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Music Manuscripts: Description and Access to a Fundamental Medium for the Dissemination of Music

Content and Objectives of the Lecture and Group Work on the Lecture Topic:
The lecture focuses on the main characteristics of music manuscripts as sources for disseminating information for centuries after the invention of printing, and on the reasons for this peculiarity. The history of collective catalogues and of cataloguing rules are described, with special attention to the more recent developments of the MARC standards and of the ISBD and to the main issues in describing and accessing music manuscripts.

The Group Work goes into further details of cataloguing music manuscripts (description, physical aspects, dating, access to the content, transcription of music incipit), through practical examples and an open discussion; the purpose is to give to the attendants the possibility to take part to a cataloguing project with clear ideas on how to proceed and where to get the information they need for cataloguing music manuscripts.

Assignment:
According to the personal experience and skills, the student may select some practical examples and explain the criteria s/he used to describe the items, and discuss the rules and standards applied according to the type of catalogue where s/he is thinking to operate.
Alternatively, he might present a collection of music manuscripts and illustrate the criteria s/he would use to order it and to set up a catalogue, and in which form.

Readings:

Joachim Jaenecke, Dating music manuscripts and prints: an overview of past and present research, Fontes artis musicae 56/1, Jan-Mar 2009, p. 29-35

Tatjana Mihalić, Music collections in Croatia, Fontes artis musicae 56/1, Jan-Mar 2009, p. 51-65
RISM – Répertoire International des Sources Musicales, www.rism.info (register to get further details)

Vedrana Jurčičić, Katalog muzikalija u Benediktinskem Samostanu SV. Petra u Cresu = Catalogue of music manuscripts and prints in the Benedictine convent of St Peter in Cres, Zagreb: Hrvatsko Musikološko Društvo = Croatian Musicological Society, 2000 (Indices collectiorum musicarum tabulariorumque in Croatia ; 5)


More (partly in Italian) in Rules, cataloguing, www.urfm.braidense.it/risorse/norme_en.php