

Cultural heritage, nuclear waste and the future

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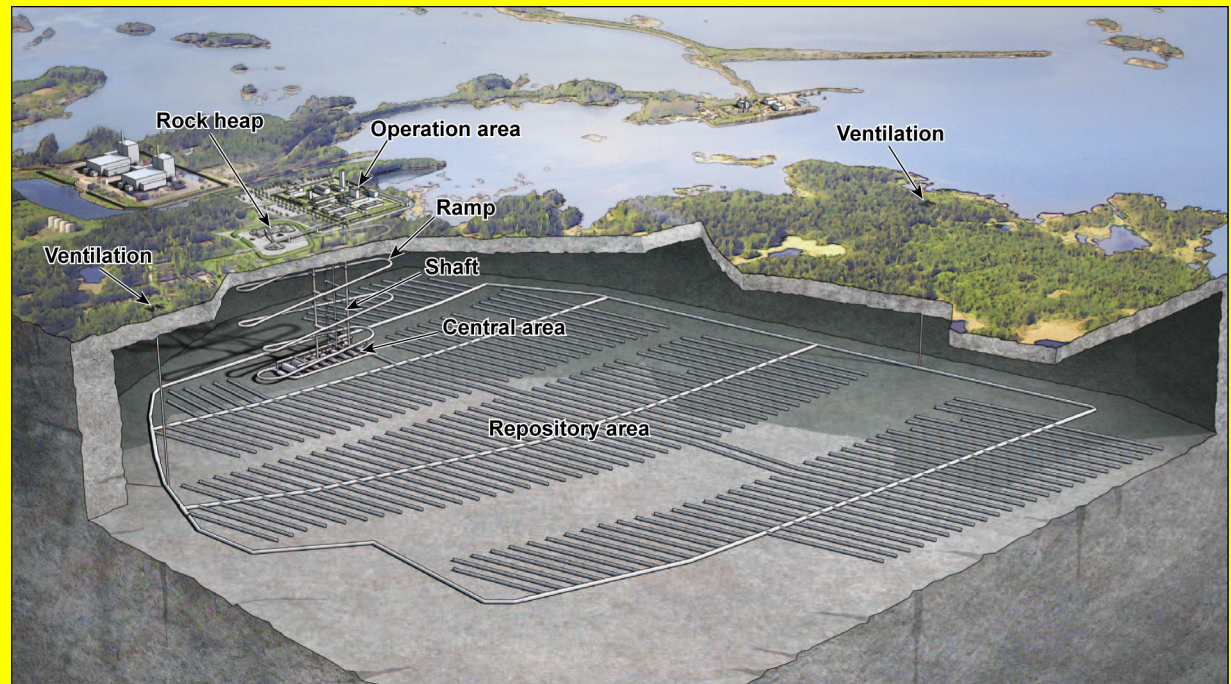


"Nuclear technology is like the music of Mozart - it belongs to us all."

James Acord

Research interest

What can we learn for long-term preservation and memory if we consider nuclear waste as a form of cultural heritage?

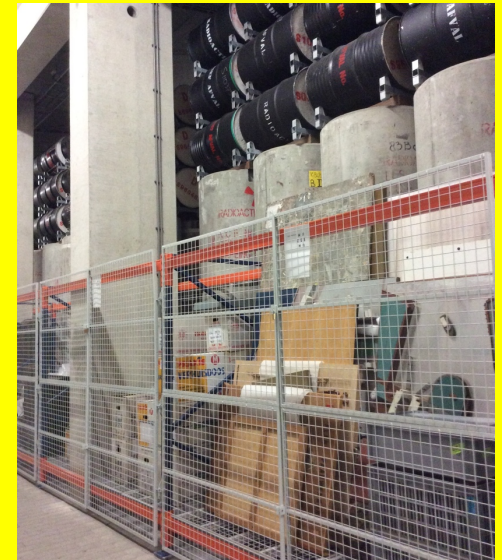


Nuclear waste as cultural heritage

- part of the human legacy and evidence of 20th/21st century 'atomic culture' and the birth of the environmental movement
- safe conservation is important
- subject to regulations and best handled by experts
- require long time frames
- motivated by concern for people's welfare
- combining culture/society with nature/physics
- both tangible and intangible dimensions
- values and meanings are contested and variable in time and space



Creative tensions (Atomteller.de)



Synergy at COVRA

Collaborative research contexts



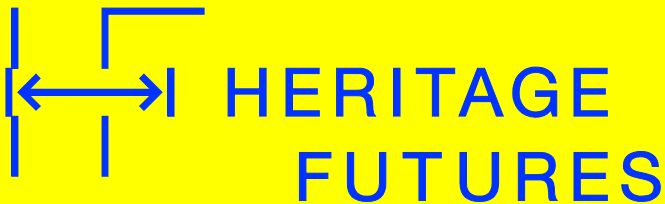
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Heritage Futures: the role of heritage in managing the relations between present and future societies, e.g. through anticipation or planning.



Lessons learned

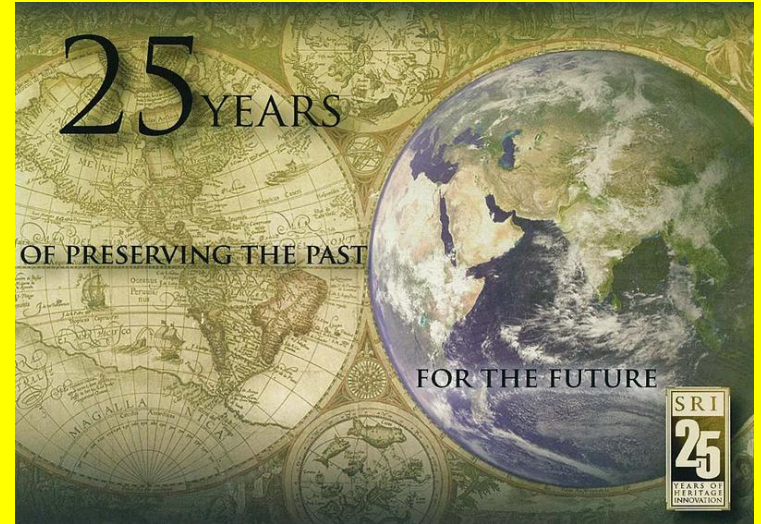
For managing cultural heritage:

There is a need for increased 'future literacy' in the heritage sector.

The risk of harm is as important to consider as the risk of missed benefits.

RK&M in the nuclear waste sector demonstrates how long-term future planning can be done

- systematically and thoroughly,
- in international collaboration and
- with a multidisciplinary approach.



Lessons learned (2)

Nothing ages faster than the future, and nothing is more difficult to predict than the past.

(proverb)

For RK&M in relation to nuclear waste:

Nuclear waste is a particular kind of heritage.

Every present has its own past and future. Heritage keeps changing.

Assume that human futures – and nuclear waste in the future – will be very different from what we expect now.

Manage continuous change rather than permanence.

Explore:

- What does it mean to allow for continuous development, change and renewal in the context of RK&M?



