

Short report from the Information Centres Working Group at CIDOC 2011

On Monday the Information Centres Working Group met. It had eight participants, mostly coming from some kind of museum advisory institution. As we know the way museum advisory institutions are organized in very different ways.

The meeting started with a round-table where the participants were, and what are their current issues concerning museum information.

Out of this the following topics arose:

- in many museums there is not a complete documentation available of their collection – even not a traditional paper-based one
- therefore there is an ongoing need to talk about the relevance, collection documentation has
- museums need support for digitisation
- museums need support for publishing object information online
- the IPR issue has to be addressed

In fact there is a need for financial support, but most of the advisory bodies cannot provide funding

There exist guidelines and recommendations but quite often they are not used. So the question was what can museum advisory institutions do? One possibility could be that we try to publish best practice examples and implement low-cost projects which provide practical results and can motivate others to do something even if no additional money is available.

The second topic which was tackled during the meeting was – a short information on the Enumerate project, which is currently co-funded by the European Commission in order to develop a methodology and an instrument to measure the state, the needs and the impact of digitisation of Cultural Heritage in the EU. Working Group members present offered to support this initiative in their respective countries.

The meeting concluded with the plan to be in contact beginning next year in order to prepare the WG meeting in Helsinki next year.

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