The Open Catalogue of Manuscripts and Other Information Systems for a New Role of Libraries in Education

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Structure of the presentation

- Introduction
- The Open Catalogue and the Malatestiana Library
- Management Information Systems for teaching and research in Latin palaeography
- Conclusion
Introduction

The ICT has produced a revolution in communication and information management. The development of the Internet recently allowed the recovery of social forms of communication that printed books had passed in the background if not completely erased.

The scheme on the right reports an hypothesis for knowledge construction as deduced from the authors’ experiences with the use of the ICT.
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The Open Catalogue of manuscripts and Malatestiana Library

The Internet has modified the way of publishing catalogues of manuscripts. In the wake of the experience made all over Europe the authors have proposed the creation of an Open Catalogue of manuscripts. Malatestiana library decided to make up the system by using its own resources.
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The Open Catalogue of Malatestiana Library

An open catalogue of manuscripts in the Malatestiana Library

In the library designed and built in the mid-15th century by Malatesta Novello, Lord of Cesena, 343 manuscripts, which give witness to his tastes and cultural inclinations, are housed. Malatesta Novello enriched the ancient volumes (about fifty) of the Franciscan convent with an invaluable collection of manuscripts that were especially copied and illuminated, and with the codices that were purchased, donated, dedicated, or already part of his family’s patrimony. The collection of Giovanni di Marco, the physician of Malatesta Novello, consists of 53 codices that were added to this already noteworthy and homogeneous library. Fewer donations by citizens of Cesena did not in any way alter the original characteristics of this quite impressive collection of ancient books.

Moreover, the Malatestiana Library houses two celebrated 15th century local liturgical series: seven choral books from the Cathedral and eight from the Franciscan convent. These works can be traced back to the project of bibliographic renewal undertaken by Malatesta Novello. Finally, 59 manuscripts dating from the 12th to the 15th century belong to the Piana Library, the private collection of Pope Pius VII (Barnaba Chiamousti). Twelve more manuscripts belonged to the town library, which was formed at the beginning of the 19th century with the books once owned by the dissolved religious houses. The total number of
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Illumination

Manuscript D.IX.1

D (side = right)

IX (n. of the pluteo = scriptorium)

1 (n. of the manuscript)

*De civitate Dei (S. Augustinus)*
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The Open Catalogue of Malatestiana Library

Forum

Work in progress (open workshop)

Collaborative bibliography
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Information systems for Latin palaeography - 1

Women and written culture in the Middle Ages

Reports data on manuscripts and women who wrote them.
The Women Copyists Database

- List of shellmarks
- Query on manuscripts
- List of copystes
- Query on copystes

NOTICE

Women and written culture in the Middle Ages aims at creating a database of women who left their names in manuscripts up to the fifteenth century. We intend to increase the names of copystes only, by excluding in this first stage illuminators and binders, who were also involved in book production. Our data are normally taken from secondary sources; we hope to reduce their concision and disparity by the direct inspection of manuscripts.

The query of the database can be performed as explained below:

- The first query type creates the list of shellmarks in the database including the origin and date of the manuscripts.
- The second query type allows the use of one or more fields characterizing each manuscript (their meaning is better explained below). Users can also fill in the shellmark and text fields of the query form with some partial data (i.e. only a word or a part of it).
- The third query type lists the names of women copyists in the database including their qualification and period of work.
- The fourth query type allows the use of one or more fields characterizing each woman copyist.
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Information systems for Latin palaeography - 3
Information systems for Latin palaeography - 4

Women copyists database

Name:

Qualification:

- Lay
- Nun
- Not specified
- All

Time interval:

Cancel 	Confirm query

[ Back to a new query | Back to the home page ]
Information systems for Latin palaeography - 5

Bibliography of Beneventan Manuscripts

Reports the bibliographies on the manuscripts written in the ancient Southern Italy scripting style.
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Conclusion

The following remarks can be deduced:
a) ancient libraries can play a relevant role on university student education; they have in fact the documents for any philological, historical and bibliographical analysis of reality and can make them available to students by means of the ICT and online information systems,
b) ancient libraries can have a new role in adult education by adopting the strategies the authors used with palaeography students or can adapt them to a wider audience.
It might be a good occasion for ancient libraries to get out from the routine paperwork of the administration of their materials, to recover the central function of culture promoters they progressively lost and to enter in a new phase of knowledge construction and development by creating communities of learning and practices actively cooperating on the study of their materials.