



Collection Security Summer School 2024

From a security archive to free access heritage: the digitisation project of the National Centre for the Study of Manuscripts

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Central National Library of Rome





RRF AND CULTURAL HERITAGE:



The digitisation project of the National Centre for the Study of Manuscripts





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The **National Central Library of Rome** is the beneficiary of a grant worth **€ 9.2 million** under the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan** (PNRR, the national version of the RRF – Recovery and Resilience Facility) for the **digitisation** of the entire microfilm corpus of manuscripts preserved at the **National Centre for the Study of Manuscripts (CNSM)**



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE CONTEXT

MISSION 1:
DIGITALISATION, INNOVATION,
COMPETITIVENESS, CULTURE AND
TOURISM

COMPONENT 3:
TOURISM AND CULTURE

INVESTMENT 1.1: DIGITAL STRATEGIES AND
PLATFORMS FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

SUB-INVESTMENT M1C3 1.1.5:
DIGITISATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural, strategic and methodological context is set out in the **National Digitisation Plan (PND)** published by the **Central Institute for the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage - Digital Library of the Ministry of Culture**. The PND is available on the Docs.Italia.it platform at the page: <https://docs.italia.it/italia/icdp/>

PNRR, digitalizzazione del patrimonio culturale: online la procedura di gara da 9,2 milioni di euro per la categoria "Microfilm di manoscritti"

Publicato il: 29 Luglio 2022

ISCRIVITI ALLA NEWSLETTER

Inserisci email →

Accconsento al **trattamento dei dati**

Argomenti:

PNRR

Stampa Condividi

Dettaglio

La Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma destinataria di un intervento di digitalizzazione attuato dall'Istituto centrale per la digitalizzazione del patrimonio culturale - Digital Library nell'ambito del Programma Next Generation EU. Invitalia è Centrale di Committenza

Digitalizzazione dei microfilm dei manoscritti: è quanto previsto dalla prima gara avviata per l'intervento di digitalizzazione destinato ad arricchire, espandere e organizzare il patrimonio culturale digitale nazionale. La gara è pubblicata da Invitalia in qualità di Centrale di Committenza unica per i progetti di digitalizzazione del patrimonio culturale previsti dal PNRR.

L'obiettivo della procedura di gara, volta alla conclusione di un **Accordo Quadro multilaterale con più fornitori**, è affidare agli appaltatori selezionati i servizi di digitalizzazione dei **microfilm di manoscritti** del Centro Nazionale per lo Studio del Manoscritto (CNSM) conservati presso la **Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma**, che è soggetto destinatario dell'intervento.

Il progetto avrà un valore complessivo di **9,2 milioni di euro** e

ULTIMI COMUNICATI

Napoli, firmato protocollo di intesa per Palazzo Fuga
8 Marzo 2023

Museo Archivio Centrale dello Stato, il 14 marzo inaugurazione "Lo scr..."
8 Marzo 2023

Maggio Fiorentino, Ministro Sangiuliano riceve sindaco Nardella
7 Marzo 2023

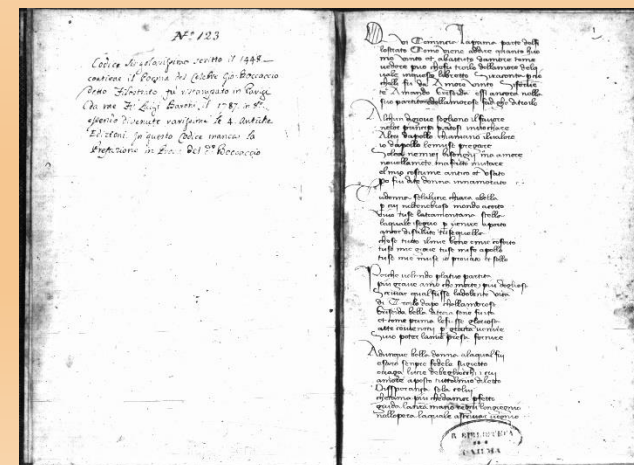
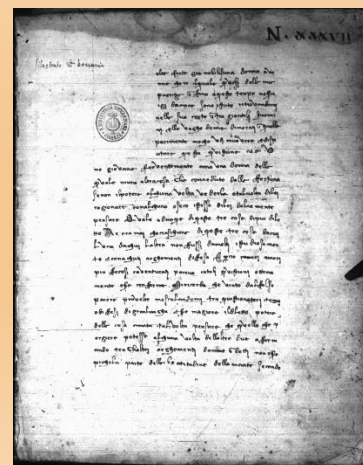
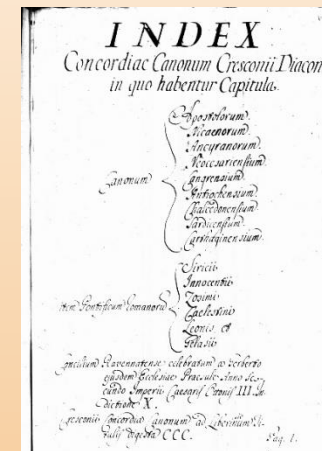
Napoli, Sangiuliano: "Ipotesi vincolo su Metropolitan per continuare a..."
7 Marzo 2023



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE HERITAGE

The National Centre for the Study of Manuscripts (CNSM) collects over 105.000 microfilms relating to approximately 111,000 manuscripts held in 190 public and private Italian institutions, and in 11 foreign institutions; is the result of the most extensive photographic documentation campaign ever conducted in Italy on manuscript collections, starting after World War 2 and continuing until the 1990s



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE


This heritage is currently kept at the **Manuscripts and Rare Books Department** of the National Central Library in Rome



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

It can be explored through an **online catalogue** created in the early 2000s by converting the paper card catalogue into a database.

The **catalogue** provides all the information needed to identify the microfilm, the manuscript and historical information about the production of the film



Biblioteca nazionale centrale Roma

Numero Scheda : 47830
Città Roma
Biblioteca : Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II
Fondo : Vittorio Emanuele
Segnatura del Manoscritto : Vitt.Em.411
Segnatura del Microfilm : Pos 86
Supporto : Pellicola 35 mm
Perforata : Perforata
Tipo pellicola : Positiva
Colore : No
Marca pellicola o supporto : Ferrania
Ditta Riproduttrice (nome e sede) : ICPL Roma
Anno di esecuzione : 1958
Luogo di esecuzione : Roma
Numero Fotogrammi : 105
Note :

PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

All microfilms can be requested and consulted at the **Manuscripts and Rare Books Room** of the BNCR, where online catalogue, topographical card catalogues and special viewers for reading the films are available



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The microfilm heritage of the CNSM consists of an estimated **23 million individual frames** that will be converted in the same number of digital resources.

Since each microfilm frame comprises generally two side-by-side papers of the same manuscript (one *verso* and the following *recto*), the **digitisation project will produce approximately 46 million individual digitised pages**



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The original core of microfilm came from the microfilm collection of the **Documentation Center** established in **1957** at the **Institute for Book Pathology** as a result of Law 1227/1957.

The purpose was to initiate an **organic project of collecting at a single location** the microfilms of manuscripts already made by individual libraries and continuing a wide-ranging photographic campaign, with the aim of creating a **security archive of the national manuscript heritage**



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

“The concern that in the future Libraries, Archives, collections and monuments of art may be destroyed or damaged by war or other calamities has given rise in many [...] the desire to promote and urge precautionary measures to prevent the feared damage and to protect and defend books documents and things of art. [...]. Whatever the aspects of a future war and the offensive potential of the opposing forces, there is, however, some proposal that deserves careful consideration.

We mean to refer to that of microphotographing manuscripts and valuable ancient editions for conservation and precautionary purposes” (1953)



Alfonso Gallo (1890-1952), founder of the Central Institute for Book Pathology



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Law No. 1227 of December 13, 1957, "Extraordinary appropriations for the defense of the artistic, historical and bibliographical heritage of the Nation," authorized the extraordinary expenditure of **18 billion of Italian liras** to provide for extraordinary works for the **conservation, maintenance and restoration** of movable and immovable things of artistic, historical and bibliographical interest subject to Law No. 1089 of June 1, 1939 ("Protection of things of artistic or historical interest"), to be divided into 10 fiscal years

La Camera dei deputati ed il Senato della Repubblica hanno approvato;

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

PROMULGA

la seguente legge:

Art. 1.

E' autorizzata la spesa di lire 18.000.000.000 per provvedere ad opere e lavori straordinari per la conservazione, manutenzione e restauro di cose mobili ed immobili di interesse artistico, storico e bibliografico soggette alla [legge 1 giugno 1939, n. 1089](#).

Detta spesa, da iscriversi nello stato di previsione del Ministero della pubblica istruzione, sara' ripartita, in dieci esercizi finanziari, come segue:

Esercizio 1956-57.....	L. 900.000.000
" 1958-59.....	" 2.100.000.000
" 1959-60.....	" 2.100.000.000
" 1960-61.....	" 2.500.000.000
" 1961-62.....	" 2.500.000.000
" 1962-63.....	" 2.100.000.000
" 1963-64.....	" 1.600.000.000
" 1964-65.....	" 1.600.000.000
" 1965-66.....	" 1.300.000.000
" 1966-67.....	" 1.300.000.000

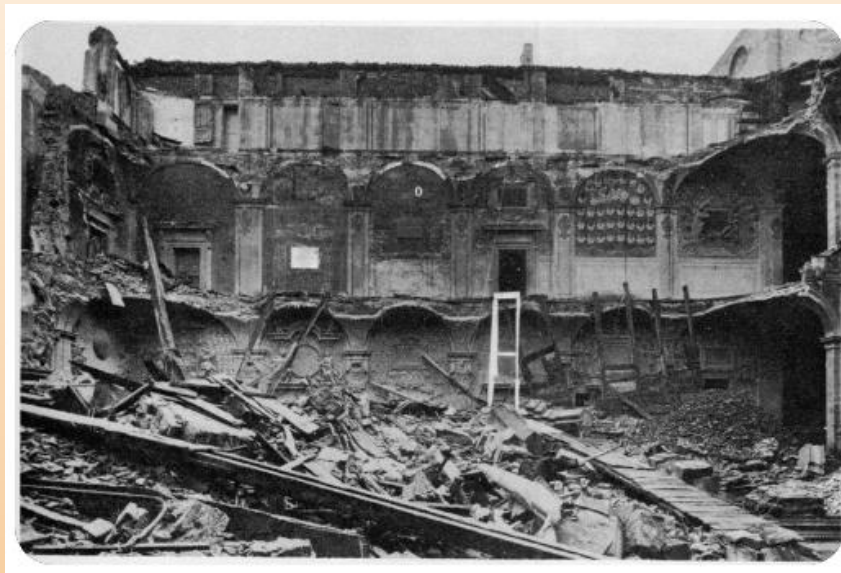
Una quota non superiore al 2 per cento degli stanziamenti annuali di cui al precedente comma potra' essere destinata ad oneri di carattere generale.



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The need arose from the dramatic consequences of **World War II** during which a large library holdings had been destroyed or lost.

Since **1938**, the Institute of Book Pathology had started to create a photo library of images of manuscripts



Bologna, January 29, 1944:
Bombing partially destroys the Archiginnasio library.



Montecassino, October 1943:
Transfer of the library and archives to the Vatican just before the bombing



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

In 1987, after 30 years of intense and fervent activity, that holdings were estimated at about **10 million images** related to manuscripts held in **115 libraries**, including **27 public state libraries**, but with vast gaps within the collections.

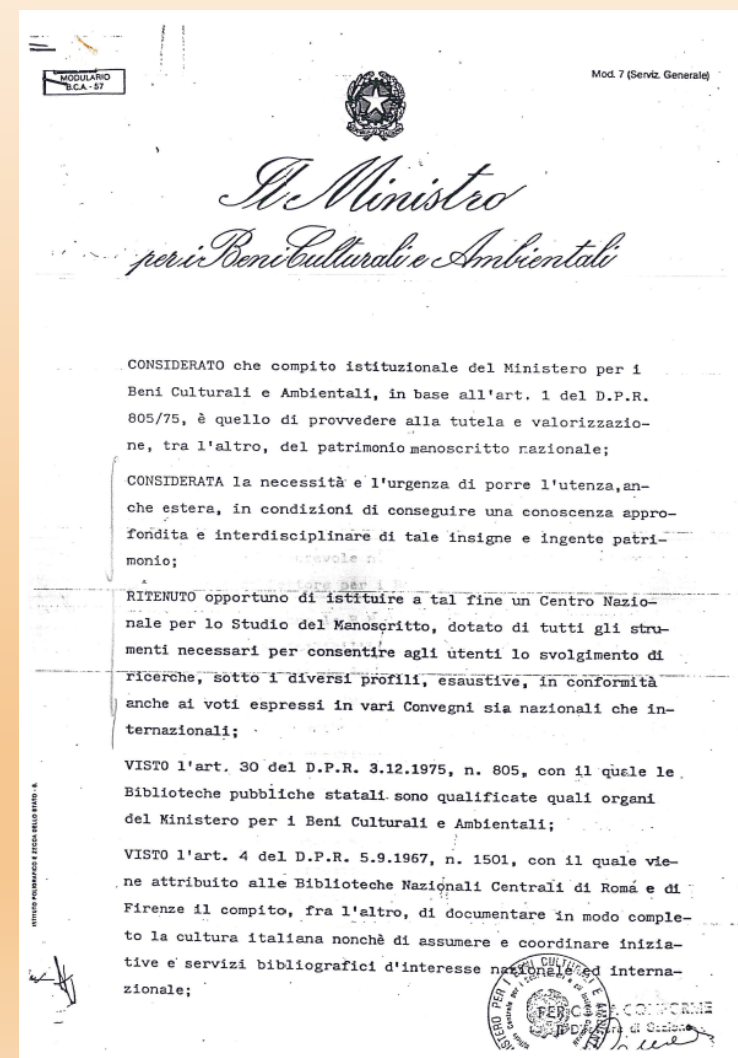
With regard to the **National Library in Rome**, for example, compared with **6269 manuscripts** listed in the catalogues, there were only **1007 microfilms**, representing a **percentage of about 16%**, a figure that is similar to that of many other institutions

	S1.. - microf	S2.. - mss
BO, Univer.....	2.825	7.481
CA, Univer.	103	1.033
Cava (SA),	9	175
CR, Gover.	153	1.036
FI, Laur.	7.654	10.722
FI, Maruc.	62	2.130
FI, Naz.	5.384	24.248
FI, Ricc.	2.843	4.000
GE, Univer.	810	1.854
LU, Stat.	1.800	4.250
MI, Braid.	262	1.640
MO, Est. + U	3.702	13.421
M. CASS., Ba.....	103	1.100
NA, Naz.	1.273	12.955
PD, Univer.	576	2.502
PR, Palat.....	1.465	5.000
PV, Univer.....	376	1.829
PI, Univer.....	1.009	1.045
RM, Ang.....	1.127	2.664
RM, Cas.	1.571	5.784
RM, Naz.....	1.007	6.269
RM. Univer.....	47	376
RM, Vall.....	791	2.929
Subiaco. Ab.....	316	722
TO, Naz.	2.287	3.702
TO, Reale	176	4.296
VE, Marc.	1.683	12.742



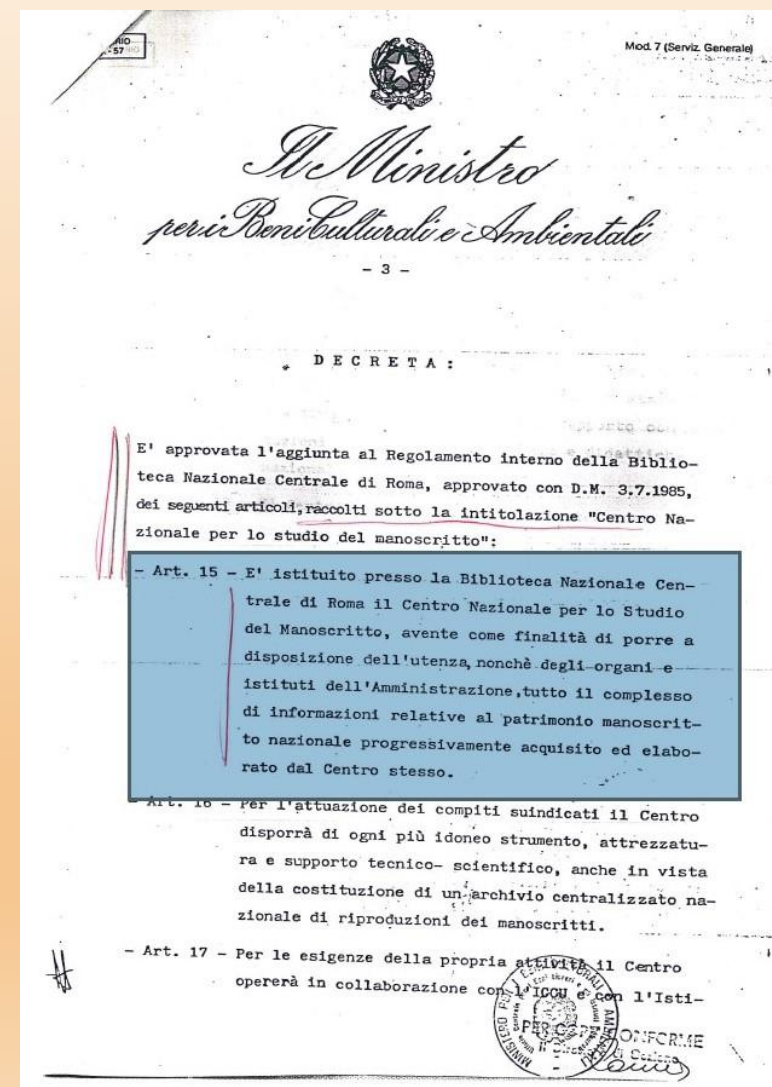
PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The subsequent willingness of the **Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage** to implement such a collection and to give effect to the institutional mission of "providing for the protection and enhancement of the national manuscript heritage" by establishing "for this purpose a **National Center for the Study of the Manuscript** equipped with all the necessary instruments..." , led in **1989** to its establishment



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The founding decree (**Ministerial Decree of February 3, 1989**) signed by Minister Vincenza Bono Parrino, established the Center's headquarters at the **National Central Library in Rome**, specially supplementing its Internal Regulations approved by Ministerial Decree of July 3, 1985, with the purpose of "making available to users the entire body of information relating to the national manuscript heritage progressively acquired and elaborated by the Center itself, as well as to the organs and institutes of the Administration."





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

At the end of **November 1989**, the move to a **new location began**, accompanied by doubts, controversy and opposition, both from those who had managed the collection up to that point, from those who habitually used it with satisfaction, and from those who, although aware of the goodness of the idea of rehousing it at a large library, feared long periods of inaccessibility due to transport and remounting operations

Istituto per la patologia del libro: traslocano alla Nazionale 70 mila microfilm

Il servizio funziona? Rifatelo

di ALESSANDRA ROTA

E' UN PAESE strano, questo, dove un servizio culturale funzionante viene improvvisamente condannato ad essere sepolto in un deposito perché c'è una legge che finanzia il «rifacimento» dello stesso servizio. Sembra un gioco di parole ma è quello che succederà al Centro di documentazione dell'Istituto centrale per la patologia del libro, un «tesoro» di oltre settantamila microfilm sui manoscritti custoditi nelle biblioteche di tutt'Italia che esiste dal 1957.

Alla fine di novembre il prezioso materiale documentario, custodito in una palazzina in via Milano 76, dovrà essere traslocato nella Biblioteca nazionale centrale, perché un decreto ha stabilito che la competenza dei codici filmati spetta alla «cattedrale» di viale Castro Pretorio.

E fin qui non ci sarebbe niente da ridire, ma il destino dei 10 milioni di fotogrammi è già segnato da un'altra legge che ha stanziato un sostanzioso pacchetto di miliardi per rimicrofilmare tutto il materiale manoscritto, però con tecniche diverse e più sofisticate.

Insieme agli armadi contenenti le pellicole, con destinazione Castro Pretorio, partiranno anche i cataloghi e una fetta sostanziosa di un patrimonio poco conosciuto ma unico nel resto del Paese. «D'altra parte il decreto parla chiaro - spiega Maria Lilli Di Franco, direttrice dell'Istituto di patologia del libro Alfonso Gallo da cui il Centro dipende - la competenza passa alla Biblioteca. Ora comunque siamo in fase di inventario, in attesa del trasloco». C'è chi definisce «frettolosa» que-

sta improvvisa «traslazione» e parla della «strana voglia» di far spazio, a via Milano, a una scuola post laurea, superspecialistica, riservata a 15 studenti aspiranti restauratori.

Alla Nazionale, intanto, aspettano con un po' di preoccupazione questa nuova incombenza mentre gli studiosi abituati ad usare il servizio, tra l'altro efficientissimo (insieme alla catalogazione dei microfilm, c'è quella per autore, ma anche quella dei copisti e dei possessori, delle opere geografiche e musicali, fino al catalogo delle legature) temono che il trasloco comprometta definitivamente il Centro. E l'annunciata (e finanziata) rimicrofilmatura? Gli addetti ai lavori prevedono che avrà i «soliti» tempi del ministero dei Beni culturali

“La Repubblica”,

Sunday, November 5 - Monday, November 6, 1989



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The **National Central Library of Rome**, which had "assured the availability of suitable premises for the establishment of the Center," provided a large and bright **reading room**, adjacent to the **Manuscripts and Rare books Room**, according to the provisions of the founding decree, with the drawers containing the microfilms available to scholars, along with movable card catalogues and viewers for consultation



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

In the **1990s** the Center could benefit from a **public grant of ten billion Italian liras** allocated by the **Central Office for Libraries** thanks to the provisions of **Law 449 of 1987**, thus launching a vast microfilming operation **to complete the major holdings pertaining to public and private libraries** and bringing its holdings to their current consistencies

LEGGE 29 ottobre 1987, n. 449

Conversione in legge, con modificazioni, del decreto-legge 7 settembre 1987, n. 371, recante interventi urgenti di adeguamento strutturale e funzionale di immobili destinati a musei, archivi e biblioteche e provvedimenti urgenti a sostegno delle attività culturali.

(GU n.257 del 3-11-1987)

PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

At the **end of 2017**, the National Center for the Study of Manuscripts was merged with the **Manuscripts and Rare books Department**. The drawers containing the microfilms were moved to the stacks of the Manuscripts Room, and all research and consultation activities have since been held at the **Manuscript Room**





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

After a complete review started with this project (which allowed for the elimination of duplicate records, verification of the real consistency of the holdings and the real existence nowadays of a number of private libraries) it was possible to ascertain that the final numbers stand at:

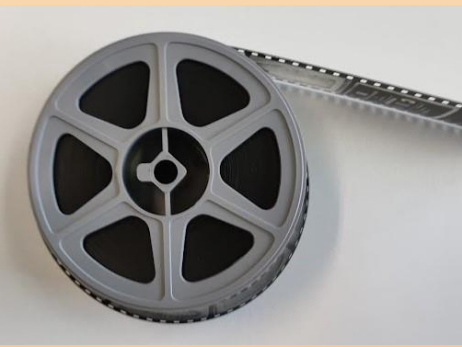
- **105,683 microfilms**
- relating to approximately **111,000 manuscripts**
- belonging to **180 Italian and 10 foreign libraries**



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

11 good reasons to carry out this project

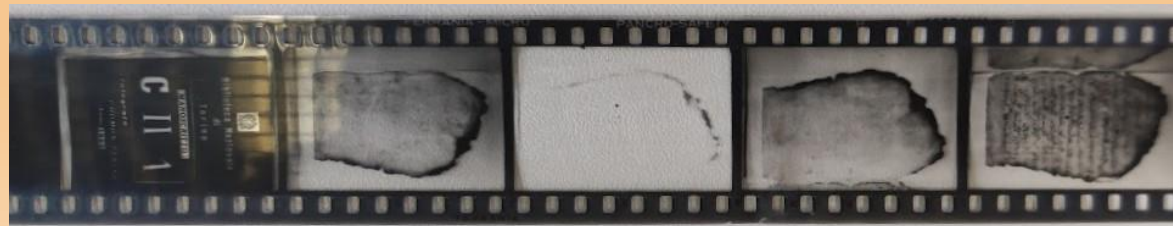


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

1) Conservation need:

there is a need to **preserve the information contained in film media**, once considered an "irreplaceable technique for manuscript reproduction," which are, however, subject to **serious risks of deterioration** related to the nature of the materials. The conventional limit of survival of a perfect microfilm, stored under ideal conditions, is estimated at about **100 years**. Considering that the oldest microfilms date as far back as **1938**, it is easy to see how we are approaching the date of natural "expiration." The only possibility of delivering this heritage to the future is its **integration into a digital dimension**.



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

2) Progressive obsolescence of the viewers:

the enjoyment of these materials is compromised by the **progressive obsolescence of the viewers** used to consult them, which are increasingly rare and expensive to purchase and maintain, and by the unavailability of spare parts, such as lenses and lamps. Should the films also be preserved, it would become increasingly difficult to consult them

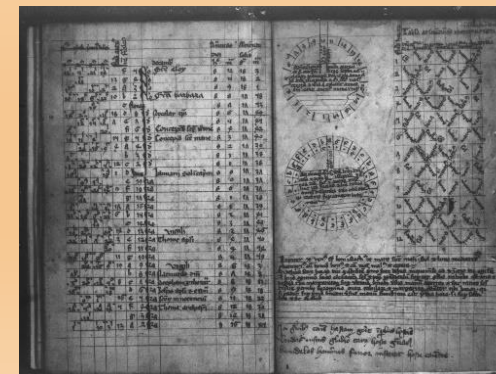
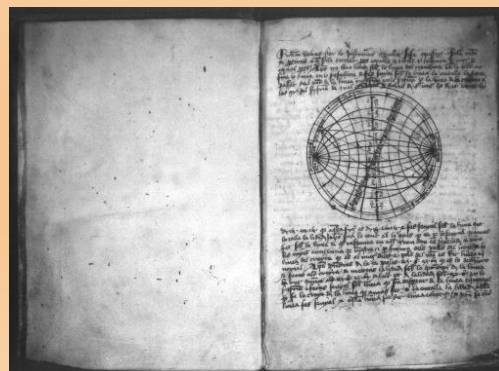
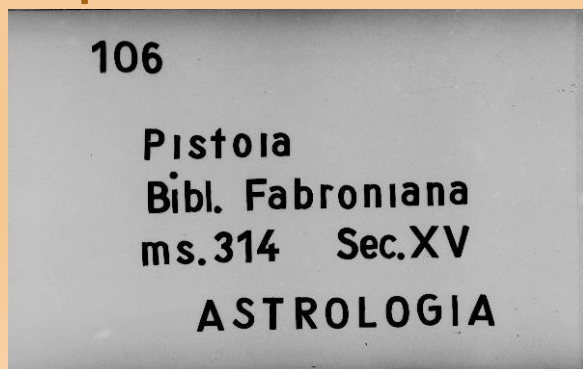


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

3) Reconstruction of the biography of the manuscripts:

the information contained within the microfilms makes it possible to reconstruct the **historical biography** of the works depicted, testifying to their change over time and documenting their evolution (**replaced bindings, lost guard papers, restorations, with suppression of valuable information elements, etc.**), changes of collections, signatures, even ownership entities, as in the case of codices preserved in private collections later acquired by public institutions. **Sometimes microfilm constitutes the only existing representation of dispersed, destroyed or dismembered manuscripts**



Pos. 18340 relating to Ms. 314 of the Fabroniana Library in Pistoia, dispersed since 1982

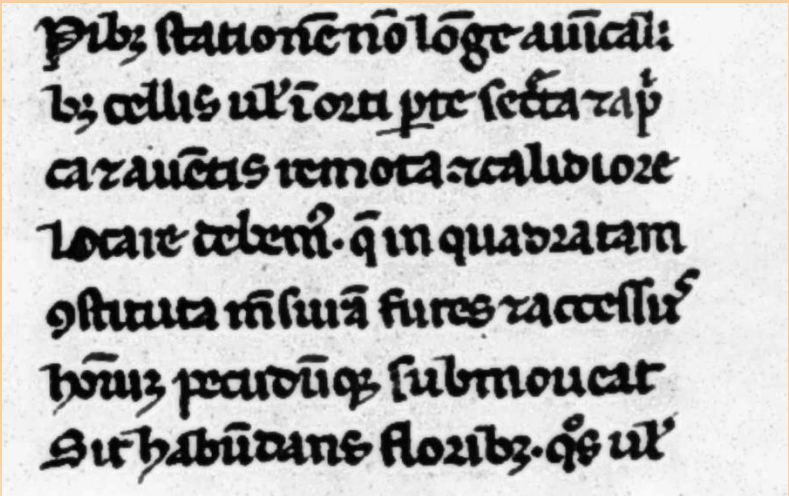
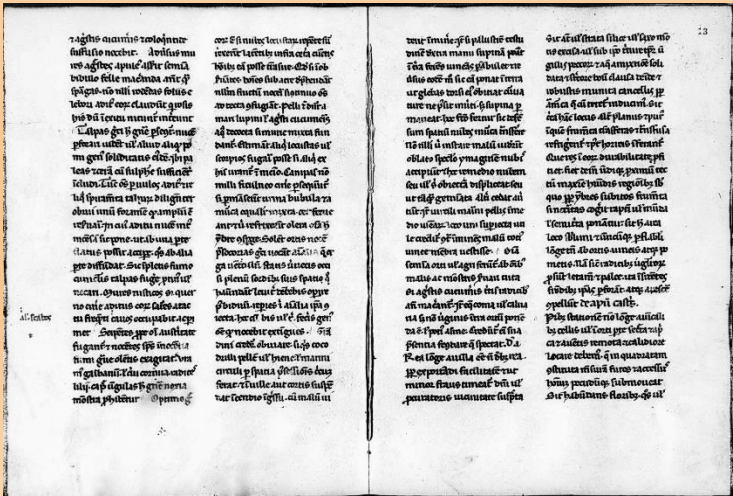


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

4) An asset already available and ready for digital transition:

These are usable and fully functional reproductions of all text-only manuscripts for which black-and-white images are of great use to historians, philologists, and scholars of the text tradition. This may also allow individual institutions to concentrate on reproducing from ex novo originals illuminated and decorated manuscripts, or those of particular importance and historical interest





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

5) Bridging the delays of digitization from originals

Digitization from originals is a long, complex and expensive operation. The **BNCR**, for example, faced with a rich collection of **ancient manuscripts of about 6,500 items**, has been able to publish **about 400 digital copies** from the originals in its Digital Library, while **microfilms are about 6,200**

The screenshot shows the 'BIBLIOTECA DIGITALE' website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Cerca' and 'RICERCA AVANZATA' options. Below the search bar, there are six categories of digital items, each with a representative image and a list of sub-categories:

- Stampati**: Libri antichi, Libri moderni
- Grafica**: Cartografia, Cartoline e manifesti, Fotografie, Stampe e disegni
- Emeroteca**: Periodici e giornali
- Manoscritti**: Manoscritti moderni e contemporanei, Manoscritti antichi
- Fondi d'autore**: Biblioteche d'autore, Ritagli stampa, Volumi con dedica e tracce di lettura
- Musica**: Dischi, Spartiti

At the bottom of the search results, a grey bar indicates 'Oggetti trovati: 431'. Below this, there are navigation links: 'HOME | MANOSCRITTI | MANOSCRITTI ANTICHI'. The BNCR logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the screenshot.




PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

6) Safeguarding public investment

The risk of degradation or unusability, in addition to representing a huge loss in terms of information, would also amount to a **waste of the public investment** that has financed and supported the Center's activities over time

S. Abbandone Leone *A. Spotti*

 **BIBLIOTECA NAZ. CENTRALE VITTORIO EM. II-ROMA**

18. MAG 1999 Roma, 19.....

Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali PROT. 6456 POS. 186

UFFICIO CENTRALE PER I BENI LIBRARI
LE ISTITUZIONI CULTURALI E L'EDITORIA
VIA MICHELE MERCATI, 4 - 00197 ROMA

Al
Direttore della Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
V.le Castro Pretorio, 105
00185 ROMA

3874
Prot. N. Div. III Sez. I

Risposta al foglio del
Div. Sez. N.

OGGETTO: Art. 48 L. 222/1984: Ripartizione quota 8 per mille Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze. Assegnazione di lire 900.000.000 (cap. 7607, resti e.f. 1994). Ripartizione di manoscritti della Biblioteca Ambrosiana, poi sostituita dalla riproduzione di manoscritti della Biblioteca Corsiniana.

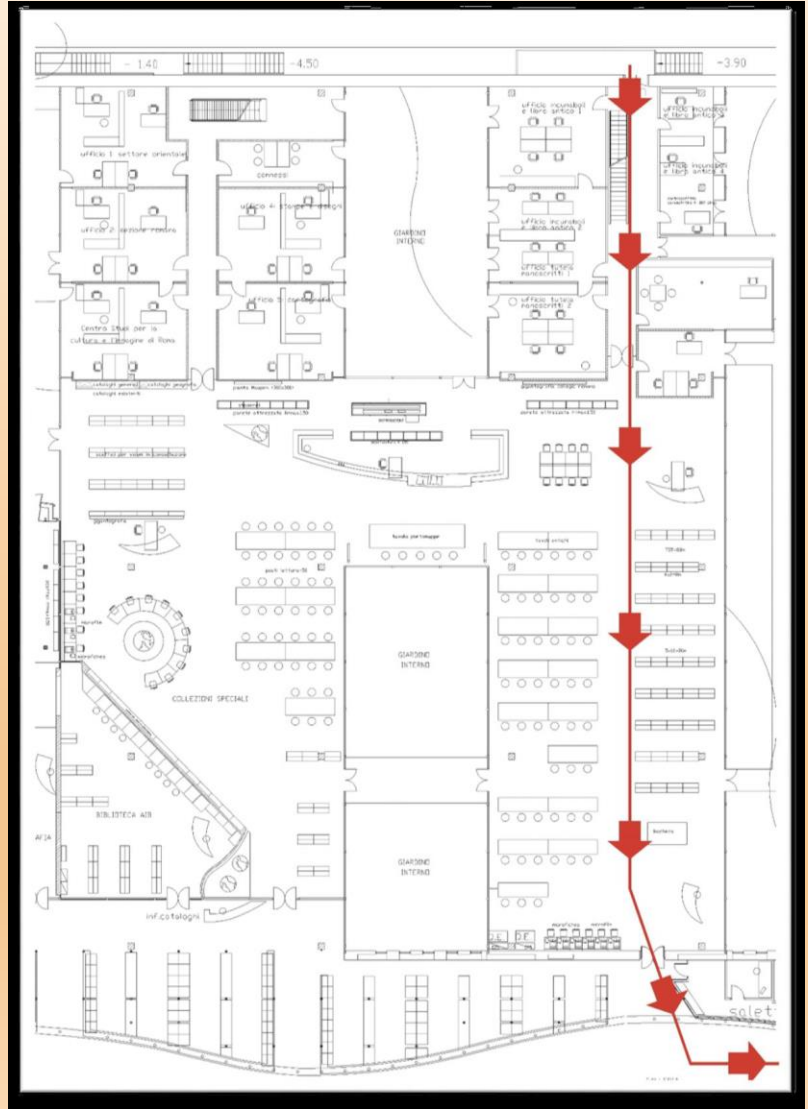


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

7) Economies of Scale

The massive and comprehensive digitization operation of the CNSM's entire holdings, focused at the BNCR site, will be able to benefit libraries throughout Italy and beyond, thus allowing economies of scale to be exploited





PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

8) Benefits for all the holding Institutions

For the **190 libraries**, as the holding Institutions of the original manuscripts, this operation will not entail any burden in terms of time, logistics, or resources

Lista città inserite

Città	Biblioteca
Albenga	Archivio Storico della Diocesi di Albenga-Imperia
Arezzo	Città di Arezzo
Arezzo	Archivio della Fraternita dei Laici
Artena	Biblioteca francescana
Ascoli Piceno	Biblioteca comunale Giulio Gabrielli
Assisi	Biblioteca Porziuncola
Assisi	Comunale
Assisi	Biblioteca del Centro di documentazione francescana della Basilica e Sacro convento di San Francesco in Assisi
Athens	Hellenic Parliament Library
Atri	Sorricchio
Atri	Biblioteca capitolare
Bagnacavallo	Biblioteca Comunale Giuseppe Taroni
Bari	Biblioteca Nazionale Sagarriga Visconti Volpi
Bari	Museo diocesano di Bari
Benevento	Biblioteca Capitolare
Benevento	Provinciale Antonio Mellusi
Bergamo	Accademia Carrara
Bergamo	Biblioteca civica Angelo Mai e Archivi storici
Bologna	Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologna
Bologna	Museo Civico Medievale
Bologna	Archivio di Stato, Bologna
Bologna	Biblioteca comunale dell' Archiginnasio
Brescia	Biblioteca Civica Queriniana di Brescia
Bressanone	Seminario Vescovile Maggiore
Cagliari	Biblioteca universitaria di Cagliari
Calci	Biblioteca del Museo Nazionale della Certosa monumentale di Calci
Caltanissetta	Comunale Luciano Scarabelli
Capestrano	Biblioteca del Convento di S. Giovanni da Capestrano
Casale Monferrato	Archivio diocesano (Archivio del Capitolo della Cattedrale)
Cassino	Biblioteca statale del Monumento nazionale di Montecassino
Catania	Biblioteche Riunite "Civica e A. Ursino Recupero"
Cava dei Tirreni	Biblioteca del Monumento Nazionale Badia di Cava
Cesena	Biblioteca Malatestiana
Cesena	Capitolare
Chieti	Archivio arcivescovile di Chieti
Città del Vaticano	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
Città del Vaticano	Archivio storico Capitolo Lateranense
Cividale del Friuli	Archivi e Biblioteca del Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Cividale del Friuli
Cortona	Biblioteca del Comune e dell'Accademia Etrusca di Cortona
Cremona	Biblioteca Statale di Cremona
Deruta	Pinacoteca Comunale di Deruta
Empoli	Archivio della Collegiata di Sant'Andrea di Empoli
Fabriano	Biblioteca Multimediale "R. Sassi", Fabriano (AN)
Fabriano	Biblioteca del Monastero S. Silvestro
Faenza	Biblioteca comunale Manfrediana
Fara Sabina	Biblioteca statale del Monumento nazionale di Farfa
Fermo	Biblioteca Civica Romolo Spezioli
Fermo	Archivio storico arcivescovile
Ferrara	Biblioteca comunale Ariostea
Ferrara	Musei di Arte Antica - Comune di Ferrara
Firenze	Biblioteca Riccardiana
Firenze	Biblioteca Marucelliana
Firenze	Nazionale Centrale
Firenze	Archivio di Stato
Firenze	Basilica della SS. Annunziata
Firenze	Biblioteca del Museo nazionale del Bargello
Firenze	Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana
Firenze	Seminario del Cestello



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

9) A single administrative procedure

The digitization of CNSM microfilm **avoids the preparation of numerous sites throughout the country and beyond, the direct operational involvement of all institutions, fragmentation into dozens of simultaneous processes** and, in the case of sites set up outside the institutions themselves, **onerous handling activities** to the outside world and the taking out of individual **onerous insurance coverage**.

The digitization activities, scheduled to last only two years **from 2023 to 2025**, will be carried out by qualified operators, selected through a bidding process aimed at concluding a multi-supplier Multilateral Framework Agreement published by **Invitalia**, Single Central Contracting Authority for the projects of the PNRR of the Mic

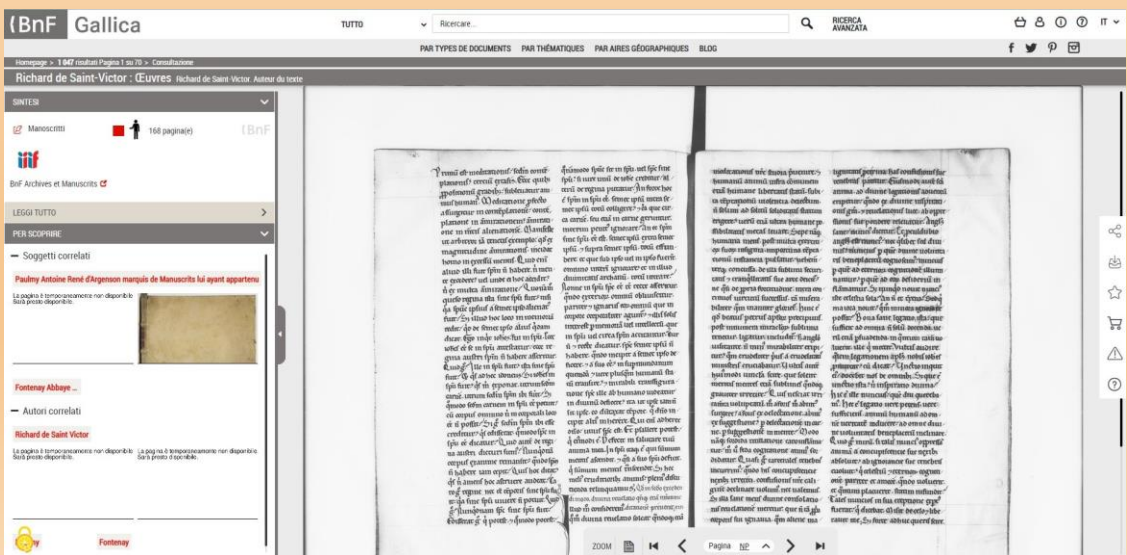


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

10) Similar practices at other major institutions

Top international library institutions have long been digitizing and publishing their "microfilm libraries," as evidenced by the experiences of the **Bibliothèque nationale de France** and the **Library of Congress**



LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

This Collection [dropdown] [search icon] [menu icon]

Library of Congress » Digital Collections » Manuscripts in St. Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai [Share icon]

COLLECTION
Manuscripts in St. Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai

About this Collection | **Collection Items** | Articles and Essays

Results: 1-25 of 1,691 | Refined by: Part of: Manuscripts in St. Catherine's Mon... Available Online

Refine your results

- Available Online: 1,691
- All Items: 1,691

Collection Items

View [List] [Go] Sort By [Select] [Go]

Original Format	Count
Manuscript/Mixed Material	1,685
Web Page	6

Online Format

Date	Count
1900 to 1999	4
1800 to 1899	10
1700 to 1799	64
1600 to 1699	94
1500 to 1599	258
1400 to 1499	217
1300 to 1399	222
1200 to 1299	404
1100 to 1199	260

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
[MS SUPPL3]. [Assorted Catalogs of Manuscripts at St. Catherine's Monastery]
 Contributor: Benesevich [Beneshevich, V. N. (Vladimir Nikolaevich)]
 Date: 1912
 Resource: View All Images

MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL
Greek Manuscripts 904. Horologion.
 Date: 1211
 Resource: View All Images

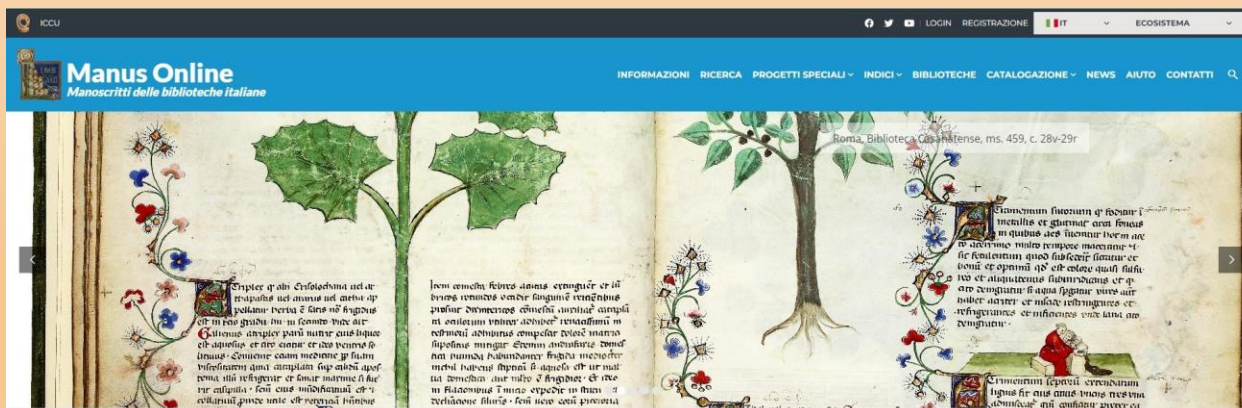


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

But why digitize microfilm?

11) Enrichment of the national census of manuscripts on the Manus on Line DB.

The digitization of the microfilms is accompanied by a parallel census on the Manus On Line portal, by means of the creation of summary records that will allow the unique identification of manuscripts and that can be implemented with future study and cataloguing phases, thanks to the synergy with the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue (ICCU)



Search bar with text: "Inserisci qui le parole chiave da cercare" and buttons for "Cerca" and "Ricerca avanzata".

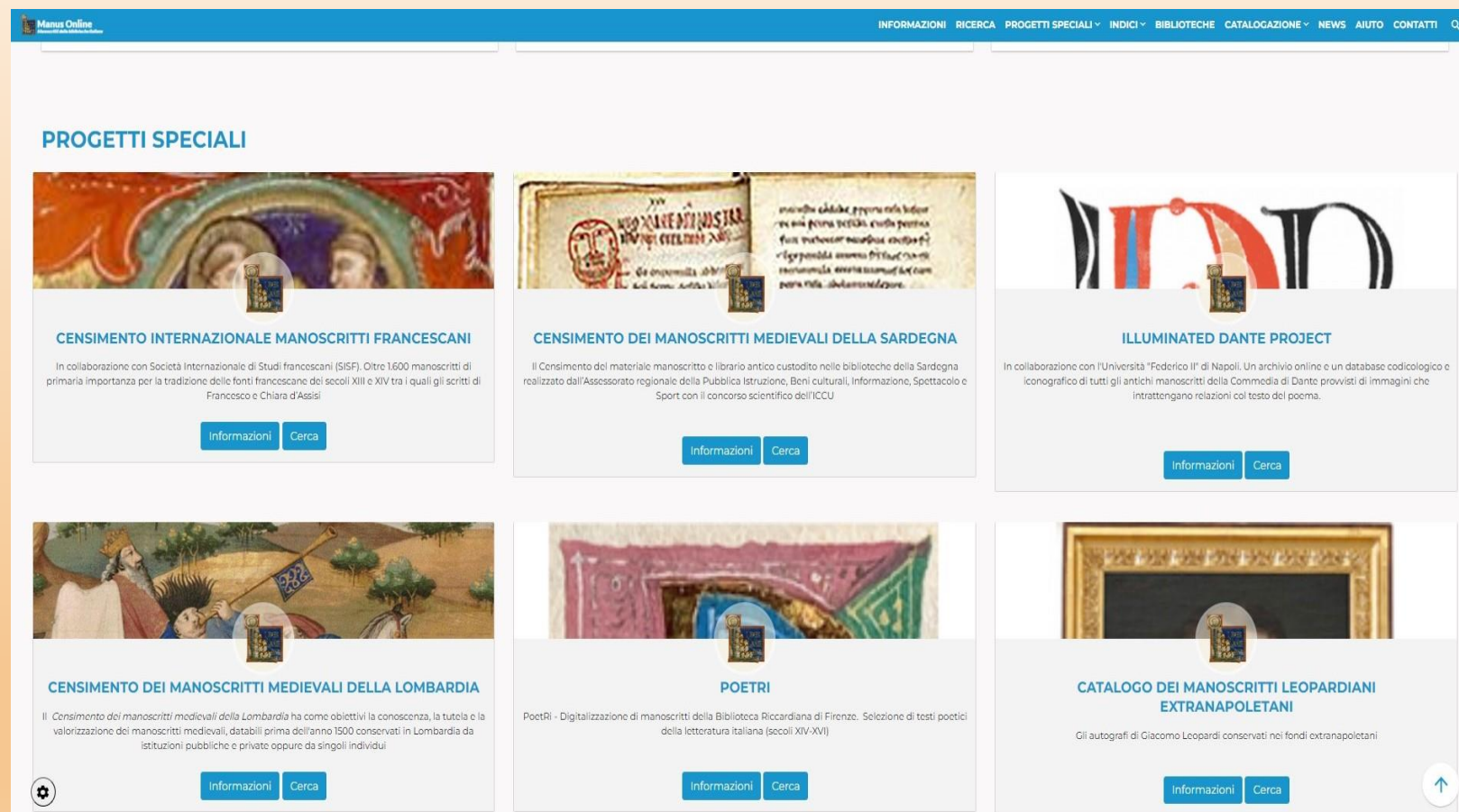
CENSIMENTO NAZIONALE DEI MANOSCRITTI DELLE BIBLIOTECHE ITALIANE

Manus Online (MOL) è un database che comprende la descrizione e la digitalizzazione (integrale e/o parziale) dei manoscritti conservati nelle biblioteche italiane pubbliche, ecclesiastiche e private. Il censimento, avviato nel 1988 a cura dell'Istituto centrale per il catalogo unico e le informazioni bibliografiche (ICCU), si pone come obiettivo l'individuazione e la catalogazione dei manoscritti (latini, greci, arabi, ecc.) prodotti dal Medioevo all'età contemporanea, compresi i carteggi.



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The wishes expressed in the founding decree of close cooperation between the National Center for the Study of Manuscripts and ICCU are thus realized, integrating the two databases and providing free digital copies. The CNSM digitization project will appear under the "Special Projects" section along with other major national and international projects



Manus Online | INFORMAZIONI | RICERCA | PROGETTI SPECIALI | INDICI | BIBLIOTECHE | CATALOGAZIONE | NEWS | AIUTO | CONTATTI

PROGETTI SPECIALI

- CENSIMENTO INTERNAZIONALE MANOSCRITTI FRANCESCANI**
In collaborazione con Società Internazionale di Studi francescani (SISF). Oltre 1.600 manoscritti di primaria importanza per la tradizione delle fonti francescane dei secoli XIII e XIV tra i quali gli scritti di Francesco e Chiara d'Assisi.
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)
- CENSIMENTO DEI MANOSCRITTI MEDIEVALI DELLA SARDEGNA**
Il censimento del materiale manoscritto e librario antico custodito nelle biblioteche della Sardegna realizzato dall'Assessorato regionale della Pubblica Istruzione, Beni culturali, Informazione, Spettacolo e Sport con il concorso scientifico dell'ICCU.
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)
- ILLUMINATED DANTE PROJECT**
In collaborazione con l'Università "Federico II" di Napoli. Un archivio online e un database codicologico e iconografico di tutti gli antichi manoscritti della Commedia di Dante provvisti di immagini che intrattengono relazioni col testo del poema.
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)
- CENSIMENTO DEI MANOSCRITTI MEDIEVALI DELLA LOMBARDIA**
Il censimento dei manoscritti medievali della Lombardia ha come obiettivi la conoscenza, la tutela e la valorizzazione dei manoscritti medievali, databili prima dell'anno 1500 conservati in Lombardia da istituzioni pubbliche e private oppure da singoli individui.
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)
- POETRI**
Poetri - Digitalizzazione di manoscritti della Biblioteca Riccardiana di Firenze. Selezione di testi poetici della letteratura italiana (secoli XIV-XVI).
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)
- CATALOGO DEI MANOSCRITTI LEOPARDIANI EXTRANAPOLETANI**
Gli autografi di Giacomo Leopardi conservati nei fondi extranaoletani.
[Informazioni](#) [Cerca](#)



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Thus, the project enables the realization of three fundamental strategic goals:

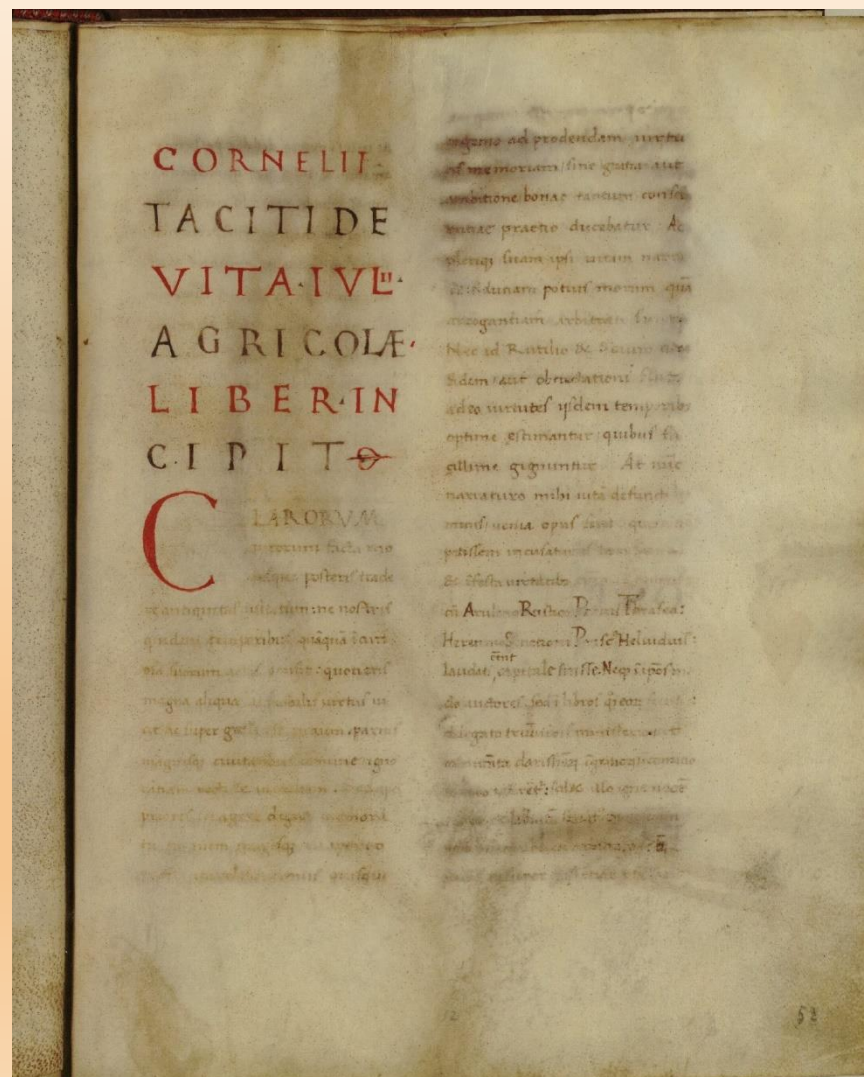
- 1 - **protection**: the digital preservation of the heritage of more than 105,000 microfilm, and the possibility of providing digital copies for a first reading of the texts of the manuscripts
- 2 - **access**: the availability of the information contained in some 46 million images;
- 3 - **cultural promotion**: the possibility of investigating, studying and highlighting unpublished and often unknown aspects of the life of manuscripts and their evolution over time



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A special case study between protection, access and cultural promotion

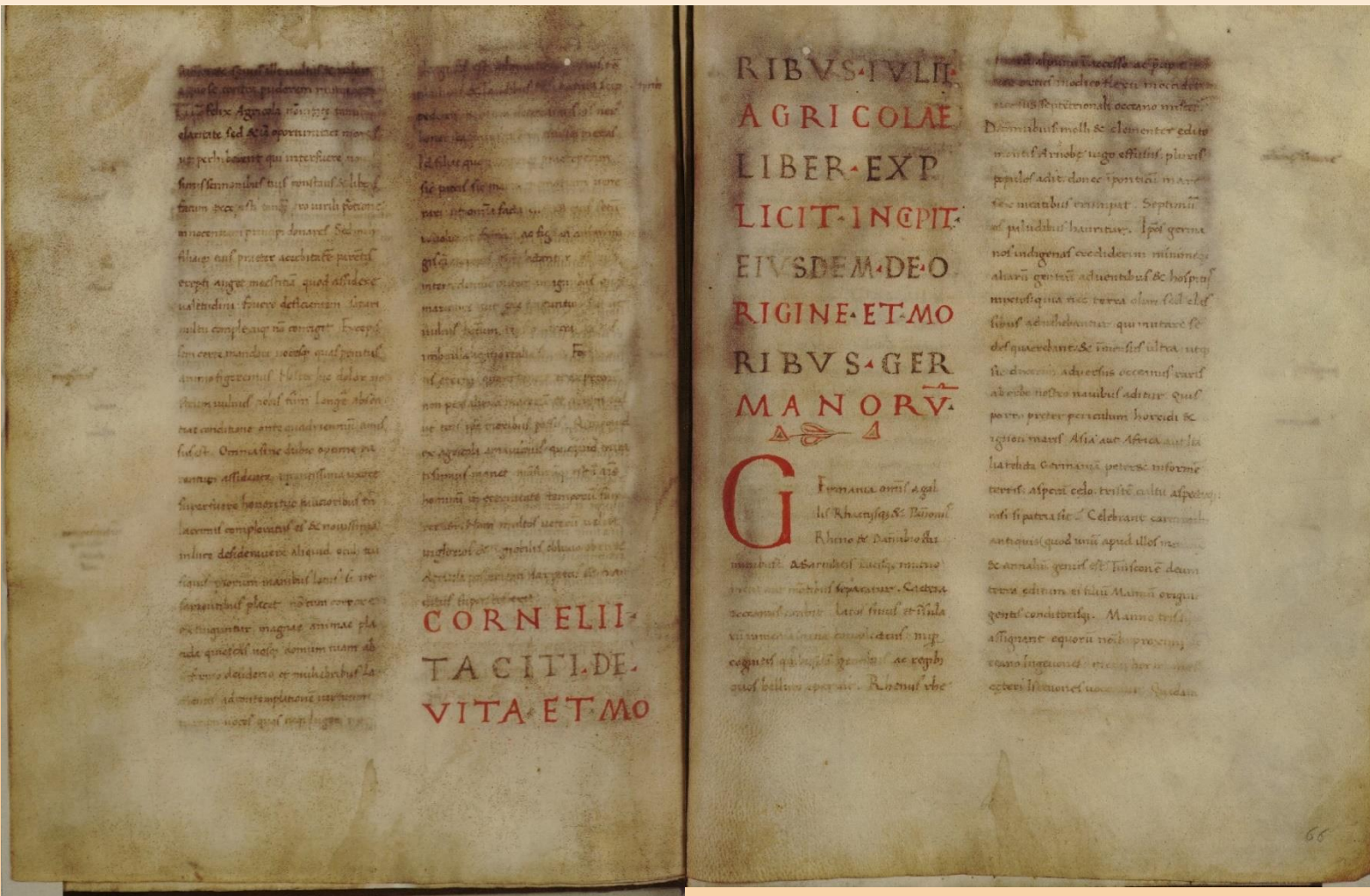
The so-called BNCR's "**Hersfeld Codex**," Ms. Vitt. Em. 1631, copied in a southern German monastery in the early 9th century, hands down the **oldest known redactions of Tacitus' *Agricola* and *Germania***





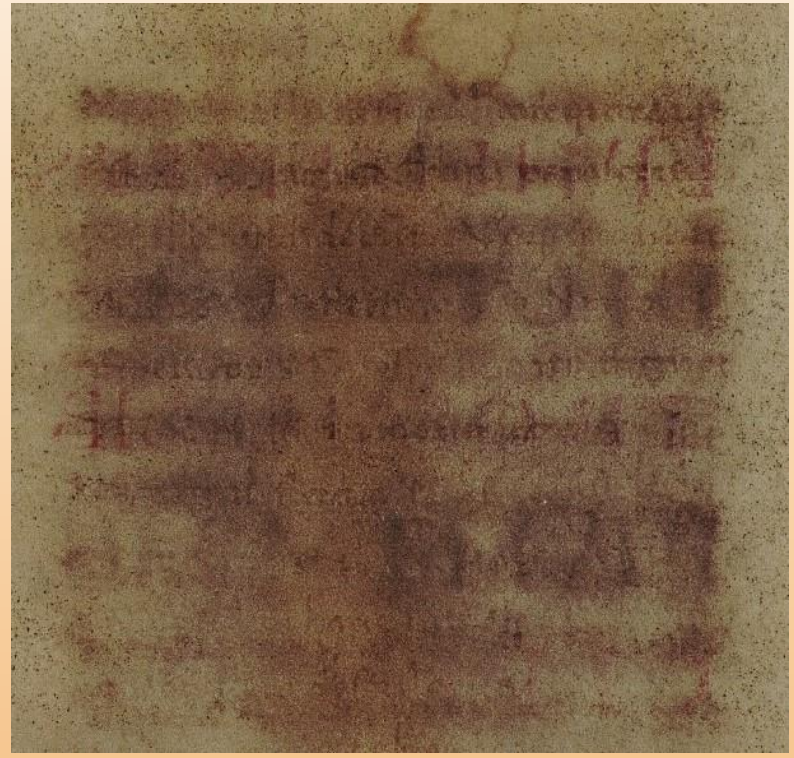
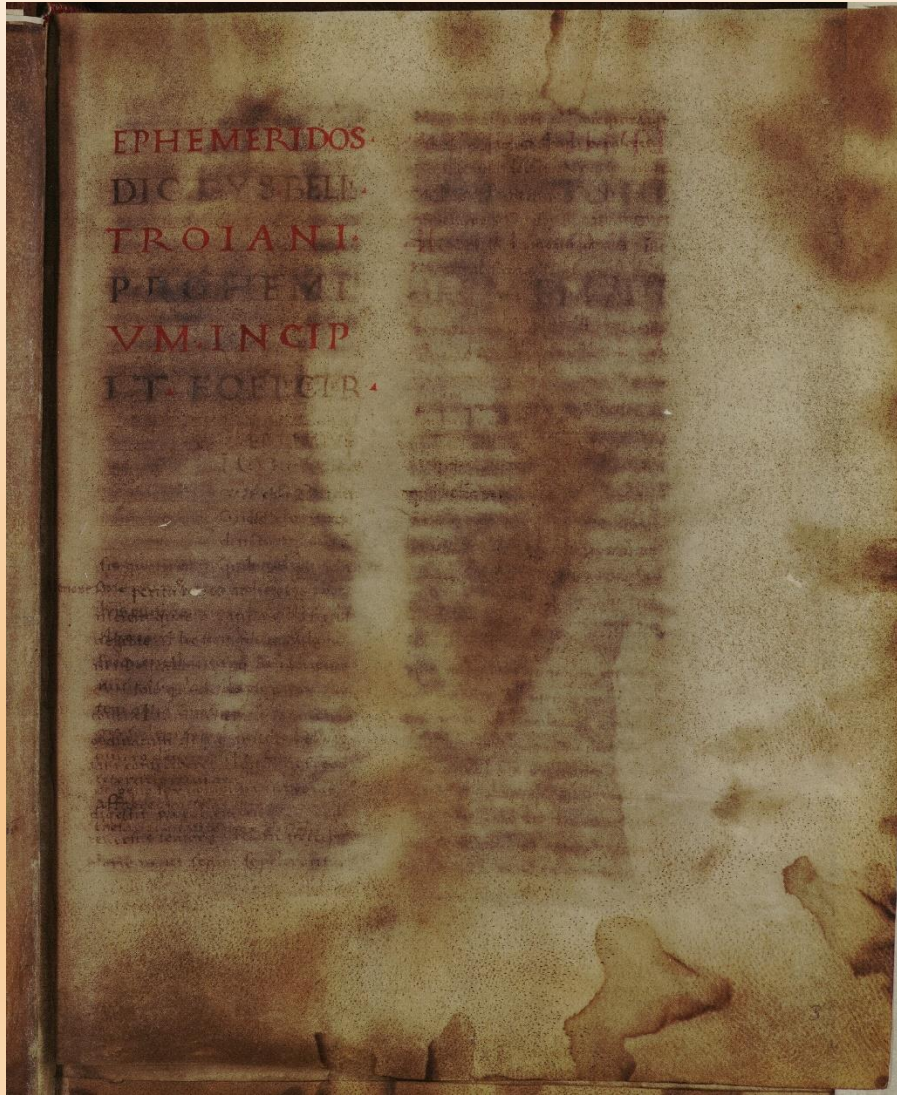
PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Brought to **Italy** in the **mid-1400s**, it was dismembered and became part of a private collection of a noble family in the Marche region, and here it was rediscovered in the early 1900s attracting the interests of the **Nazi regime**, which insistently requested it from the Italian government for the "Ancestral Heritage Research Society" founded by Himmler



PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

It escaped an **S.S. expedition in 1944**, charged with the task of stealing it, and was then deposited in a safe deposit box in **Florence**, where it suffered the devastating effects of the **1966 flood**, which made the early pages completely illegible...



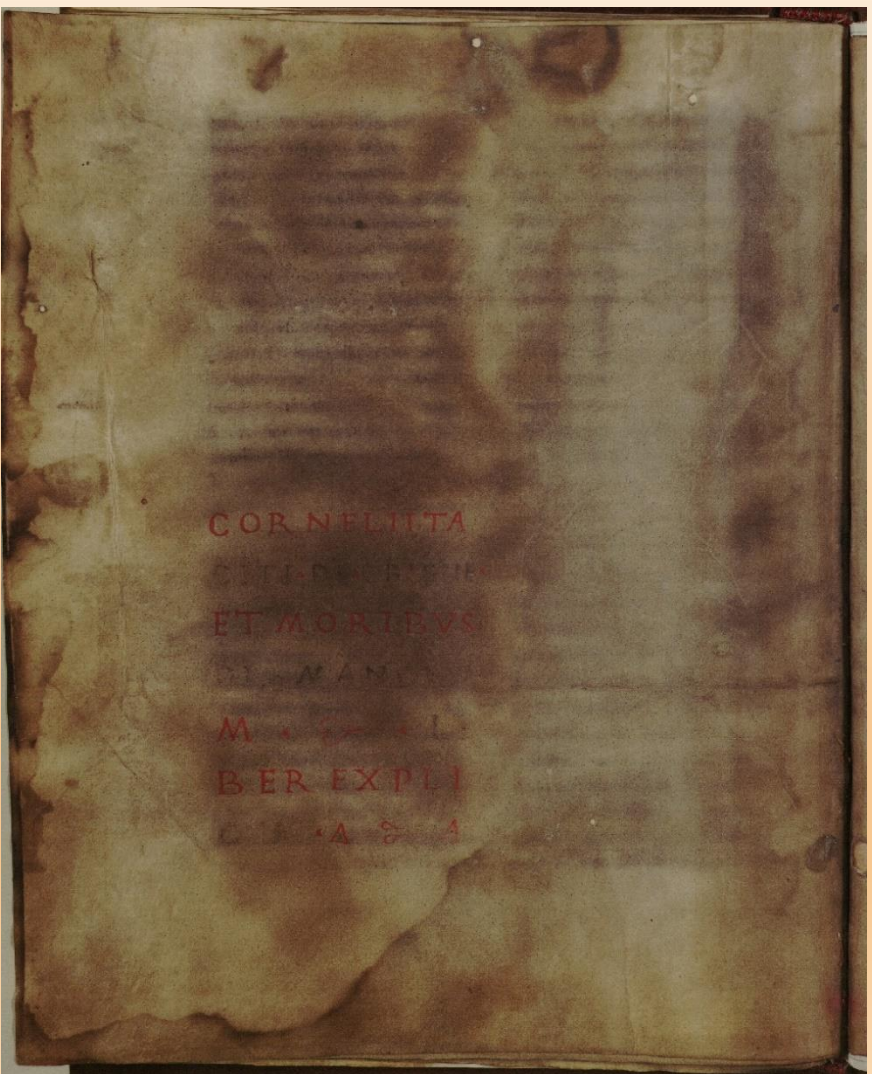
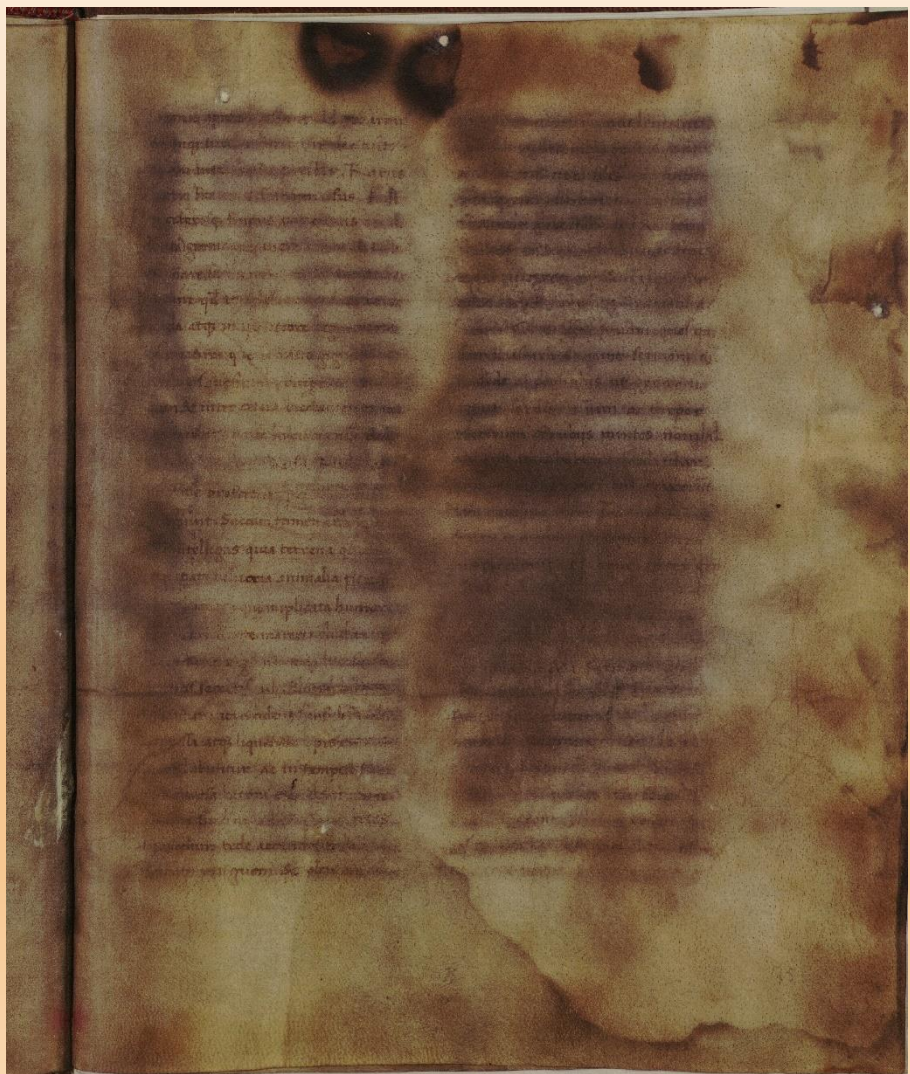
detail

Vitt. Em. 1631
folio 3r

PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

... and so the last pages, also significantly damaging the remaining body of the codex, as the inks were largely washed away.

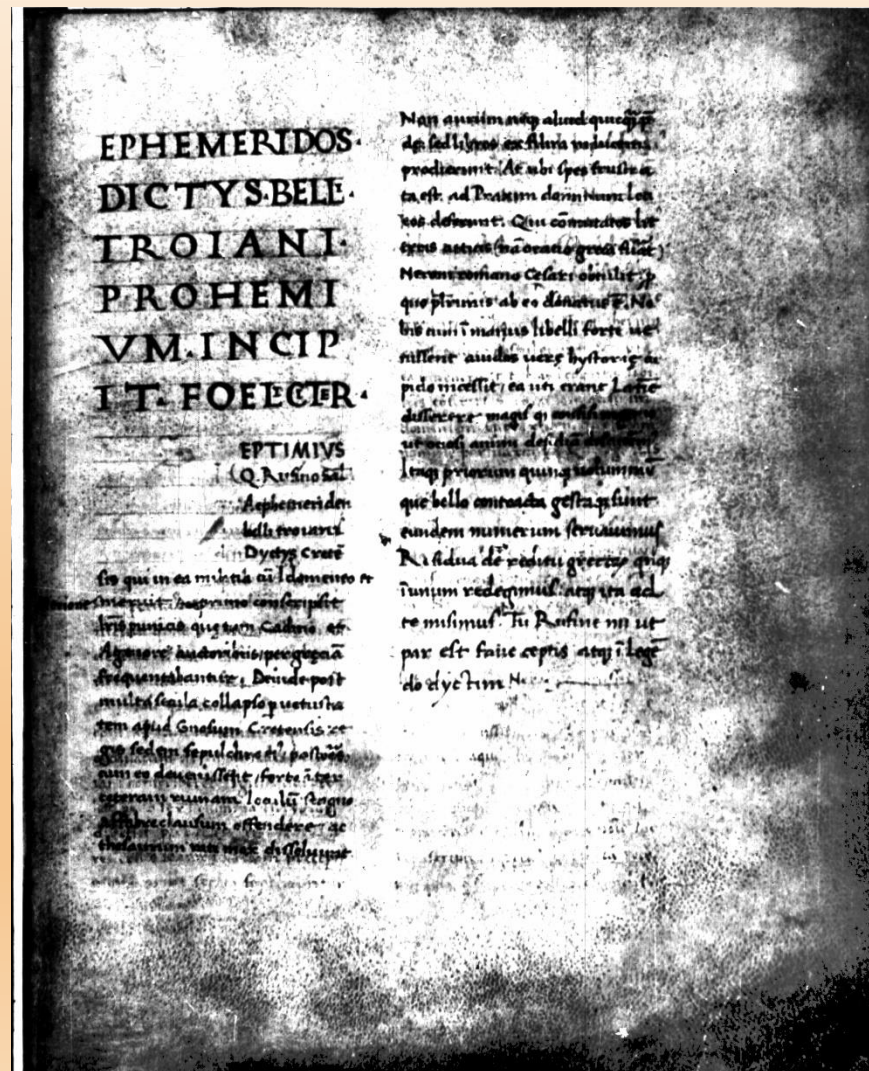
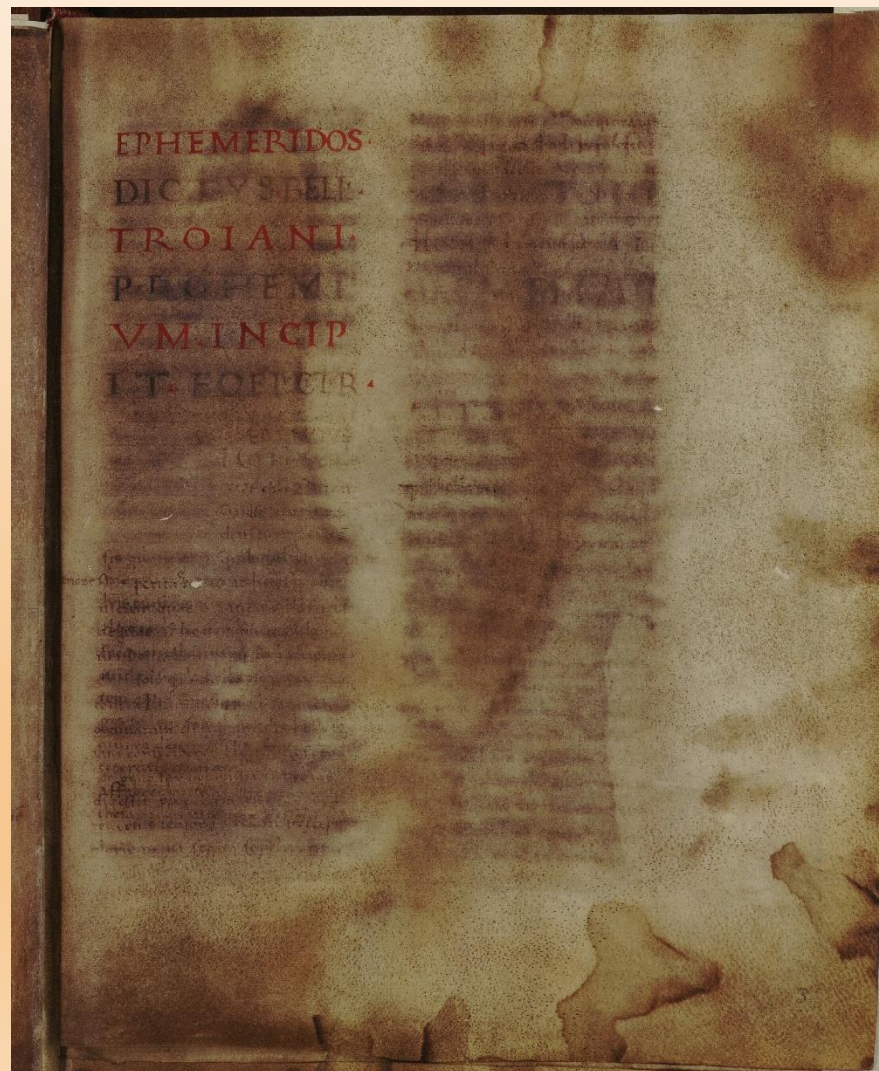
The manuscript was then acquired by BNCR and became part of its collections only in **1994**.



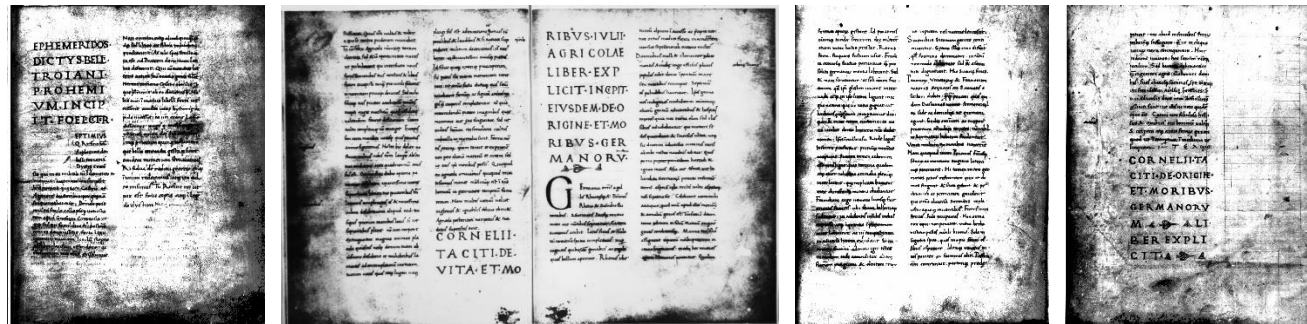


PNRR AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The same pages taken from the **microfilm** made before 1966 (Microfilm CNSM Pos. **22256** relating to manuscript *olim* Lat. 8 of the **Baldeschi Balleani** collection of Jesi, now Vitt. Em. 1631 of the BNCR) are instead perfectly readable.



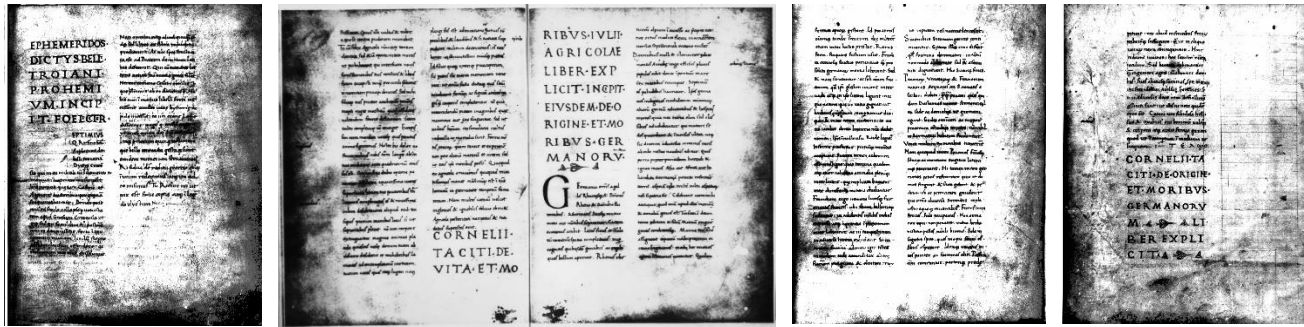
Vitt. Em. 1631 folio 3r, *Incipit*



The microfilm thus represents the only way to access the now unreadable text, and thanks to this project it will now be digitized and made available through the Digital Library along with the entire holdings of the CNSM, finally accessible in a simple and direct way by all scholars



The **CNSM digitization project** thus represents for the manuscript collections of the BNCR and all the libraries represented in it an **unmissable opportunity to safeguard the legacy of the past and deliver it to future generations..** a decisive step toward the realization of the **NEXT GENERATION LIBRARY**



SECURITY NETWORK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION



Andrea Cappa
Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma