

INTRODUCTION

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Editors

In 2009, the Summer School in the Study of Old Books was organised by the Department of Information Sciences of the University of Zadar, Croatia. The Summer School was open to students from Zadar and from other schools in the region and across Europe. That event, which resulted in the first publication of proceedings in this series, brought together experts addressing current scholarship and developments in practice relating to old and rare books. It was specifically intended to feature aspects that are prominent in or distinctive to Croatia and/or south-eastern Europe as well as the state of the art elsewhere in Europe and the United States. Following the success of this event, another two Summer Schools were organised at the University of Zadar in 2011 in the Study of Historical Manuscripts, and in 2013 in Records, Archives and Memory. The latter Summer School was expanded to include a conference and invited the participation of leading scholars and professionals from Australia, Europe and the United States. The fourth Conference and School in the series, to which these proceedings pertain, was organised in 2016 on the theme “Authority, Provenance, Authenticity, Evidence”. The conferences were jointly organised or supported by Karl-Franzens-University Of Graz, Austria, Vestigia – Manuscript Research Centre; University of Zagreb, Croatia, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, History Department; UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, Department of Information Studies, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies; ICARUS - International Centre for Archival Research, Vienna, Austria; Scientific Centre of Excellence for Croatian Glagolitic, Zagreb, Croatia, and Croatian State Archives, Zagreb, Croatia.

The Conference and School for 2016 aimed at focusing on historical and contemporary understandings and manifestations of the concepts of authority, provenance, authenticity and evidence in diverse cultural, community, disciplinary, professional and technological contexts, as well as on the nature, valence and relevance of these concepts looking toward

the future. The theme of the conference and school was the first in this series to take a conceptual rather than a material-based approach. We chose this as a kind of “wrapper” and concluding rubric for the topics that we had started to discuss in 2009: from the particular – old and rare books viewed from the bibliographic perspective – to the all-embracing concepts of authority, provenance, authenticity and evidence, often understood as primarily archival concepts but present, implicitly or explicitly in other professional and disciplinary fields such as librarianship, museology, linguistics, art history, ethnology and preservation. Presenters addressed theoretical and methodological considerations, as well as conceptual model design and the development of metadata ontologies, and the results of their own research investigations into different kinds of texts and the application of current technologies in the digital environment and practices responding to professional, humanitarian and national identity challenges. As in previous events, to address our ambitious scope we invited the participation of leading scholars and professionals from around the world, in this case, from Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This volume includes selected refereed papers from that event, organised around the seven sub-themes of the conference: *Shifting Conceptual Constructions in Archival Science, Authority and Authenticity, Originals and Copies, Digital Transformations and Provenance, Evidence and Evidencing, Libraries and Archives on the International Agenda, and Methodological Approaches*. We believe that the papers in this volume provide some vivid illustrations of the different ways in which these various concepts are construed in different fields and will be thought-provoking and inspirational for future research, standards development and indeed understanding the interfaces between the archives, library and museum professions and disciplinary scholarship, as well as between different regions of the world. It is our intention to continue this work through future conferences and summer schools.