

Evaluation of the Research and Professional Activity of the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) for the period 2010–2014

Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute

Name of the Institute: Institute of Art History of the CAS, v. v. i.

Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:

Arts (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Lenka Vostrá

Observer representing the Institute: Martin Mádl, substitute observer Tomáš Winter

Commission No. 13: Humanities excluding disciplines 6.1 and 6.2

Chair: Prof. Alessandro Ferrara Ph.D.

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 27 - October 30, 2015

Programme of the visit of the Institute: see attached Minutes from the visit

Evaluated research teams:

No. 1 - Department of Mediaeval Art; No. 2 - Department of Early Modern Art; No. 3 - Department of Art in the 19th to 21st Centuries; No. 4 - Department of Art Historical Topography; No. 5 - Documentation Department

A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole

1. Introduction

The Institute of Art History (IAH) comprises five academic Departments and two research support units, employing 40 researchers (28 FTE) and a further 20 or so people in technical and administrative roles. There are significant peaks in the age profile of staff at 60 and above, with another group in the age range 35-45. The Institute moved to its current premises, a large building on Husova, central Prague, in 1993. Research addresses Central European art from the Medieval to the Contemporary periods, with particular emphasis on art, architecture and visual culture in the Czech Lands, which is often situated in a broader European context. There are two academic departments that also play a significant research infrastructure role, Topography and Documentation. The Library, Photo Archive and Photographic Studio represent key resources for researchers in the Institute but also for international visiting researchers, and have been significantly developed organisationally and technically in recent years (the enhancement of the photographic studio is of particular note), in part through engagement with a new initiative for Research Infrastructure in the Digital Humanities, though significant problems remain in terms of basic facilities. Research is funded by the Czech Academy of Sciences, through other Czech research funding programmes, and through other external grants; IAH achieved additional research funding totalling Ck 1.3m to support its work over the review period.

Research is made visible and accessible in many different ways: the IAH has its own imprint, ARTEFACTUM, which publishes work in multiple languages, and it also publishes frequently under the auspices of the Czech Academy of Sciences imprint; there are a number of journals edited in house, including the flagship *Umeni*; exhibitions are curated in major institutions including the National Gallery in Prague and the West Bohemian Art Gallery; the Window Gallery, a new initiative using the window spaces on Husova, commencing in 2012, showcases current research projects; very large numbers of students are taught by members of the team in a wide range of university institutions, and some 300 student dissertations have been supervised to completion in the review period; researchers run public lectures series, such as the Collegium Historiae Artium. The IAH is a founding member of RIHA (The International Association of Institutes in the History of Art), and cooperates with major international partners and peer groups on a recurrent basis, often as a lead partner.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The IAH is a dynamic and highly respected research organisation. The five departments produced work of the highest quality in the period, with over 90% of work evaluated in the top two categories. The volume and diversity of work produced, and the remarkable and beautiful range of books (well over 5 per annum), exhibition catalogues and journals emanating from the organisation is very impressive. Public popularisation is a central part of the research activity, with significant exhibition and heritage projects at the core of a wider range of engagement and communication events. Teaching and supervision of students is a major contribution to national life and also an expression of responsibility for fostering future generations of scholars. International collaborations are prestigious and exciting: partners include The Getty Foundation, The Washington National Gallery of Art, and the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

The IAH is forward looking and has embraced the interdisciplinary opportunities presented by Strategy 21, with imaginative projects such as 'Europe and the State: between Barbarism and Civilisation' and 'Form and Function of Communication: Memory in the Digital Age.' Such projects challenge the departmental structure, organised as it is in part along historical or regional lines, and a similar inter-departmental vision underpins the development of a research strand on art historiography and art theory.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The operating budget has fluctuated over the review period but stayed broadly steady, while salary and other costs have increased year on year. This has meant that the percentage value of the operating budget is reducing. There has been some improvement in earned income, but this is marginal and trivial in relation to the overall budget challenge. The increased dependence in this climate on winning external project funding, notwithstanding the track record of success in the review period, is a weakness given ever-increasing competition for humanities research funding.

The salary level of employees is universally low, and this represents a risk in terms of recruitment and retention of staff, especially in terms of early career researchers. This is a threat to research sustainability and will tend to militate against equal opportunities employment policies.

The estate at Husova is not adequate to support researcher and student demand for library and photo archive access, nor to store the materials in accordance with modern standards of conservation. The failure of the Academy to deliver a long-term solution to address the space and technical provision in Husova is a threat to research training and research quality.

The inability of the IAH to be recognised for its contribution to the supervision of PhD theses – with regards to both title awarding capacity and being the institutional home of doctoral graduates – is a weakness in terms of visibility of the Institute and recognition of its crucial role in training.

The membership of the management board of the IAH, which is chaired by the Director and on which three Heads of Department sit, may make it risk averse in dealing with decisions about staffing and financial matters.

4. Recommendations

The Czech Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the IAH, should review the facilities and space provision in Husova as a matter of urgency, with a view to addressing the constraints that exist for research infrastructure (Library, Photo Archive, Photographic Studio, Documentation).

The Czech Academy should open a discussion with the IAH (and with other Humanities Institutes) regarding the long-term sustainability threat posed by low salaries for the recruitment and retention of the next generation of researchers.

The IAH should continue to engage with Strategy 21 and thereby to enhance cross-departmental cooperation, using the rich potential for innovative theoretical and methodological research provided by the very co-existence of highly skilled staff at the IAH. The proposed development of an art historiography/art theory strand of research activity is complementary to such an objective and should be pursued.

The IAH should further explore the possibility of bi-lateral agreements relating to the joint-supervision of PhD students in the University sector.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The five departments of the Institute published hundreds of research outputs in Czech, English, German, French and other languages in the review period. Of the fraction that were subject to review in Phase 1, nearly 50% were judged 'world leading' with a further 40% in the category below. These are outstanding results.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

There are some excellent examples of best practice in student involvement across the Institute, including group work on exhibition projects and involvement in journal editing and publication processes. The very high number of graduate level dissertations supervised by the teams, and the wide range of courses taught in numerous higher education institutions across the Czech Republic, are testament to the dedication of staff to research-led teaching.

Declaration on societal relevance

The engagement of the researchers in exhibitions, commissions for the preservation of heritage, public lectures and so on are evidence of the importance of societal relevance. Media interviews and contributions to public conferences are also significant. Specific departments run projects that have a strong relationship to this facet of the Academy's objectives. For example, the Department of Topography generates research output of clear societal relevance in that its work provides publicly accessible information on the diversity and depth of built environment and architectural heritage in the Czech Lands.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The IAH is a leading international player in the discipline of art history, and a major centre of expertise for scholarship on Eastern European art and architecture. The range of international partnerships and projects completed or initiated in the review period is ample evidence of this reputation. In the national context the IAH plays a pivotal role in the education of University students, in the preservation and celebration of Czech heritage, and in the enhancement of knowledge and understanding of the visual arts in the Czech Lands. Housing the third largest library for art history in the Czech Republic, as well as significant photographic and other archives, it also offers a crucial facility in the national landscape for art-historical research.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The IAH is a dynamic and prolific organisation. The critical mass of research in a wide range of fields and periods, and the highly professional support services and infrastructure, mean that the work produced is of lasting value and quality. A rich programme of conferences, workshops, visiting speakers and site visits means that research dialogues are at the heart of daily activity. Post-doctoral researchers lend new energy and direction to individual research teams. Sustainability depends upon staffing renewal, consistent long-term funding, and strategic development of basic infrastructure.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The strategy of the IAH is based around continued success in external funding applications to support activity across the range from regional to international projects. The key issue of staffing renewal and the recruitment of early career researchers is addressed in part through applications to competitions for post-doctoral awards (e.g. the Otto Wichterlich Award and Dobrowsky Fellowship). There is openness to interdisciplinary activity fostered by Strategy 21, and there is a related enthusiasm for a new theoretical/ art historiographical project. The development of summer schools in collaboration with The Getty Conservation Institute is a good example of the innovative approach to research training, something that will be of lasting value for the future of art history in the Czech Republic.

B. Evaluation of the individual teams

Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department of Mediaeval Art

1. Introduction

This team of seven scholars delivers research on Medieval visual culture, placing Bohemia in a European and sometimes broader context (Byzantium and beyond). The central concern in the research is the artifact or object and its potential to illuminate particular historical situations. In addition to teaching and supervision of students, activity in the review period ranges from curatorship of permanent and temporary exhibitions, major research projects, research workshops, publications and the launch of a new journal.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

There is a strong sense of identity in the team and a commitment to the highest quality international research and collaboration. The collaboration with the Austrian National Library on illuminated manuscripts is of particular note, as is the partnership with Palacky University of Oloumouc and East Bohemia, which reflects the importance of Gothic art in the region and brings scholarly focus to this remarkable heritage. The new major project, Imago-Imagenes, addressing the question of the transformations of medieval art in Bohemia, builds on previous funded international work in the team on questions of the circulation and transformation of ideas. The Imago-Imagenes project is notable for its high output: there are conferences, workshops and multiple publications planned. The launch of the journal *Convivium* (to be published twice a year) in collaboration with Brno and Lausanne signals the ambition of the team to foster new international research on the medieval world and to examine the cultural complexities that underpin particular objects of study. Post-doctoral scholars are positively encouraged by the team and two have joined in the review period, with one doing work related to the concerns of *Convivium*. The research environment is healthy; the innovation of a regular workshop series with prestigious outside speakers, called 'The Middle Ages in Motion', is an excellent sign: openness to new approaches and methods is an opportunity for the team, as is the chance to develop new research areas through the new journal.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The age profile of the small team is a weakness, in that there are four staff of 55 and above, and three staff between 30 and 40; clearly there will be a need to plan for the impact of the retirements of some senior staff. In general any failure to achieve a continual stream of major externally funded projects (in a very competitive environment) represents a threat to the renewal of the team in the future. In this respect the Monastery Na Slovenech project constitutes an excellent occasion for collaboration with a number of institutes in the Academy as well as with the Benedictine Abbey, but at present there is perhaps only limited engagement with Strategy 21.

4. Recommendations

The team should make time to discuss its longer-term plan in terms of staffing and research themes in order to prepare for the period when currently younger team

members will need to take on leadership roles. There are opportunities to grow the team through fostering PhD and post-doctoral researchers on specific projects; creative thinking is important here and there are good signs already. Some further consideration, perhaps with colleagues from other departments of the Institute, ought perhaps to be given to the opportunities presented by the themes of Strategy 21, and also to theoretical and methodological approaches that might support a renewal of medieval studies for the future.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

Of the outputs evaluated, just under 90% were judged world-leading, which is a most impressive achievement. The range and volume of outputs in the review period was also remarkable, with work in English and German facilitating the wider communication of knowledge about the importance of medieval art in the Czech lands outside the Czech-speaking world. Research covers a very wide range of topics and is published in different forms and venues, including prestigious international journals.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The team is seeking to promote student engagement through its 'Middle Ages in Motion' series of workshops, through its teaching and supervision of doctoral students in a variety of Universities, and through plans to encourage student contributions to *Convivium*.

Declaration on societal relevance

The team makes a significant contribution to the understanding of Czech cultural heritage and to its celebration. Specific achievements include the identification of a hitherto lost work and its restoration and presentation in public, as well as active participation in discussions of broader issues of conservation and preservation of key monuments.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

International partnerships in recent projects reflect the recognition of the quality and depth of the team. There is no doubt that the Medieval Department at the Institute of Art History (IAH) is regarded as a highly important and internationally valued research centre. In the national context the Prague team are leaders in the study of Czech medieval culture and have a strategic position vis-a-vis teams in other universities.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

Recently awarded new projects and the new journal point to the vitality of the Department, as do the various successes in exhibition work and the public communication of complex research. Sustainability is not a major concern as yet; as with other Departments and Institutes it depends upon continued success in winning grants, which in turn demands innovation and flexibility of thinking, both of which need to be fostered in the coming years. The medium-term sustainability challenge is in the staffing demographic.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The strategy is built around long-term major funded projects and to some extent around the new research identity offered by the journal *Convivium*. There is a robust plan to develop and submit a number of new grant applications in the context of a range of partnerships.

Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department of Early Modern Art

1. Introduction

Comprising nine researchers, the Department of Early Modern Art prides itself on its interdisciplinary approach to its work on art and visual culture in the Czech lands, and on the international contexts for it. Work focuses on the period from the arrival of the Hapsburgs in Czech lands in the 1520s to the death of Empress Marie-Thérèse in 1780. Interdisciplinarity is reflected in projects including Rudolphian studies, and bringing together work on diverse topics such as alchemy, *kunstkammers* and stucco decorations. The Department is a hive of activity, hosting conferences, workshops, curating exhibitions and publishing extensively.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The interdisciplinary emphasis on the study of Early Modern Art is a key strength: there is a clear understanding in the team of the interconnectedness of artistic, ideological and philosophical questions. There is considerable strength too in the centering of the research work on Rudolphian Mannerism. The research Centre Studio Rudolphiana and the Centre for Baroque Ceiling Painting provide distinctive and clear articulations of the core research. Membership of the Palatium ESF programme has also been beneficial, involving interaction with Early Modern scholars in a number of countries and leading to enhanced knowledge of the palace form and courtly residences in European culture. The related photographic documentation of the Star Summer Palace is of exceptional quality. A key future project is the development of a collaboration with the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, leading to an exhibition on Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol in 2017. Such exhibition activity, combined with a strong presence on public radio, suggests a positive approach to knowledge exchange. A collaboration with the Sorbonne on the theme of circular forms in architecture is also an exciting development. The publication achievements of the team are remarkable, with impressive outputs in both the imprints of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Art History (Artefactum). The Department is represented in the Academy's 'Science for Life' group, which is a strength in terms of engaging with policy issues facing the humanities in the broader scientific research community. Members of the team are active in commissions for the preservation of historic monuments in the Czech Lands, and this represents an on-going opportunity for public engagement.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The salary levels are a challenge in terms of recruiting suitably qualified younger researchers. However, in the case of the Star Summer Palace project, for example, the low salaries of researchers and technical staff relative to those in other fields of research in the Academy have not obstructed the recruitment of an excellent team. Nevertheless, the low salary economy that underpins the Department remains a threat to the long term sustainability of the core research team. The age profile of the staff is reasonable, but it is likely that a number of senior permanent staff may retire in the next review cycle, which may present planning challenges. The need to balance the demands of undergraduate teaching, and of PhD supervision (which is *prima facie* important to the long-term sustainability of research in Early Modern

Studies in Czech art) with the demands of projects and funding pressures is a potential weakness.

4. Recommendations

The Early Modern Art team, which bridges the differences in approach and interests between modern and medieval teams, has a key role to play in shaping theoretical and historiographical research in the Institute, and due consideration should be given to developing an inter-Departmental vision for this agenda in the future. The Department should continue to give consideration to its strategy for renewal in the period 2015-19 following the retirements of key senior members to the team. Senior members (there are four members of staff aged 60 and above) bring recognition and impressive international connections to the work of the team, so it will be important that the Academy supports the Institute financially as appropriate to make anticipatory appointments to replace them where possible.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Department achieved a highly impressive number of outputs in the review period. Of the very small proportion selected for review in Phase I, 9 out of 13 were ranked in the top two categories (7 were 'world leading'). The Czech language dominated, but there were significant contributions in English and German, testifying to international recognition.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Staff supervised over seventy student dissertations in the period, including a dozen doctoral students. Such exemplary commitment enables students to engage with researchers and to contribute to specific areas of work. Public presentations by the team include events aimed at encouraging students to study Early Modern topics. Exhibitions provide opportunities for students to engage as volunteers.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department has a strong understanding of its position as a research centre for the understanding of Czech heritage, and many of its activities promote this understanding to both academic and non-academic audiences (e.g. through presentations at the Week of Science and Technology). Researchers contribute to national television and radio programmes, as well as music and performing arts events. Exhibitions, usually accompanied by catalogues accessible to a wide public, are often curated by members of the team in national and international venues. These events, as well as reinterpretations of permanent collections or monuments, such as the Buquoy Palace project (realised with colleagues in the Documentation Department), are an important contribution to cultural life.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Department of Early Modern Art has an excellent reputation on both national and international stages. The wider relevance of the research is manifested in the international collaborations and interactions of the team; it is clear that the knowledge and expertise of members of the Department, and their contribution to the greater understanding of Central European Baroque culture, is of value to colleagues in many countries.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The Department is lively, positive and flexible in its approach to research in art history. The range of current and future projects reflects a vibrant intellectual environment fostering an ambitious research agenda. There is laudable engagement with theoretical and historiographical questions alongside empirical studies. Sustainability depends upon a realistic and effective plan for renewal of staffing, and continued success in research grant applications.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The projects envisaged are excellent, including fascinating work on metaphors of religious, political and social experience as reflected in texts from the 16th to 18th centuries, as well as further work on the complex cultural signification of Baroque palaces, and work in the field of art, alchemy and science. The Department is well aware of the need to focus effort on staffing plans in order to ensure the continuation of main areas of research and the development of new directions.

Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Department of Art in the 19th to 21st Centuries

1. Introduction

The Department of Art in the 19th to 21st Centuries covers a period marked by rich and varied production in all fields of the visual arts and by important themes that connect the arts to social and political issues, such as Czech nationalism at the turn of the century and modernism, avant-garde and post-modernism in the 20th century. It is also a period of intense exchange between the Czech and foreign artists. The Department covers its research field with a set of long- and short-term projects in an efficient way, mobilising researchers at different stages of their career as well as PhD students. The staff is competent, experienced and active both in research and related activities (grant applications, popularisation, etc.).

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Department has a solid team of excellent researchers that produces research that fills high international standards and addresses also demands stemming from the specialised and general public in the Czech Republic. The above-mentioned features of Czech art in the 19th to 21st Centuries have attracted considerable international attention during the past twenty years, creating a demand for the specific knowledge the Department has. This has given rise to numerous co-operations with renowned foreign institutes (such as the MoMA in New York and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston) and with networks gathering researchers from top European universities (for example, the project “Comparative Avant-Garde and Modernism”). The Department has played a leading role in Czech research networking (notably through the Plzen symposia), while managing also to find new channels of visibility and working partners outside of the ordinary circles, this being best exemplified by the co-operation with the Czech Olympic Committee.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

While the whole staff at the Department is highly skilled and active, it seems that an important part of the workload rests on the shoulders of a few strong senior members. It is not clear how viable the situation is in the long term. The Department’s main activities demand long-term financing. It seems however that short-term grant

application plays an increasingly larger role. While the Department has been relatively successful in grant applications and is prepared to contribute to the Strategy 21 of the CSA, this evolution may have a negative effect on the Department's basic working conditions and aims.

4. Recommendations

International interest for Czech art of the 19th to 21st centuries will continue in the future, motivated by new theoretical and methodological approaches. In order to profit from this, it would be important to connect research in the department in a proactive way with emerging research paradigms and to continue developing the already existing network and co-operation initiatives at the Czech and international levels. Sufficient financing for long-term projects should be secured and grant applications used as a financing method only when this corresponds to demands stemming from the Department's research activities and not as a means to tackle the consequences of budget cuts.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Department produces publications that enjoy international reputation and have good national visibility. The results of the Phase 1 of the evaluation show that 15 out of the 16 evaluated outputs were ranked "world-leading" or "internationally excellent"; publications in English, German and French assure the diffusion of research results to a wide international public. Its research activities (workshops, conferences) attract high-level participation from the Czech Republic and abroad, playing an important role in the scholarly community.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The Department members teach at 8 universities and take actively part in supervision at BA, MA and PhD levels. The number of theses supervised or defended at all these levels is very high, testifying of the Department's crucial role in the formation of future art historians. Prof. Šváchá has involved MA and postgraduate students in his projects on SIAL and Naprej in a particularly substantial way.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department has a vital role in the research on a historical period when the relationships between art and society have been particularly rich and complex. Its work is directly relevant for the cultural self-understanding of the Czech nation. This is visible in the frequent media appearances as well as in the catalogues, participation in museum exhibitions and promotional lectures that form the basic means of popularising the Department's research activities. At the same time, the Department promotes Czech culture abroad through its activities in the international field of research.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Department is a leading actor at the national level both in terms of publications and other research activities. It has an excellent reputation and an important position in the international context, especially in what regards the modern and avant-garde art of the 20th century. The Department staff's expertise on both the international art movements and the local Czech context – and the relations between these two – has attracted wide interest and served as a model for addressing questions of cultural transfer and appropriation in a comparative way and in other contexts.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The Department is a dynamic, innovative and internationally oriented unit with the high number of activities and publications. It has a remarkable capacity to address a wide amount of research topics covering several periods, forms of art and theoretical and methodological issues. Its projects are sustainable and likely to attract wide interest and foster good co-operation opportunities both locally and internationally, provided that they receive the necessary funding.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The Department's strategy and plans for the future are based on a set of long-term projects that are already underway and a set of new projects that soon come into being. The topics addressed – for example, comparative perspective on modernism and avant-garde, local contexts/international networks and public/private – are highly relevant in international research. The projects constitute a coherent whole that permits to focus on the Departments core activities and to address new issues and develop interdisciplinary work.

Evaluation of the Team No. 4: Department of Art Historical Topography

1. Introduction

The Department pursues a very long-term project: the inventory and description of artistic monuments in the Czech Lands. The work has focused on Prague in recent years and will shift attention to Moravia and Silesia in the coming five-year period. In addition to this fundamental work, the Department has launched short-term grant projects or participated in such projects directed by other teams of the IAH or other institutional partners; the common denominators for these being the relationships between mostly architecture, history, memory and cultural heritage. The Department Director has a clear vision of the task pursued and of how to continue to fulfill it in the future. The staff is relatively small, but is competent to cover several periods and take part in projects outside of its core activity.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The main strength of the Department is its focus on basic research work that can be considered as having an uncontested importance for the Czech nation. The inventory and documentation of artistic monuments and the publication of the results of this work is essential for knowledge and protection of the Czech Republic's cultural heritage. This work opens up the possibility of contributing in other fields as well. The basic work done within the core project produces research results that can be discussed in a comparative or theoretical frame, or reinterpreted through other conceptual approaches. Judging from the short-term projects and co-operation described in the documents and presentations, the staff is capable of exploiting these possibilities.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The shift of focus in the core project from Prague to Moravia and Silesia means that the field work will demand new kinds of local knowledge and more funds for mobility. If long-term financing is not provided, the project might be seriously slowed down. The current trend of moving research money from fixed budgets to grants constitutes a clear threat for the Department's main activity. It is evident that the staff is capable

of making successful grant applications, but this should not be allowed to work to its disadvantage.

4. Recommendations

The long-term viability of the Department's main project should be secured through guaranteed financing that takes into consideration the needs stemming from the new phase in research. The Department, together with colleagues in other Departments, should continue to exploit the material provided by the main project in other contexts also. The issue of online and e-publication has to be addressed in the near future.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The work done both in the core long-term project and in the short-term projects is of high quality. 80% of the output evaluated in the Phase 1 was ranked "world-leading" or "internationally excellent". The Department carries out its basic mission with excellence, while being also capable of contributing significantly to discussions in other fields and other topics (such as for example cultural memory and secularization).

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The staff members teach at different kind of institutions of higher education and participate actively in supervision at the BA, MA and PhD levels, with 7 PhDs defended in 2010-2014. There is quantitative data of significant student involvement in research (between 3,5 and 5 FTE annually), but no description of how this participation was achieved.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department's core long-term project has a vital function for the documentation, maintenance and protection of the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic. It is essential also as data informing decisions concerning city planning and other issues directly related to the built environment and artistic monuments. This shows also in the Department staff's participation in numerous commissions, boards and committees related to cultural heritage.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

While the Department's core long-term project has an important national function, the short-term projects offer occasions for international co-operation to the research staff, thus enhancing the visibility of the Department. The research done in this latter context on the 20th century is particularly worth mentioning.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The Department has a highly committed and dynamic staff provided with the necessary competencies for carrying out its mission. Sustainability depends on the availability of long-term financing that corresponds to the nature and importance of the Department's main project.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The Department has a clear plan for the next five-year period. The strategy for implementing the plan is coherent and realistic. The core project on the artistic monuments of Moravia and Silesia will have the dominant role and provide the necessary continuation of the long-term project, with interesting short-terms projects complementing it and developing its results in new directions.

Evaluation of the Team No. 5: Documentation Department

1. Introduction

The Documentation Department has a double role: it provides documentation services (including cataloguing, maintenance and preservation as well as researcher access) and carries out research activities. It is a small department, with 5 members of staff (3 researchers and 2 in the category of other workers), but only 3 – 3,58 FTE annually in the period 2010-2014. It carries out several long-term research projects addressing a number of issues and corpora, with attention to the archives of the IAH. Members of the Department also participate in projects directed by the other teams of the IAH.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Documentation Department has been able to obtain important grants and to find impressive foreign partners (such as the Getty Museum and the Preus Museum in Horten, Norway) in projects that are directly relevant for the holdings at the archives of the IAH. Many of its research activities have an innovative character (the work on early photography and landscape) or constitute leading work in a particular field (epigraphy and sepulchral studies). The Department has also developed a methodology on epigraphy that has been certified by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The relatively high number of research initiatives and activities (described either as “larger temporal projects”, “centres” or “further scientific activity”) as compared to number of researchers does not offer a very clear image of the Department’s core activities and main targets. Fragmentation may constitute a threat. This may be related to the double function of the Department. While the current data shows that the Department is capable of delivering in relation to both of its functions, this may be difficult to maintain in the future. The main very significant infrastructural weakness is inadequate space provision: this also constitutes a threat to the development of the resource in the future.

4. Recommendations

Enhanced space provision and the further development of the staffing complement are key to the future health of the Documentation Department. As the Documentation Department is a fundamental component of the research infrastructure in the IAH and indeed is a key facility for art historical and cultural researchers in the Czech Republic and beyond, these matters need to be urgently addressed by the Academy in dialogue with the IAH. There appears to be the potential for the reorganisation of space in Husova 4 in order to achieve space growth for the Documentation Department, but this is dependent on moving facilities belonging to other institutes and therefore requires Academy intervention.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The team has produced world-leading and internationally excellent research outputs. It has been able to obtain important grants and to find highly qualified foreign co-operation partners

(such as the Getty Museum and the Preus Museum in Horten, Norway) in projects that are directly relevant for the holdings at the archives of the IAH. Many of its research activities have an innovative character (the work on early photography and landscape) or then count among the leading work in their field (epigraph and sepulchral studies).

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Staff teach regularly at MA level at universities in Ústí nad Labem and Brno and have teaching co-operation with the University of Pardubice. There is a track record of 1 BA supervision, 2 MA supervisions and 1 PhD supervision. The statistics mention one PhD as a member of the research team, but there is no further information on the involvement of students in research.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department's activities have societal relevance in the form of archiving and protecting cultural heritage. Its work contributes also to knowledge of specific art forms in their historical social and geographical context, such as epigraphs, photography and landscape. The work enriches the understanding of Czech visual culture and situates it in relation to wider Central and Western European cultures. The library holdings include archives of international significance.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Department's role is fundamental to the specific research environment of the IAH, responsible as it is for its archival and library holdings, these being furthermore naturally part of the cultural heritage of the Czech nation. Through specific projects, the Department has also been able to acquire a visible position in the national or international context in terms of some specific collections (epigraphs, early photography, landscape, history of Czech art history).

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The numerous activities testify to the dynamism of the team and the willingness to look for new possibilities either for co-operation or financial support (or both), or in terms of new research paradigms. The sustainability of these initiatives depends on the capacity to avoid fragmentation by developing the staff structure, alongside the need to achieve adequate facilities including larger storage and working spaces.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

Three research areas emerge as central for the next five-year period: landscape; epigraphs and sepulchra; and early photography. The Department intends to carry out also work on other central themes and in other research contexts, such as the strategy 21 or the CSA ("Memory in the Digital Age"), the work of Zdeněk Wirth and the post-war confiscation of cultural monuments. The strategy employed to pursue these activities with limited human resources and limited space is not fully articulated.

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Commission Chair: Prof. Alessandro Ferrara Ph.D.