

Programme 2002-2005

Scientific Research

The name of the working group:

Name has changed from Scientific Methods of Examination Working Group to Scientific Research Working Group. The Resin WG has merged with the Scientific Research WG.

Research goals in the program:

1. Advanced research on the molecular aspects of the composition, ageing and deterioration of materials used in cultural property and works of art.
2. Innovation and further development of micro-scale analytical methods for examination of cultural property including methods for computer assisted imaging and data processing
3. Innovation and development of methodology for non-destructive examination of the surface and subsurface features of cultural property
4. Research on technically advanced conservation treatment methods.

Short-term objective (till mid-2003):

Create the conditions under which the working group members can interact in useful manners. The coordinator has taken the initiative to contact all members and to find out what their research objectives are. Address data are checked, main research topics are inventoried and a list of five key publications should give insight into past and present activities. These data are passed on to all members as a way to develop a network of communication and to promote collaborative research.

Topics of special interest are being identified. The plan is to create some focus groups and it is envisaged to appoint several corresponding scientists who should report on the progress to be reported in the Newsletter.

Some topics imply the collaborative interaction between working groups. For example with the proposed

Paintings WG topic " Implications of the metal soap structure of aged oil paints for visual integrity and conservation of paintings"

Longer-term objective (2003 and 2004):

Creation a collaborative network of specialists working on related topics. Seeking of funding for the support of further research into these topics. Since some networks are already operational outside ICOM-CC, it is also seen as a task to interact with those networks and to exchange information (For example IRUG and some EU supported networks).

Interim meetings:

The organisation of interim meetings on our research topics or the inclusion of these topics in other scientific meetings under the auspices of our WG will be actively encouraged.