

Title: Contributions towards the establishment of documentation principles for art museums in Brazil

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#### Abstract

Recently, Brazilian museums have shown an increased interest in museum documentation. So far, however, there has been little discussion about information organization of art collections. In general, studies in this field suffer from several drawbacks: most of them have only focused on computing and its applications instead of principles and theory; the relationship between Museology and Information Science has not been widely investigated; and, particularly in Brazil, the first serious discussions on museum documentation emerged during the 2000s with local events, while internationally, discussions have been going on since the late 19th century. The main issue addressed in this study is the need of information organization principles for Brazilian art collections. Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine documentation guidelines on museum objects, as well as their development, to contribute with discussion in Brazil, and to propose a methodology for artworks information organization, which may be used as a parameter to Brazilian museums. It was hypothesized that the absence of national associations, and the lack of knowledge on international standards, resulted in an ineffective documentation of collections, including damage to the artworks information retrieval and

access. The findings, while preliminary, suggest that international associations were accountable for gathering professionals, creating a collaborative environment, and establishing documentation tools, mainly in the 1960s, and so these associations were believed to be the core of museum documentation development. Nevertheless, the formulation of specific tools for museum objects overlaps the formulation of theory, which is fundamental to guide documentary practices.