

MaGI

Manoscritti Greci d'Italia



Trieste, Pavia - Cremona, Bologna, Florence, Siena, and Cassino) and conservation librarians. The programme is aimed at promoting the **scientific description and photographic documentation of ancient and medieval manuscripts in Greek and Latin script held by Italian libraries**. Cutting-edge technologies for the digital management of texts are combined with palaeographic-codicological and philological-literary research methods to carry out the work.

Within the framework of BIM, the universities of Bologna, Cassino, Pavia - Cremona, Udine, and Venice are realising the **electronic cataloguing and documentation of around 6,500 Greek manuscripts held by Italy's major and minor libraries**. Second only to Greece, Italy boasts the richest Greek manuscript heritage among all European nations, thanks to the persistent vitality

of Greek culture in central and southern Italy during the Middle Ages. A humanist revival among lovers of classical literature, who promoted the rediscovery of ancient texts and favoured their circulation and reading through the acquisition of existing manuscripts and the production of new copies, further accounts for the wealth of such material in Italy. This rich and important

manuscript heritage is currently described in printed catalogues and inventories that were produced, for the most part, between the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. These resources are clearly oriented towards the identification of texts, with little or no attention paid to the structure, calligraphy and decoration of the codices.

The ongoing work involves a wide range of major and minor collections located in the following regions: Veneto (Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana); Friuli Venezia-Giulia (Trieste, Biblioteca Civica and the Biblioteca della Comunità Greca; Udine, Biblioteca Arcivescovile); Emilia Romagna (Bologna, Biblioteca Universitaria; Modena, Biblioteca Universitaria Estense; Parma, Bi-

blioteca Palatina; Ravenna, Istituzione Classense); Lazio (Rome, Biblioteca Angelica, Biblioteca Vallicelliana, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II; Montecassino, Biblioteca Statale Monumento Nazionale), and Campania (Naples, Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III).

The **analytical cataloguing process takes place directly online**, partly from scratch, and partly as an updated conversion of previous descriptions. The work is carried out using a **specially adapted version of "Nuova Biblioteca Manoscritta" software** (www.nuovabibliotecamanoscritta.it) combined with an online database which provides access to the catalogue. "Nuova Biblioteca Manoscritta" is an application that was first developed for the cataloguing of Latin manuscripts, but is fully adaptable to manuscripts originating from other cultural traditions. The software was designed with the aim of allowing cataloguers to work in a collaborative way; it therefore permits them to share all data relating to name and title headings, and the bibliography associated with the descriptions.

In tandem with the description of the manuscripts, the project includes a **digitisation campaign** which involves the reproduction of the entire codex or of a selection of representative pages, according to agreements reached with the participating libraries. The **fully digitised versions of about 180 manuscripts are already freely available for consultation online at the National Repository "Internet Culturale"** (http://www.internetculturale.it/opencms/opencms/it/collezioni/collezione_0165.html).

