render-levelling coat-rough cast: Good differentiation of the various terms

Palimpsest: Good definition and comment (and for German: good synonyms)

Salt reduction: Good combination photo salts, photo salt reduction and text

Rising damp: I find that the definition and comment is well defined with relevant illustration and that the infiltration term is also mentioned as a -not to be confused with- term.

Hildesheim, 15 September 2016

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