

MINERVA PROGRESS REPORT 2003

The SAN project (Sistema Archivistico Nazionale), developed by the Directorate General for Archives, has as its objective to build an information platform for the national archives heritage, both to respond to user needs as well as to optimise the data management of the 144 State archives throughout the country. This platform, based on the ISAD and ISAAR international standards for archives and on the OAI metadata on an XML base, will pass from an experimental phase to a practical application during 2003 and will be tested at some national archives.

The IMAGO project (digitisation of complete original documents with scientific descriptions and the implementation of a platform for virtual local and on-line consultation) has involved many of the Italian national State archives: Cagliari, Florence, Lucca, Perugia, Rome, Turin, Venice, and Milan. Each of these manages their own part of the project and publishes the IMAGO results on-line, according to their budgets (for example, Turin <http://ww2.multix.it/asto/asp/carte.asp>, Rome <http://www.asrm.archivi.beniculturali.it>, Cagliari http://www.archiviodistato.cagliari.it/archivio_imago.html).

The particularity of the project is the notable technological commitment and the very high image resolution, the quality of which is such as to enable a use not only for reading the content but also for analysing the support.

The Guida generale degli Archivi di Stato italiani - The general guide of Italian State Archives (http://www.maas.ccr.it/cgiwin/h3.exe/aguida/findex_guida) published in four volumes between 1981 and 1994, presents a synthetic but highly scientific description of the documentary patrimony conserved in the State Archives Institutes. The project of digitising the information that the work contains was made up of two phases: the first (1998-2000) involved the digitisation operations of the printed volumes with the adoption of a *mark-up language* (SGML) for the description of the original data model and the subsequent transposition of the computerised data in a system of updating and of *information retrieval* via the Web; a second phase was initiated in 2002, to carry out migration in an innovative XML object databank, managed by a native XML search engine and structured using the EAD standard. The XML format and EAD coding ensure complete and shared accessibility to the data, and together guarantee its long-term conservation.

MINERVA PROGRESS REPORT 2004

National networks Apart from the SBN library network (<http://www.sbn.it>), news of which was given in previous editions of this book, one of the most important national networks, already created or in the process of being so, is the SIAS project, the Computer System of the Italian State Archives. The project is aimed at establishing a distributed software platform based on advanced technologies for qualitative and quantitative description, management and fruition of archives and of the inventories of the Italian State Archives. The objectives are many, both from the point of view of communication to web users of information on the national documentary heritage, and at central and peripheral management level. From the user's viewpoint, the system foresees fluid research routes, through structurally linked nodes that go from general to particular, from the

presentation of the State Archive and its consultation venues to the description of complex documentaries in their hierarchical articulation and in relations with the people, families or companies that produced them, and through the inventory as far as the minimum description unit and again to the image of the single document, where this was reproduced in digital form. The architecture of the system is based on the creation of a network of local information systems at each State Archive, lined up with the centre for the technical-scientific control of the data. It is important to note that the interface of the web server was planned and completed following the lines defined in the *Manuale per la qualità dei siti web pubblici culturali* (Handbook for the quality in cultural website, English edition) of the MINERVA project. <http://archivi-sias.it/>

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Centro di fotoriproduzione, legatoria e restauro degli archivi di Stato - CFLR The Centro di fotoriproduzione, legatoria e restauro degli archivi di Stato-CFLR (The Centre for photo-reproduction, binding and restoration of the state archives) <<http://www.cflr.beniculturali.it/Digitale.htm>> is the research institute of the Ministry that deals with the conservation and restoration of archive materials, from parchments to digitals supports. As the national centre responsible for the long-term conservation of digital memory, the CFLR is involved in many national and international activities. On the one hand the CFLR has a well-equipped laboratory for the Digitisation of images of every format and support, but it also prepares strategies and guidelines for digital filming (cf. the 2004 study, <http://www.cflr.beniculturali.it/Digitale_file/Scanners.pdf> and experiments procedures and equipment for correct conservation on various digital supports. It is a partner of the TAPE-Training for Audiovisual Preservation in Europe <<http://www.tape-online.net>>