IRMA International Conference
MANAGING WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

VANCOUVER (BC), CANADA    May 19-23, 2007

Track: Information Communication Technology

Dr. Antonio Cartelli – University of Cassino (Italy)

THE OPEN CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE MALATESTIANA LIBRARY: BALANCE AND PERSPECTIVES
ICT radically changed the approach scholars had with manuscripts for at least two reasons:

- **the way manuscripts were analyzed,**

before the Internet researchers had to personally study manuscripts in archives or libraries, now they can find the images on many web sites;

- **the medium scientist could adopt to share the results of their work,**

web sites are more and more used to publish the results of paleographers’ researches.
The Open Catalogue is an information system to be adopted from ancient libraries (in a flexible way), which has the following sections:

a) the **documents** explaining the history of the library and its manuscripts,
b) the **bibliography** ordered by shelfmark and, eventually, alphabetically and chronologically, is housed in the second section,
c) the **descriptions of the manuscripts**, i.e. previous printed catalogues or ancient handwritten catalogues (suitably digitized) and new descriptions (according to nationally/internationally defined standards) are stored,
d) the **images of the highest number of manuscripts in the library** (possibly all),
e) **communication subsystems** including electronic blackboards, chats, forums and special Web solutions granting the easier acquisition, writing and editing of texts among the members of a selected community of scholars interested in the materials in the library.
The Open Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Malatestiana Library: balance and perspectives

In the **Malatestiana library**, designed and built in the mid-15th century by Malatesta Novello, Lord of Cesena, are housed:

- **343 manuscripts** including the ancient volumes (about fifty) of the Franciscan convent, codices which were purchased, received in donation, dedicated, or already part of Malatesta Novello’s patrimony,
- **53 codices** from the collection of Giovanni di Marco, the physician of Malatesta Novello,
- **7 choral books** of the Cathedral,
- **8 further books** of the Franciscan convent,
- **59 manuscripts** from the Piana Library (they were the private library of Pope Pius VII),
- **12 manuscripts** from the town library (they were collected from dissolved religious houses in 19th century).
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Web site of the Open Catalogue of Malatestiana Library in Cesena

http://www.malatestiana.it/manoscritti/

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Query page for the manuscripts in the library

In October 2006 there were the reproductions of 42 codices (now 43)

http://www.malatestiana.it/manoscritti/
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Answer to the query for Bessarione 8 (Choral)

http://www.malatestiana.it/manoscritti/

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First page of choral
Bessarione n. 8

http://www.malatestiana.it/manoscrittii/
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Protected area

a) Forum
b) Working area
c) Collaborative bibliography

http://www.malatestiana.it/manoscritti/

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Web site of the Open Catalogue of Lancisiana Library in Rome

http://sviluppo.homegate.it/lancisiana/ita/ms_caperto.asp

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