SUMMARY

Section A at the 10th Congress of Czech Historians in Ostrava was entitled *The use of modern technologies in historical research and documentation*. The section included a total of 13 papers; the authors were historians from various research institutions in the Czech Republic. This volume contains seven of these papers—focusing primarily on the use of modern technologies in historiography.

The opening study, by Petr Sommer, discusses the changing methodolgy of social sicences and the status of scholarly research in today's consumer society. He highlights the problem of the atomization and formalization of scinece and scholarship, pointing out the importance of interdisciplinarity as a counterweight to this process and discussing the role of new technologies and methodologies in interdisciplinary collaboration. In Sommer's view, a possible way out of the current situation is the use of technology as a methodological tool–i.e. its implementation in scholarly research, supported by high-quality education and training and combined with critical and careful questioning together with an emphasis on interdisciplinarity.

Martin Kuna's study uses the archeological site at Roztoky as an example to demonstrate the differing methodologies of history and archeology. He presents a set of questions that arise when analyzing the case—questions which can only be answered using methods taken from the natural sciences and not the humanities.

The following study, by Václav Ledvinka, addresses the issue of technological innovations and their importance for historiographic research. The author focuses primarily on the impact of modern technologies on standards of critical thinking and ethics in research. In his opinion, the massive boom in digital electronic media and information technologies also represents a potential stimulus for the development of a modern methodolgy of historical research taking advantage of qualitatively new opportunities offered by this process. Ledvinka also argues that systematic attention shloud be paid to this issue as a part of the educational system.

The next study, by Tomáš Dvořák, traces the effects of modern technologies on the development of Czech archives. Dvořák demonstrates a gradual development starting with the earliest use of information technology in archives and leading up to the current situation, as Czech archivists have attempted to understand and deal with the impacts of modern information and communication technologies. He describesw the lack of solid methodological basis and the lack of a comprehensive analysis of digital

documents and of the principles according to which these documents are created and altered. In the author's opinion, inadequacies in this area are necessarily reflected in inadequate and unsystematic legislation as well as in the practise of archiving.

Bohdan Kaňák's article presents the *VadeMeCum* software system, which is used by the Provincial Archives in Opava to digitalize the institution's archive sources and make them accessible to the public. He describes the individual steps enabling users to conduct effective searchs in the database, and he points out the risks that face less experienced users working with full-text searches and other processes.

The last paper in the section, by Ivana Ebelová and Michaela Hrubá, focuses on the documentation of municipal books in the Czech Republic. The authors outline the *Libri Civitatis* project, which involves both archive instituions and universities; at the heart of the project is the revision of the current (obsolete) inventory of municipal books and its extension beyond 1526 in the form of an on-line database, as well as the publication of the book series *Libri civitatis*, which consists of the oldest and most important municipal books from Bohemian and Moravian towns and cities. The paper also draws attention to the unsystematic and uncoordinated pracites that are prevalent in the publication of this type of source. These issues can only be overcome by means of systematic methodological work, which is another key component of the project.

The final study in the volume is written by Hedvika Kuchařová a Kateřina Bobková Valentová and dedicated to problems related to the standardization of historical bio-bibliographical sources and their databases. The text of the study mainly focuses on bio-bibliographic databases of members of monastic orders and problems related to digitalizatin of the written sources and their transfer into the electronic form. The study also points out beside the technical difficulties the questions related to the ethics of scientific research and intellectual property.

Because a considerable amount of time has elapsed between the Congress and this publication, it was necessary to consider the possibility of updating the texts. After disscusions between the editors and the authors, the studies were left in their original form (or with only minor modifications). The texts in this volume thus reflect the state of the discipline at the time when the 10th Congress of Czech Historians was held.