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 II: New Conceptual Models for Information Organization
Wednesday, 28 September 2011

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Challenges of Manuscript Descriptions
in the Modern Libraries’ Information Landscape

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

The lecture intends to give an overview of the kinds of existing (mostly traditional) manuscript
descriptions (with some examples) and possibilities to make best use of them in a database and on
the internet. For this some databases (both generic mss databases and union catalogue systems)
will be analysed in their contents and structures. The possibilities of interlinking of records,
portals, the use of authority files and finally semantic web structures will be presented. Some
particular issues of mss cataloguing will be considered (e.g. authorship, text and illumination,
research surveys). Some databases for particular features of the mss such as ones on bindings,
watermarks, etc. will be presented to discuss how they can be integrated. The lecture will focus
on codex descriptions – but the challenges of archival material and its particular structures will at
least be touched upon.

Objectives are to give awareness of the possibilities to integrate existing material into the modern
internet architectures and to present descriptions on different levels to different audiences.

Assignment:

For an assignment to this topic the student should have a good understanding of data structures. A
survey about existing mss databases and the comparative discussion of their structures with a
guideline for harmonization would be welcome.

Readings:

Pass, Gregory A.: Descriptive cataloging of ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and early modern

German manuscript cataloguing and the TEI-P5, 12. Juli 2006 – MASTER - Interface format for
the description of medieval manuscripts. adaptation of the TEI guidelines P5 to the German
cataloguing system ...
www.hab.de/bibliothek/wdb/master/.../06_MASTER.htm - Im Cache
Positions papier der Handschriftenzentren: Katalogisierung, Digitalisierung, Präsentation / Claudia Fabian; Robert Giel; Christian Heitzmann; Christoph Mackert; Eef Overgaauw; Alessandra Sorbello-Staub; Bernhard Tönnies; Bettina Wagner. – In: Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie 56,5 (2009), S. 281-286


or (German version, more or less:

(of both articles a copy can be provided)

Please have a look at some mss databases, like:
Manuscripta Mediaevalia, CERL Portal, Manuscriptorium, Kalliope, OAIster, Europeana, Europeana regia, E-codices (Switzerland), MANUS (Italy), etc.