

University of Zadar, Croatia
Department of Library and Information Science
PhD Study Programme:
KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER
Module I – Organization, Preservation and Use of Written Heritage

Summer School in the Study of Historical Manuscripts
Zadar, Croatia, 26 – 30 September 2011

Topic IV: Historical Manuscript Collection Management
Friday, 30 September 2011

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**Curating a Manuscript Collection:
Overview of Tasks and Aspects Related to Manuscripts in a Modern Library**

Content and Objectives of the Lecture and Group Work on the Lecture Topic:

The lecture intends to draft a picture of what tasks curation of a manuscript collection in a research library implies:

Collection awareness (kind of materials), collection development (by which means, relationship to donors and vendors), different aspects of description of manuscripts (texts, illustrations, challenges of archival material), reference materials and reference environment, research surveys and implication of research on the description of mss, overview of users' services both in situ and at a distance, administrative issues of digitization, expositions, co-operations.

Tasks concerning conservation, preservation and restoration will be touched, but not considered in detail.

Assignment:

As this is more intended to be an overview report on experiences from management, an assignment could cover – if interest arises – any aspect of one these tasks from an organisational perspective, best based on some practical experience, but then going into details and different approaches, giving a full academic picture of the chosen issue. I am open for every proposal in this field.

Readings:

In preparation it might be helpful to have a look at web pages of different manuscript departments – to see and compare what issues are covered there – and to get an understanding into which larger contexts the curation of a mss collection may be included.