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### Normalizing information from various museum archival resources

Information in museums often goes back many decades and is seldom of a certain quality level. Primary references of museum objects are found in excavation diaries, in the correspondence of the museum founder or donor, as part of legal documents that verify transfer of ownership. Primary information resources are usually long hand written registration catalogs which provide each object with an ID code number followed by a short description, thus transforming it from a common physical object into a unique museum item. From then on, the amount of information produced about an object is related to its historical, artistic or scientific value, but also to the standard quality of curation provided by the institution. Objects that are regarded valuable are studied, conserved and maintained with greater care, are exhibited and published more often, thus the amount of information about them grows fast, stimulating the production of knowledge. Well established institutions with sufficient scientific personnel are able to maintain object management procedures that produce adequate information for all the collection items – detailed object record, image reproduction, proper conservation etc, – whereas poorly equipped museums, even if responsible for curating objects of great importance, are often unable to produce the proper information and disseminate knowledge about them.

This paper will focus on issues regarding the follow-up of information about museum objects: gathering and regulating previous information, dealing with augmented and

often arbitrary resources, confirming, editing and updating information, while also keeping previous knowledge and reasoning about its change, in an effort to provide the researcher the wider possible perspective, to avoid repetition of misleading/ambiguous references and to develop an information system worthy to trust.