Historical Bibliography as an Essential Source for Historiography
(5th International Conference on European Historical Bibliographies 2013, Prague, Villa Lanna, November 7-8, 2013)

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Opening Address

Ladies and gentlemen, dear visitors,

on behalf of the Institute od History of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic I feel truly honoured to cordially welcome all the participants here, in the newrenesance villa Lanna.

Publish or perish! A saying known to all scholars who decide to transfer their ideas into a written text. A text, which they do not keep in the computer, a text, which is published. It is published as a monograph, a collection of papers, an article in a journal; will be distributed, read, reviewed and become a component of the spiritual property of the entire nation at home as well as abroad.

Obsession with publishing is well known especially in the scholarly community. But it is not only obsession to convey to their colleagues or the broad public the new knowledges that the researcher has reached after hard work in the archives, laboratories or libraries. It is also a duty to "settle the accounts" and boast of the results of work, which frequently becomes the lifelong interest and hobby. At the same time, publishing of scholarly outcomes contributes to development of scientific disciplines and moves them forward. Without publishing, new knowledges would become lost in the flood of information,
would be neglected and forgotten. Publishing is also a motivation, a motor and an issue of prestige.

At present, the scholarly presentation is frequently measured by the amount of published works and their citations abroad and in the Czech Republic. The modern scholarly community uses worldwide bibliographic databases for registering, searching and quoting the published works.

Bibliography, its methodology, printed and digital outputs as well as broad international collaboration is rooted in the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences in the Department of Historical Bibliography headed by Dr. Václava Horčáková. It is one of the basic sources of information for historical sciences and humanities, following the tradition of bibliography in the Czech lands since the early 20th century with application of modern methods.

Bibliography is the topic of this conference as the worldwide information phenomenon of the scholarly world. I believe that today's meeting of significant bibliographers from many European countries will contribute to establishment of new contacts, cultivation of ideas and development of mutual collaboration.

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