

THE ROLE AND STATUS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MUSEUM INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THE PROVENANCE RESEARCH OF ARTWORKS FROM NOBLE COLLECTIONS

S U M M A R Y

As part of the scientific colloquium “Science in the Service of Cultural Heritage” held in 2023 at the Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek in collaboration with the Museum of Slavonia, the topic of the status of scientific work in museums, specifically scientific research in museum institutions, was addressed. This topic had not been addressed for many years and represents a key point in the scientific examination of the national cultural heritage preserved in museum institutions.

The theme connects museum and higher education institutions, institutes, and scientific research organizations where researchers often utilize museum materials. In addition to museum materials, all available information about exhibitions and museum publications found in digital databases and thesauri is explored. In this context, the current question of the accessibility of research sources, or the

openness of the museum community to scientific institutions and researchers, becomes relevant.

The theme of the scientific colloquium also brought attention to the current status of scientific work by museum professionals, which has not been sufficiently defined and valued for many years and is often based on individual preferences. Using the example of interdisciplinary research on noble collections, various scientific methods and research approaches were presented, demonstrating successful efforts in reconstructing the provenance of a large number of artworks in national museums and galleries. In some cases, a nearly complete picture of the original collections of noble families was created.

Keywords: science, research, museums, provenance of artworks, noble collections.