

PREFACE

*By publishing papers which were presented on the ICOM -CIDOC annual conference in Zagreb from 24th till 27th of May 2005, we are finishing almost a three years work which consisted of very thorough preparations, execution and finish of the conference dedicated to museum documentation. The theme of the conference, documentation and its users encompassed various content and aspects of the usage of IT in the process of communicating museum objects: problems of internal and external documentation, public and professional priorities, interaction of the users, the concept of digital heritage and its possibilities, new services and products of museums, copyrights etc. All the papers were at the time of the conference published in the digital format (in English language). Their publishing in the periodical *Museology* provides broader and more thorough reception in the Croatian environment.*

*And so continues one of the basic baselines of the periodical *Museology* which relates to the promotion of the norms and standards of the catalogisation of the museum objects and museum documentation in general.*

In the last half of the century of continuous issuing of the periodical, the subject of the museum documentation appeared already in the year 1954 by publishing the work of our colleague Paula Gabrić who examined the problems of the cataloguing ethnographic museum objects. Issue of the magazine in 1956 contemplated cataloguing of the museum funds, and to the valorisation and categorisation of ob-

*jects in museums was dedicated the issue of *Museology* published in 1970. We have published the museological classification of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in the year 1972 and that was first serious attempt of the application of museological discipline in the work of our institution.*

*“International Guidelines for Museum Object Information: The CIDOC Information Categories”, which were made by the CIDOC working group were published in the *Museology* in 1987 with the title *Documentation and classification of the museum objects*. With that issue computerization of Croatian museums has begun and in the first years of the third millennium it has already significant results. Moreover, basic conditions for the digitisation of museum funds and museum documentation were made wherein the serious theoretical base was found in the M.A. degree work of Mr Goran Zlodi. His work was published in the 40th issue of *Museology*.*

*In the year in which Museum Documentation Center celebrated its 50th anniversary, we couldn't find a strong stimulation for the analysis of work and further development of the Centre and for the review of the current status of the computerization of Croatian museum network and the current relevant problems about usage and strategy of the development of information technologies in the museums throughout the world. Therefore we are hoping that this year the new issue of *Museology* will represent an encouragement and a source of inspiration to the Croatian museum network.*

Višnja Zgaga