

Abstract

Using digital technologies to reconstitute the provenance of musical instruments from dealers' stock books: assessment of a method

Reconstructing the provenance of a musical instrument involves meticulous analysis of multiple, scattered, multilingual and sometimes incomplete resources, a time-consuming task requiring significant human resources. Digital technologies open up new perspectives for massively exploiting historical sources and facilitating provenance research. We have tested this approach on the registers of a 19th-20th century violin-making workshop to reconstruct ownership times periods of the instruments. The digital method used and its results will be presented and discussed.