

Preface

It was indeed my pleasure to edit this issue of the *Review of the National Center for Digitization*. Seventeen of the papers included were presented last year at the Sixth International SEEDI Conference and at the First Festival of Croatian Digitisation Projects that took place in Zagreb, from 18th to 20th May 2011. Multi-authored papers from all member countries of the SEEDI initiative show the diversity of subjects and issues we are faced with in digitisation activities.

The development of cultural and scientific heritage, sharing experiences in digitisation among scientists and professionals from different areas of human knowledge, and most of all particular care for the protection and accessibility of heritage are all part of the pledge for the increase in knowledge and skills, and ultimately, a requirement for the creation of a successful society, which is also the aim of the countries of the South-Eastern Europe. Allowing the creation of new values through the option of further use and remodelling of knowledge, the digital media are conducive to knowledge dissemination and its further use.

However, the papers in this issue will clearly show digitisation is not only a simple process of scanning various heritage objects (books, journals, monuments, museum items, sound recordings). Creation of systems that manage the entire digitisation process from an old book, for instance, to its digital image that can be searched, viewed and accessed in various ways, and from anywhere in the world has become a necessity. Many other issues are in the fore of interest of digitisation community: metadata and their interoperability, item or collection level description, OCR, quality of digital images, preservation, to mention only a few.

And last but not the least, one must mention the possibilities and inclusion of digitisation projects and programmes in other systems and aggregators, national and international, providing the users the most democratic form of knowledge dissemination and access possibilities.

The papers in this issue tackle many topics, open new discussions, and propose new ideas. Many of these still need to be discussed at future SEEDI conferences.

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