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Documenting Heritage of Nokia - From Discussions to Catalogue

In this paper I will approach provenance of knowledge in traditional sense and field research in applied sense. In 2015 the Museum of Technology received a donation of some ninety data transmission devices from 1960s to 2010s collected and arranged by employees of Nokia and its spin-off companies. Currently, the museum is planning documentation workshops to collect information and connect individual objects with larger concepts such as the company history and innovations and technologies involved. The idea is to gain comprehensive contextual information about the collection by bringing together expertise and experiences of former Nokia employees and documentation and interpretation skills of museum professionals.

The method of the documentation is a conversational group interview inspired by the objects. Subsequently, workshop discussions will be digested and used in cataloguing individual objects and object groups by museum professionals. In this paper I will discuss planning and organizing the outcomes of the documentation workshops: What is the optimal relation between cataloguing information in collections management system and other documents kept in collection archives? How the workshop itself has to be documented to trace the provenance of the information? What information should and can be collected on the workshop participants?