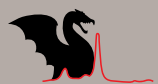


Zavod za varstvo
kulture dediščine Slovenije
*Institute for the Protection of
Cultural Heritage of Slovenia*



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



**RAA
2013**

7th

**International Congress
on the Application of
Raman Spectroscopy
in Art and Archaeology**

2-6 September 2013

7th International Congress on the
Application of Raman Spectroscopy
in Art and Archaeology

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

7th International Congress on the
Application of Raman Spectroscopy
in Art and Archaeology
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2th–6th September 2013

Book of Abstracts

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The use of Raman spectroscopy for identifying and studying the material component of the objects of art and antiquities has flourished in recent years. The increasing importance of the application of Raman spectroscopy in art and archaeology is illustrated by an increasing number of research papers published each year, and by the scientific conferences and sessions that have been dedicated to this research area in the past decade.

The RAA conferences promote Raman spectroscopy and play an important role in the increasing field of its application in Art and Archaeology. The RAA is an established biennial international event. It brings together studies from diverse areas and represents dedicated work on the use of this technique in connection to the fields of art-history, history, archaeology, palaeontology, conservation and restoration, museology, etc. Furthermore, the development of new instrumentation, especially for non-invasive measurements, has received a great attention in the past years. These prominent, international events have a long tradition. Previously they were held in London (2001), Ghent (2003), Paris (2005), Modena (2007), Bilbao (2009), Parma (2011), and this year (2013) in Ljubljana.

The RAA 2013 conference received over 100 high quality contributions from different research laboratories all over the world, and this book of abstracts presents their latest advancements. One of the important topics is studies of deterioration induced by different environmental factors, such as biodeterioration, pollution, light and humidity exposure. The outcomes of these studies can give important information for designing safe conservation – restoration treatments and help in creating a better environment for cultural heritage objects, for their storage and display, all contributing to increasing of its sustainability. A great number of research contributions are presenting the latest achievements in the characterisation of traditional organic colorants by introducing new solutions for Surface enhanced Raman spectroscopic studies. This is an important topic that contributes to understanding not only the composition of the organic colorants, but also their production processes. The advancements in metals characterisation give important information to understanding of their corrosion processes and/or deliberate patinations by artists, which can give important input in designing further corrosion inhibition processes. A special topic is dedicated to the archaeometry research, from characterisation of ancient artefacts, their degradation processes, to finding possible solutions for their preservation. New, presented knowledge on gemstones characterisation, provenance, authenticity research, and furthermore, forensics applications, all attest of the wide applicability of Raman spectroscopy. The latest innovations in Raman instrumentation is presented by well – known companies in the field of Raman instruments, with a special emphasis in the development of portable, non-invasive instruments. Many research laboratories are taking the advantage of non-invasive instruments in order to keep the full integrity of works of art. However, the interpretation of the results is often challenging, which gives scientific contributions dealing with these questions a special, important place. Finally, the importance of a comprehensive Raman database is emphasised, and the latest work of the Infrared and Raman Users Group (IRUG) is presented, a database which we all help creating, and which can help in solving many questions that we all face.

We wish to thank all of the authors who submitted their latest research results and helped creating the scientific program of the RAA 2013 conference, as well as this Book of Abstracts.

On behalf of the organizing committee,

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List of accepted works with corresponding authors

PL: Plenary Lecture

OP: Oral Presentation

P: Poster Presentation

Monday, September 2, 2013

ORAL SESSION 1

Deterioration studies and organic materials

Raman Spectroscopy of Extremophilic Biodeterioration: An Interface between Archaeology and the Preservation of Cultural Heritage	Howell G. M. Edwards	PL1	20
Identification of endolithic survival strategies on stone monuments	Annalaura Casanova Municchia	OP1	22
FT-Raman analysis of historical cellulosic fibres infected by fungi	Katja Kavkler	OP2	24
Combined FT-Raman and Fibre-Optic Reflectance Spectroscopic Characterisation of Simulated Medieval Paint Films: a Chemometric Study of the Effects of Natural and UV-Accelerated Ageing	Anuradha Pallipurath	OP3	26
Study of malachite degradation in easel (model) paintings by spectroscopic analysis	Tanja Špec	OP4	27
Portable and laboratory analysis to diagnose the formation of efflorescence on walls and wall paintings of Insula IX, 3 (Pompeii, Italy)	Juan Manuel Madariaga	OP5	29
Decorated plasterwork in the Alhambra investigated by Raman spectroscopy: field and laboratory comparative study	Ayora-Cañada María José	OP6	31
Multi-technical approach for the study of French Decorative Arts furniture and luxury objects	Céline Daher	OP7	33

POSTER SESSION 1

Deterioration of lead based pigments on a fresco: a micro-Raman investigation	Ilaria Costantini	P1	35
Investigation of colour layers in easel (model) paintings influenced by different ageing processes	Klara Retko	P2	36

Identification of copper azelate in 19th century Portuguese oil paintings: Characterisation of metal soaps by Raman Spectroscopy	Vanessa Otero	P3	38
Raman study of pigment degradation due to acetic acid vapours	Alessia Coccato	P4	40
Investigating the sources of degradation in corroded lead sculptures from Oratory Museum (Museu do Oratório), Brazil	Thiago Sevilhano Puglieri	P5	42
Evora Cathedral: Pink! Why not?	Ana Teresa Caldeira	P6	44
Study of red biopatina composition on sandstone from a historical war Fort in La Galea (Biscay, north of Spain) by means of single point focusing Raman analysis and Raman Imaging combined with microscopic observation	Juan Manuel Madariaga	P7	46
Raman and non invasive IR analyses of natural organic coatings: application to historical violin varnishes	Céline Daher	P8	48
Characterization of green copper organometallic pigments and understanding of their degradation process in European easel paintings	Carlotta Santoro	P9	50
Optical Microscopy and Micro-Raman studies of The Hans Memling's Triptych "The Last Judgment"	Ewa Pięta	P10	51
Non-destructive micro-Raman and XRF investigation on parade saddles of Italian Renaissance	Pietro Baraldi	P11	52
Phoenicians preferred red pigments: micro-Raman investigation on some cosmetics found in Sicily archaeological sites	Cecilia Baraldi	P12	54
Raman microscopy and X-ray fluorescence for the rediscovering of polychromy and gilding on classical statuary in the Galleria degli Uffizi	Pietro Baraldi	P13	56
Raman spectroscopic investigation of black pigments	Alessia Coccato	P14	58
Raman Spectroscopy and SEM-EDS Studies Revealing Treatment History and Pigments of the Government Palace Tower Clock in Helsinki Empire Senate Square	Kepa Castro	P15	60
Feasibility Study of Portable Raman Spectroscopy for Characterization of Ground Material of Easel Paintings (Case Study: Sradar As'ad-e Bakhtiary Painting of Kamal-al Molk)	Mohsen Ghanooni	P16	62

The Sibyls from the church of San Pedro Telmo: a spectroscopic investigation	Marta S. Maier	P17	64
Pigment identification of illuminated medieval manuscripts by means of a new, portable Raman equipment	Debbie Lauwers	P18	66
Micro-Raman identification of pigments on wall paintings: characterisation of Langus and Sternen's palettes	Petra Bešlagić	P19	68

ORAL SESSION 2

RENISHAW: New Methods in Raman Spectroscopy – Combining Other Microscopes for mineral and pigment analysis	Josef Sedlmeier	OP8	70
HORIBA JOBIN YVON: Advances in Raman instrumentation: explore new boundaries in Art and Archaeology	Romain Bruder	OP9	72
NORDTEST: A portable 1064 nm Raman spectrometer for analysis of cultural heritage items	Alessandro Crivelli	OP10	73
BAYSPEC: Novel 1064 nm Dispersive Raman Spectrometer and Raman Microscope for Non-invasive Pigment Analysis	Lin Chandler	OP11	75

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

ORAL SESSION 3

Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy in Art and Archaeology

Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy in Art and Archaeology	Marco Leona	PL2	78
TLC-SERS of mauve, the first synthetic dye	Maria Vega Cañamares	OP12	80
New photoreduced substrate for SERS analysis of organic colorants	Klara Retko	OP13	82
Laser Ablation Surface-enhanced Raman Microspectroscopy	Pablo S. Londero	OP14	84

Silver colloidal pastes for the analysis via Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering of colored historical textile fibers: some morphological and spectroscopic considerations	Ambra Idone	OP15 86
Surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy for dyes and pigments – Can non-invasive investigations become a reality?	Brenda Doherty	OP16 88
Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering of organic dyes on gold substrates prepared by pulsed laser ablation	N. R. Agarwal	OP17 90
Combining SERS with chemometrics: a promising technique to assess historical samples with historically accurate reconstructions	Rita Castro	OP18 92
Characterization and Identification of Asphalts in Works of Art by SERS complemented by GC-MS, FTIR and XRF	María Lorena Roldan	OP19 94
Study of Raman scattering and luminescence properties of orchil dye for its nondestructive identification on artworks	Francesca Rosi	OP20 95

POSTER SESSION 2

Application to historical samples of in situ, extractionless SERS for dye analysis	Ambra Idone	P20 96
Application of surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) to the analysis of red lakes in French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings	Federica Pozzi	P21 98
Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) of historical dyes on textile fibers: evaluation of an extractionless treatment of samples	Chiara Zaffino	P22 100
Suitability of Ag-agar gel for the micro-extraction of organic dyes on different substrates: the case study of wool, silk, printed cotton and panel painting mock-ups	Elena Platania	P23 102
PB15 polymorphic distinction in paint samples by combining micro-Raman spectroscopy and chemometrical analysis	Jolien van Pevenage	P24 104

First identification of the painting technique in 18th Century Transylvanian oil paintings using micro-Raman and SERS	Oana-Mara Gui	P25	106
Organic materials in oil paintings and canvas revealed by SERS	Oana-Mara Gui	P26	108
Characterization of SOPs in acrylic and alkyd paints by means of μ -Raman spectroscopy	Marta Angehelone	P27	110
Synthetic Polymers and Cultural Heritage. Analytical approach by Raman spectroscopy	Margarita San Andrés	P28	112
Raman monitoring of the sol-gel process on OTES/TEOS hybrid sols for the protection of historical glasses	L. de Ferri	P29	114
Possible differentiation with Raman spectroscopy between synthetic and natural ultramarine blues. Comparative analysis with the blue pigment of a painting of R. Casas (1866–1932)	A. R. De Torres	P30	116
Raman monitoring of the polymerization reaction of a hybrid protective for wood and paper	Laura Bergamonti	P31	118
Reference Raman data of the artist palette – tool for in-situ investigation of J. Matejko (1838–1893) paintings	Iwona Żmuda-Trzebiatowska	P32	119
Material analysis of the Manueline Foral Charters of Lousã and Marvão	António Candeias	P33	121
Materials and gilding techniques on plasterwork in the Alhambra (Granada, Spain)	Domínguez Vidal Ana	P34	123
Characterization of gypsum and anhydrite ground layers on 15th and 16th centuries Portuguese painting by Raman Spectroscopy, Micro X-ray diffraction and SEM-EDS	António Candeias	P35	125
Identification of deteriorated pigments on wall paintings from Lutrovska klet, Sevnica, Slovenia, using Raman spectroscopy and SEM-EDS	Katja Kavkler	P36	128
Characterization of middle age mural paintings: in situ Raman spectroscopy associated with different techniques	Julene Aramendia	P37	130

Raman microspectroscopic identification of pigments of newly discovered gothic wall paintings from the Dominican Monastery in Ptuj (Slovenia) Maja Gutman **P38 132**

Shot Noise Reduction through Principal Components Analysis J. J. González-Vidal **P39 134**

ORAL SESSION 4

Raman for characterization of metal artefacts

Raman investigation of artificial patinas on recent bronze, protected by different azole type inhibitors in outdoor environment Tadeja Kosec **OP21 135**

Micro-Raman Investigation on corrosion of Pb-Based Alloy Replicas Giorgia Ghiara **OP22 136**

Conservation diagnosis of weathering steel sculptures using a new Raman quantification imaging approach Julene Aramendia **OP23 138**

Raman study of the salts attack in archaeological metallic objects of the Middle Age: The case of Ereñozar castle (Bizkaia, Spain) Kepa Castro **OP24 140**

Thursday, September 5, 2013

ORAL SESSION 5

Raman Spectroscopy in Archaeometry

The Contribution of Archaeometry to Understanding of the Past Effects and Future Changes in the World Heritage Site of Pompeii (Italy) Juan Manuel Madariaga **PL3 143**

Raman spectroscopy applied to the study of Cretaceous fossils from Araripe Basin, Northeast of Brazil Paulo T. C. Freire **OP25 145**

Raman spectroscopic analyses of ~75. 000 year old stone tools from Middle Stone Age deposits in Sibudu Cave, KZN, South Africa Linda C. Prinsloo **OP26 147**

Raman Spectroscopy in Archaeometry: multi-method approaches and in situ investigations: advantages and drawbacks Peter Vandenaabeele **OP27 149**

Spectroscopic Analysis of Chinese Porcelain Excavated in Clairefontaine (Belgium): Pigment Identification and Dating	Jolien van Pevenage	OP28 150
Characterization of ancient ceramic using micro-Raman spectroscopy: the cases of Motya (Italy) and Khirbetal-Batrawy (Jordan)	Laura Medeghini	OP29 152
Hispano-Moresque architectural tiles from the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Velha, in Coimbra, Portugal: a μ -Raman study	Vânia S. F. Muralha	OP30 154
The blue colour of glass and glazes in Swabian contexts (South of Italy): an open question	Maria Cristina Caggiani	OP31 155
Spectroscopic characterisation of crusts interstratified with prehistoric paintings preserved in open-air rock art shelters	Antonio Hernanz	OP32 157

POSTER SESSION 4

Micro-Raman on Roman glass mosaic tesserae	Claudia Invernizzi	P40 159
Raman and IR Spectroscopic Study of Vitreous Artefacts from the Mycenaean to Roman Period: Glassy Matrix & Crystalline Pigments	Doris Möncke	P41 160
The detection of Copper Resinate pigment in works of art: contribution from Raman spectroscopy	Irene Aliatis	P42 162
Micro-Raman and internal micro-stratigraphic analysis of the paintings materials in the rock-hewn church of the Forty Martyrs in Şahinefendi, Cappadocia (Turkey)	Clauda Pelosi	P43 164
Vibrational characterization of the new gemstone Pezzottaite	Erica Lambruschi	P44 166
FTIR-ATR and ESEM of wall paintings from the tomb of Amenemonet (TT277), Qurnet Murai necropolis, Luxor, Egypt	Mohamed Abd El Hady	P45 168
Physico-chemical characteristics of Predynastic pottery objects from Maadi – Egypt	Mohamed Abd El Hady	P46 170

Raman Database of Corrosion Products as a powerful tool in art and archaeology	Serena Campodonico	P47	171
MicroRaman as a powerful non-destructive technique to characterize ethonological objects from D'Albertis Castle Museum of World Cultures in Genova	Serena Campodonico	P48	173
Micro ATR-IR study of pollutions affecting radiocarbon dating of ancient Egyptian mummies	Ludovic Bellot-Gurlet	P49	175
Raman Scanning of Biblical Period Ostraca	Arie Shaus	P50	176
Analyses of pigments from 4th century B.C. the Shushmanets tombs in Bulgaria	Cristina Aibéo	P51	178
Raman Spectroscopic Study of the Formation of Fossil Resins Analogs	Margarita San Andrés	P52	179
Pigments from Templo Pintado (Pachacamac, Perú) investigated by Raman Microscopy	Dalva Lúcia Araújo de Faria	P53	181
Lithic tools raw materials recognition by Raman spectroscopy of Palaeolithic artifacts	Sonia Murcia-Mascaros	P54	183
Raman characterization on historical mortar. Crossing data with XRD and Color Measurements	Dorotea Fontana	P55	184
Roman ceramics from Vicofertile (Parma, Italy): micro-Raman study of the heat diffusion during the production process	Elisa Adorni	P56	185
Raman spectroscopic study on ancient glass beads found in Thailand archaeological sites	Pisutti Dararutana	P57	187
Identification of Neolithic jade found in Switzerland studied using Raman spectroscopy: Jadeite – vs. Omphacite – jade	Marie Wörle	P58	188
Raman Spectroscopy as useful tools for the gemmological certification and provenance determination of sapphires	Simona Raneri	P59	190
Authentication of ivory by means of 1064 nm Raman spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence spectrometry	Alessandro Crivelli	P60	191

ORAL SESSION 6

Characterization of Gems and Forensic Applications

Characterization of emeralds by micro-Raman spectroscopy	Danilo Bersani	OP33 192
Raman micro spectroscopy of inclusions in gemstones from a chalice made in 1732	Miha Jeršek	OP34 194
Spectroscopic investigation: impurities in azurite as provenance markers	Lucia Burgio	OP35 196
Implementation of scientific methods of fine art authentication into forensics procedures: the case study of "Bolko II Świdnicki" by J.J Knechtel	Barbara Łydzba-Kopczyńska	OP36 198
Raman analysis of multilayer automotive paints in forensic science: measurement variability and depth profile	Danny Lambert	OP37 200

Friday, September 6, 2013

ORAL SESSION 7

Non-invasive Raman Investigation

The Art of non-invasive in situ Raman spectroscopy: identification of chromate pigments on Van Gogh paintings	Costanza Miliani	PL4 203
Characterisation of a new mobile Raman spectrometer for in-situ analysis	Debbie Lauwers	OP38 205
On-site high-resolution Raman spectroscopy on minerals and pigments	Martin A. Ziemann	OP39 207
Molecular characterization and technical study of historic aircraft windows and head gear using portable Raman spectroscopy	Odile Madden	OP40 208

ROUND TABLE – Raman spectral database

The Infrared and Raman Users Group Web-based Raman Spectral Database	Marcello Picollo	PL5 210
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Pigments from Templo Pintado (Pachacamac, Perú) investigated by Raman Microscopy

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Pachacamac is a complex and vast archaeological site on the coast of Perú, 31 km south from Lima (Lat.12° 15' 29" South Long. 76° 54' 00" West). Its origin goes back to 200 CE and was taken over from the Ychma by the Incas around 1470 CE. As a religious and pilgrimage site, among the most significant buildings are the Templo Pintado (Painted Temple) and Templo del Sol (Temple of the Sun). The former is a 50 m high and 100 m wide adobe pyramid, with 3 sides made of a succession of giant steps (1 m high); the fronts of such staggered building are decorated with people, plants, birds and fish paintings,

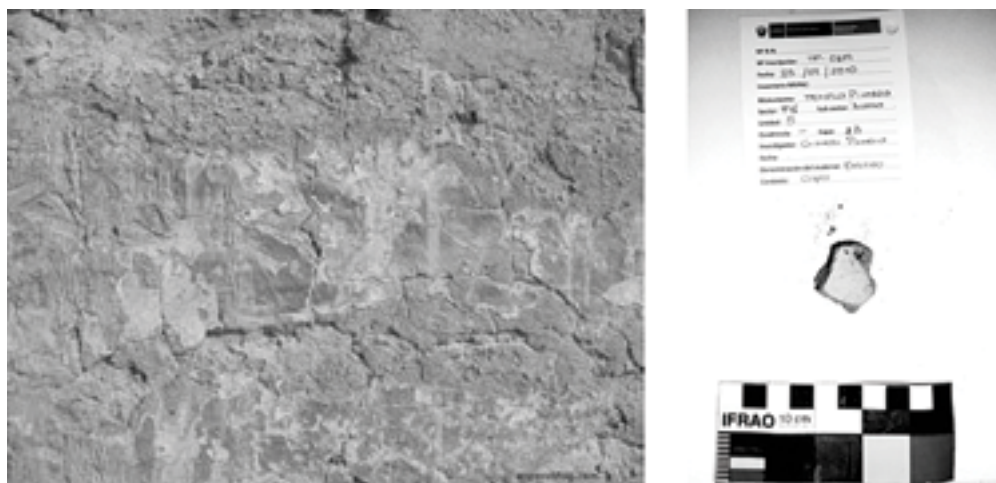


Figure 1. Painted wall at Templo Pintado, showing severe deterioration (left) and adobe fragment with a bluish-green paint (right).

colored in red, yellow and bluish-green mineral pigments, outlined in black¹(Fig. 1). The current efforts in the preservation of such magnificent archaeological site demand a better understanding on the materials and techniques originally employed. This work reports the results of pigment analysis using Raman Microscopy and XRD.

The investigated samples were 5 painted adobe fragments from Templo Pintado (north wall) and 4 minerals collected in quarries at the site area (Table 1). The painted fragments were investigated by Raman Microscopy (632.8 nm, 785 nm and 1064 nm excitation) and the reference minerals were also characterized by XRD.

Table 1. Samples identification and description

Sample ID	Sample Description
TP-029a	Painted fragment (several layers): red, pale yellow and bluish-green
TP-029b	Painted fragment: red and orange pigments
TP-029c	Painted fragment: red paint
TP-029d	Painted fragment: bluish-green paint with black trace
TP-029e	Stone bluish-green fragment with porous and irregular surface
MC1	Yellow pigment from quarry
MC2	Red pigment from quarry
MC3	Pale yellow pigment from quarry
MC4	Pale red pigment from quarry

The main issues to be addressed in the present investigation are: (i) the minerals from the quarries (MC1 to MC4) and the pigments in the painted fragments (TP-029a to TP-029e) are the same? (ii) the bluish-green pigment on sample TP-029d and TP-029e are the same? (iii) the black colored pigment in sample TP-029d is carbon? (iv) which organic binders, if any, were used to prepare the paintings?

An extensive Raman Microscopy investigation revealed that the red pigments were hematite² (α -Fe₂O₃) in both MC and TP samples, but bands assigned to α -quartz (465 cm⁻¹) and magnesium sulfate (main band at 1006 cm⁻¹) were also identified. Curiously, XRD did not show the presence of any crystalline compound (including hematite) in none of the red samples (MC2 and MC4). Cinnabar was not detected. Black pigment in TP-029d is carbon (broad bands at ca.1360 and 1580 cm⁻¹), although in a much smaller extension, magnetite (Fe₃O₄) was also identified; it is very likely that the latter is a contamination, considering the minerals used in the paint. Concerning the bluish-green pigment, despite the luminescent background it was possible to identify celadonite (K(Mg,Fe²⁺)Fe³⁺(Si₄O₁₀)(OH)₂) in both painted adobe and stone fragment, using Raman Microscopy and XRD. Furthermore, in the bluish area of the adobe fragment, a very small (300-400 μ m) piece of bright blue bird feather was found.

In conclusion, Raman Microscopy and XRD were used to show that the minerals collected in quarries at the Pachacamac site and the paints on the adobe fragments are mostly silicates; in the case of the red pigment, hematite was identified by Raman Microscopy but not by XRD, indicating a low degree of crystallinity. It is thus very likely that the pigments used in Templo Pintado were from the local quarries. It was also shown that the bluish-green pigment in sample TP-029d and TP-029e are the same and corresponds to celadonite. A small fragment of blue bird feather suggests that the walls decorations had more than mineral pigments. Finally, the pigment in the black trace in sample TP-029d is carbon.

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The Infrared and Raman Users Group Web-based Raman Spectral Database

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Raman spectroscopy is a well-known powerful technique for the analysis of cultural heritage materials. The number of Raman systems installed in museum and academic laboratories has grown over the past decade. Despite this popularity, there remains a lack of readily-accessible, relevant, peer-reviewed, Raman reference data on known substances to serve as comparisons for samples taken from works of art and archaeological artifacts.

To help meet this need, the Infrared and Raman Users Group (IRUG) has partnered with the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) on a project to create a Raman spectral database to be housed on the IRUG website at www.irug.org. This project is supported by a National Leadership Grant for Advancing Digital Resources awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to the PMA in 2009.^[1] It is the second database project to be undertaken by IRUG, which previously developed and distributed several infrared (IR) compilations, the latest containing over 2,100 peer-reviewed spectra of carbohydrates, minerals and pigments, oils and fats, natural and synthetic resins, and waxes. When completed, the Raman database is expected to become a similar fundamental resource for the international cultural heritage community.

The new Raman web-based database software allows users to create personal accounts for online submission, peer-review, editing, storage, and downloading of data (see Figure 1). As with the IRUG online IR database, spectra will be submitted in the non-proprietary raw JCAMP-DX (ASCII text) format, along with supporting information regarding the sample, sampling and data acquisition. After on-line peer review and quality assurance, spectra will be distributed in the IRUG JCAMP-DX format as discreet data records.^[2] Additional project deliverables include: a software interface for public keyword and (digital) spectral searches of the database; a searchable Raman bibliography with peer-reviewed, downloadable, open-source PDF papers; and a glossary of chemical structures and terms.

IRUG has worked with Endertech, a Los Angeles based web design and software development company, to develop the Raman database and associated functionalities using MySQL® open-source database management system. Thus far, over 600 Raman spectra have been collected from various contributors worldwide to form the foundation of the database. Database beta testing and refinement currently are underway. The target date for launching the database is fall 2013. Individuals interested in participating should contact their respective IRUG Regional Chair: Beth Price, Americas; Marcello Picollo, Asia and

Australia; Boris Pretzel, Europe and Africa; or the IRUG Raman Committee Chair, Suzanne Lomax.

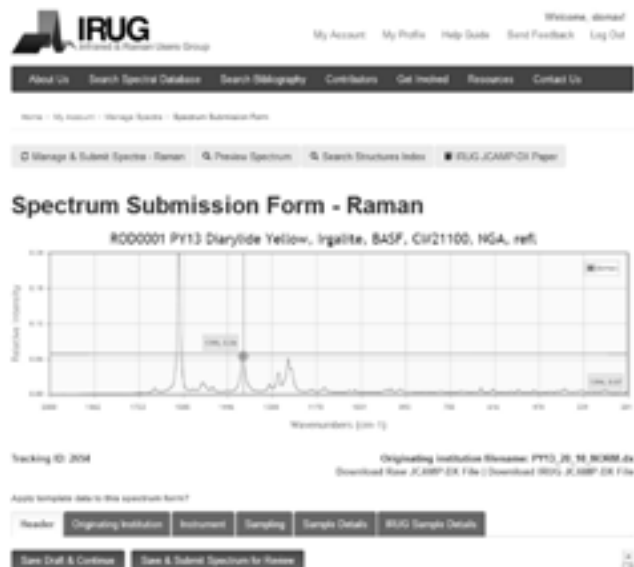


Figure 1. Screenshot of redesigned IRUG website showing online Raman spectrum submission form and interactive spectrum accessed from a user personal account.

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- [1] The IMLS is the primary source of federal support in the United States for libraries and museums. Its mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas; to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; to enhance learning and innovation; and to support professional development. For more information, see <http://www.imls.gov> (accessed 19/08/2013).
- [2] JCAMP-DX (Joint Committee on Atomic and Molecular Physical Data Exchange) is a file specification. For full information on the IRUG JCAMP-DX protocol, see B. A. Price, B. Pretzel, S. Q. Lomax, C. Davis, J. Carlson, Revised JCAMP-DX Spectral File Format for Submissions to the Infrared & Raman Users Group (IRUG) Spectral Database, <http://www.irug.org/ed2k/jcamp.asp> (accessed 19/08/2013).

Index

A

Abagaro 145
Abd El Hady 168, 170
Abdel-Motelib 170
Aceto 73, 96, 191
Acquafredda 155
Adamo 166
Adorni 185
Agarwal 90
Agostino 73, 191
Agresti 164
Aibéo 178
Aliatis 162, 185
Alloza-Izquierdo 157
Almeida 184
Andaloro 164
Anghelone 110
Antônio Cruz Souza 42
Antunes 125
Appolonia 86, 96
Aramendia 130, 138, 140
Araújo de Faria 42, 64, 181
Arteaga 179
Aru 196
Ayora-Cañada 31, 123
Azkarate 140
Azzi 192

B

Bacchini 152
Backus 86
Baldellou-Martínez 157
Baonza 112, 179
Baraldi 52, 54, 56, 73, 164,
191
Barone 192
Barrero 179
Barrocas Dias 121
Barros 145
Basílio 184
Basso 159
Becucci 102
Bellot-Gurlet 33, 48, 138,
175

Bensi 56
Bergamonti 118
Bernard 27
Bersani 35, 118, 152, 159,
166, 185, 190, 192,
205
Bešlagić 68
Bleton 33
Bongiorno 136
Bouzas 112
Brai 184
Brooker 70
Bruder 72
Brunetti 88, 95
Bruni 73, 100, 191
Bucklow 26
Burgio 196

C

Caggiani 155
Caldeira 44
Campodonico 136, 173
Campos Suñol 31, 123
Candeias 44, 121, 125
Caneva 22
Carballo 183
Careaga 64, 181
Carlyle 38
Carnasciali 173
Carvalho 125
Casadio 86, 98
Casoli 35
Castellucci 102
Castro 60, 92, 130, 138, 140
Castro, K. 29
Catarsi 185
Cattersel 66
Centeno 94
Cerasoli 185
Cerc Korošec 82
Chandler 75
Chang 86
Chércoles 112
Cheshnovsky 176
Chillón 116
Ciba 198
Cînta-Pînzaru 108

Claro 121
Clementi 95
Čobal Sedmak 132
Coccatto 40, 58, 188
Coentro 154
Colomban 138, 155
Comby-Zerbino 175
Conti 162
Coroado 125
Costantini 35, 152
Craenhals 66
Crivelli 73, 191
Cullen Cobb 208

D

Daher 33, 48
Dararutana 187
Davis 210
De Clercq 150
de Ferri 114
Defeyt 104
De Laet 40
de la Roja 112, 179
de la Torre López 31, 123
Delqué-Količ 175
Demšar 24
De Palma 173
De Torres 116
De Vito 152
Diana 96
Dias 125
Díez 130
Dine 210
Dinis 184
Doherty 88
Domene 31
Domenico 190
Domínguez-Vidal 31, 123

E

Echard 48
Edwards 20
Eixea 183
Elliott 26
Esteves 121
Ewa 50

F

Fazio 90
Fdez- Ortiz de Vallejuelo
60, 29, 140, 157
Fenoglio 73, 191
Ferreira 121
Ferrer 116
Finkelstein 176
Fontana 184
Forray-Carlier 33
Francesca 190
Francioli 192
Freguglia 54
Freire 145

G

Gamberini 54
García 140
Gasparotto 52
Gatta 166
Gavrilenko 157
Georgova 178
Germana 190
Ghiara 136, 173
Giakoumaki 29, 157
Gomez-Nubla 138
González-Vidal 134
Graiff 118
Griesmar 51
Gueissaz 200
Gueli 184
Guglielmi 100
Gui 106
Gulmini 86, 96
Gutman 132

H

Hernanz 157
Herremans 150
Hurtado 205

I

Idone 86, 96
Invernizzi 159
Ioffe 176
Irazola 130
Isca 118
Iturregui 130

J

Jembrih-Simbürger 110
Jeršek 194

K

Kameranova 178
Kamitsos 160
Karampelas 188
Kavkler 24, 128
Knuutinen 29, 60
Kosec 135
Kramar 132, 194

L

Laakso 60
Lambert 200
Lambruschi 166, 192
Langlois 33
La Russa 159
Lauwers 66, 150, 205
Le Hô 33, 51
Leona 78, 80, 84, 92, 102
Lesar Kikelj 68, 132
Lins 210
Lofrumento 102
Lombard 147
Lombardi 84, 102
Londero 84
Longelin 125
Longobardo 190, 192
Lopes 92
López-Gil 116
Lorenzi 114
Lottici 35, 114, 118, 152, 159,
166, 185, 192
Lubin-Germain 51

Lycke 40
Lydźba-Kopczyńska 198

M

Madariaga 29, 46, 60, 130,
138, 140, 143, 157
Madden 208
Madrigal 175
Maguregui 29, 46, 60, 157
Mahmoud 168
Maier 64, 181
Malagodi 159
Malekfar 62
Mangone 155
Marte 64
Martínez 157
Martinez-Arkarazo 29
Martini 136
Massonnet 162, 200
Mazzoleni 192
Medeghini 152
Melo 38, 92
Ménager 175
Menu 51
Mexia 121
Mignardi 152
Miliani 88, 95, 203
Mirabaud 51
Mirambet 51
Mirão 44
Mladenovič 132
Mladenovič 128, 132
Moens 40, 58, 66, 104, 149,
150, 205
Möncke 160
Montagner 38
Montenero 114
Montoro 112, 179
Morillas 46
Motahari 62
Muehlethaler 162, 200
Municchia 22
Muralha 154
Murcia-Mascaros 183
Muscillo 56

N

Neira 140
Neri 90
Nigro 152
Novik 95

O

Oliveira 121, 125
Olszewska-Świetlik 50
Ossi 90
Otero 38

P

Pacheco 181
Pagès-Camagna 51
Palamara 160
Palles 160
Pallipurath 26
Paolantoni 95
Paolo 190
Paolucci 56
Paris 33, 138, 175
Pavlov 178
Pavlova 178
Pellegriano 95
Pelosi 52, 54, 164
Pérez-Pueyo 134
Pétrequin 188
Piasetzky 176
Piccardo 136
Picollo 210
Pitarch 29, 157
Platania 102
Pogliani 164
Poli 162
Ponterio 90
Pontiroli 35
Positano 162
Possenti 162
Pozzi 92, 98
Pozzi-Escot 181
Predieri 118
Pretzel 210
Price 210
Prinsloo 147
Proniewicz 50

Q

Qian 75
Quiles 175
Quillen Lomax 210

R

Radi 170
Raneri 190
Reagan 80
Reis 44
Retko 27, 36, 82
Ricci 22, 102
Richards 210
Rizzo1 94
Roldan 94, 183
Romani 95
Ropret 27, 36, 82, 135
Rosado 44
Rosi 95
Rossi 56
Rubio Domene 123
Rubio i Mora 157
Ruiz-López 157
Ruiz-Moreno 116, 134
Rumsey 196
Rusek 198

S

Sala 152
Salcedo 46
Salvioli-Mariani 192
Sambo 185
San Andrés 112, 179
Sanches 38
Santamaria 164
Santoro 51
Saraiva 145
Sawczak 119
Sayed 170
Schade 123
Schreiner 110
Sedlmeier 70
Serrão 125
Seruya 125
Sevilhano Puglieri 42

Sgamellotti 88
Shah 86
Shaus 176
Silva 145, 154
Simon 178
Skelton 26
Śliwiński 119
Sober 176
Sodo 22
Soneira 134
Sousa-Filho 145
Spencer 208
Stella 184
Storme 136
Striova 162
Strivay 104
Špec 27, 36

T

Talebian 62
Tanevska 205
Taravillo 112, 179
Thomas 75
Thongkam 187
Tommasini 90
Toti 54
Trebolazabala 46
Troja 184
Trusso 90
Turetta 152
Tzang 176

V

Vaiedelich 48
Valadas 121
Vandenabeele 40, 44, 58,
66, 104, 149, 150, 205
Vandenbergh 33
Van Duyne 86
Van Eester 66
Van Elslande 54
Van Groenland 66
Van Pevenage 40, 104, 150
Van Willingen 188
Vega Cañamares 80

Vekemans 150
Veneranda 130, 140
Venuti 190
Verhaeven 150
Viana 145
Vieillescazes 175
Vilarigues 38
Villaverde 183
Viñas-Vallverdú 157
Vincenza 190
Vincze 150

W

Wachowiak 119
Wadley 147
Williams 70
Wondraczek 160
Won-in 187
Wörle 188
Wu 75

Z

Zacharias 160
Zaffino 100
Zannini 52, 56
Ziemann 207
Żmuda-Trzebiatowska 119

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