

Scientific report for the travel grant 6040 to Patrick Andrist

Travel: Bern - Hamburg - Bern, 13th-14th August 2013

1. Purpose of the visit

The main goal of this trip was a teamwork session on the chapter on cataloguing in the handbook being produced by the COMST project (see Remarks below), at the request of Alessandro Bausi, director of the COMST project. Jost Gippert, team leader of team 3 and I, as an active contributor of team 4 and author of 2 articles on the subject, were asked to meet in order to better harmonise the contribution of team 3 into the chapter on cataloguing.

2. Work carried out during the visit

Working meetings took place on Tuesday evening and Wednesday.

We reviewed and discussed:

- the written contributions from the COMST meeting in Copenhagen (team 3) on electronic cataloguing
- the editorial decisions at the COMST meeting Athens (team 4) regarding the chapter on cataloguing
- the current state of the chapter on cataloguing
- two of my articles on the problem of electronic cataloguing
- a series of typical electronic catalogues available on the Internet (in front of the screen), including their “philosophy”.

We also discussed the main challenges and limits of current electronic catalogues

3. Main results obtained

We agreed on the main points that should be dealt with in the section about electronic catalogues as well as their content. It will stress on the tremendous variety of electronic solutions, their limits, particularly as far as noise and retrieving correct information is concerned (problems with structure of the data, field divisions, fields content normalisation, etc.), and discuss a new possible approach to solve some of them.

4. Future collaboration with host institution

We keep on working together on the COMST handbook in general, particularly on this chapter.

5. Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant

Jost Gippert will write the section on electronic catalogues in the COMST handbook. The ESF will be duly acknowledged at the beginning of it.

6. Remarks

The current simplified (and still subject to be modified) outline of the chapter on cataloguing is:

- I. Introduction:
- II. Summary history of cataloguing
- III. Making a catalogue description
- IV. Electronic catalogues