# "Archives and Knowledge" project

Goal of the Project

The "Archives and Knowledge" project has been divided in three different phases, respectively of analysis, description and enhancement of the documentation heritage of the Centro di Fotoriproduzione, Legatoria e Restauro (CFLR). A common interface has been developed to search and display three different groups of documents: 1) semi-current records and historical archives, arranged and described with an electronic finding aid, in order to preserve CFLR historical memory and to enhance its key role inside the Italian Archives Administration during the last 40 years; 2) technical documentation, which has been issued during the years by the CFLR personnel and by scholars cooperating with it, and that has been submitted to procedures of digital management, including electronic acquisition of paper documents and structured description of bibliographical data; 3) creation of a digital thesaurus starting from the paper book "Dizionario dei termini del restauro archivistico" (Dictionary of terms for archival restoration).

An integrated management of these three different databases is achieved through the adoption, for each kind of documentation, of standard metadata models, in particular using the XML metadata schema for the archival description (**EAD**), the bibliographic description (**MODS**), and for the ontologies description (**OWL**), that has been used to represent the digital thesaurus. Then through a search engine, working with native XML objects, and the use of **METS** (*Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard*), the users can access and browse the three different databases using a single interface.
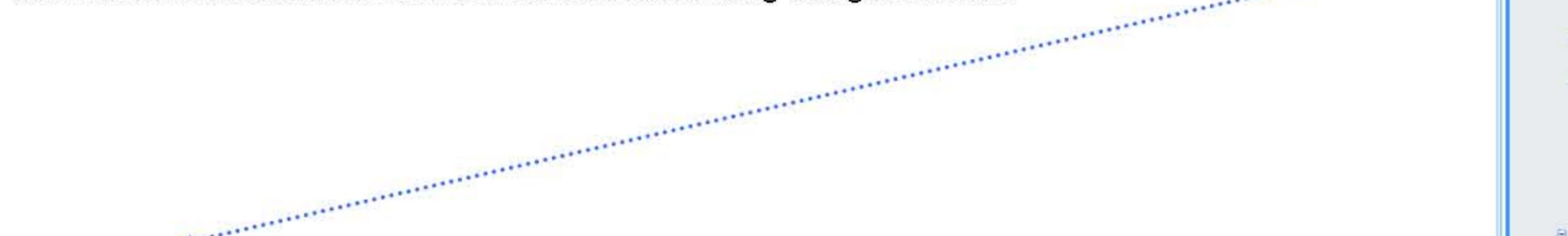
The archives

A database with approximately 2000 records has been produced, concerning archive documents from the period 1952-1993, all related to the institutional activities of the Centro Microfotografico degli Archivi di Stato - called in 1963 Centro di Fotoriproduzione, Legatoria e Restauro. Also some specific series dated till 2004 are present. Particular emphasis – for experimental purposes - has been given to an analytic description of two files concerning important restorations: in this case all the related documentation have been described and digitized. The international standard EAD (*Encoded Archival Description*) has been used to perform archival description.
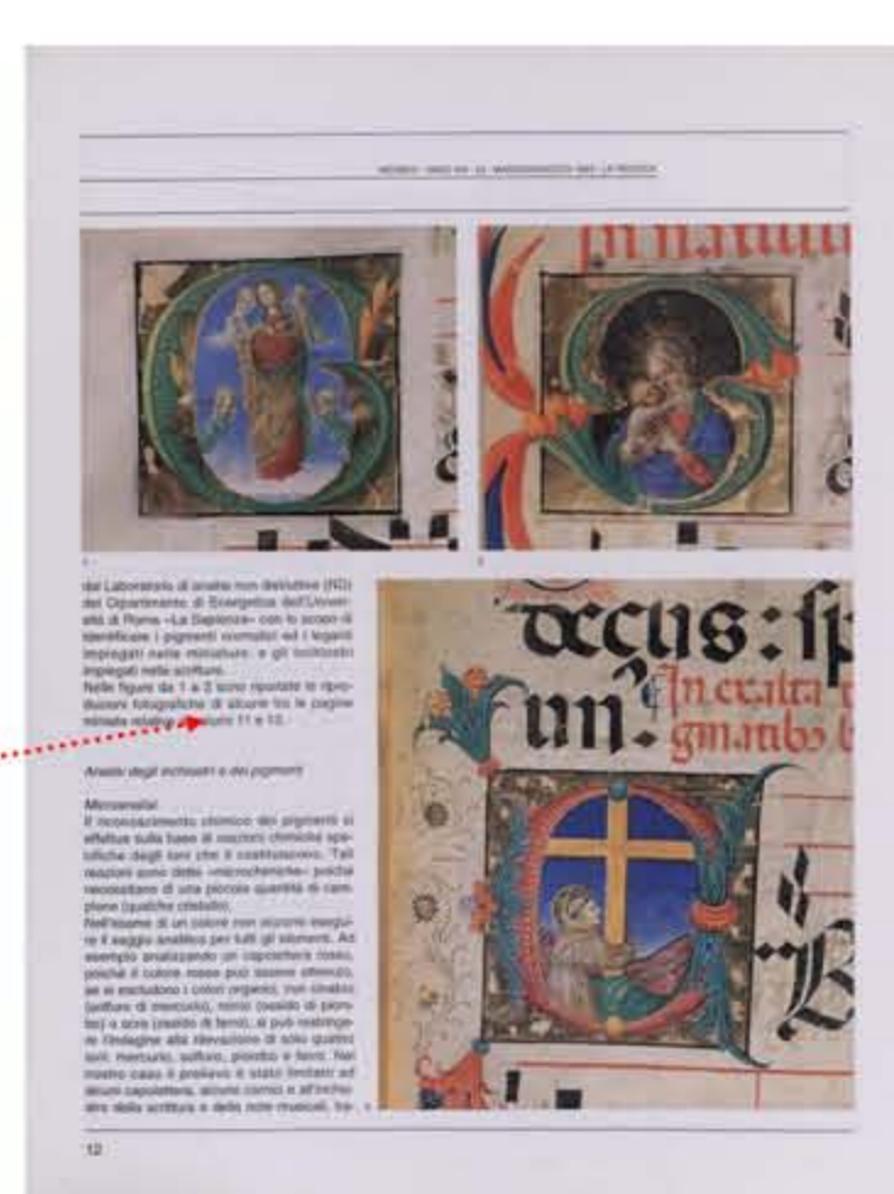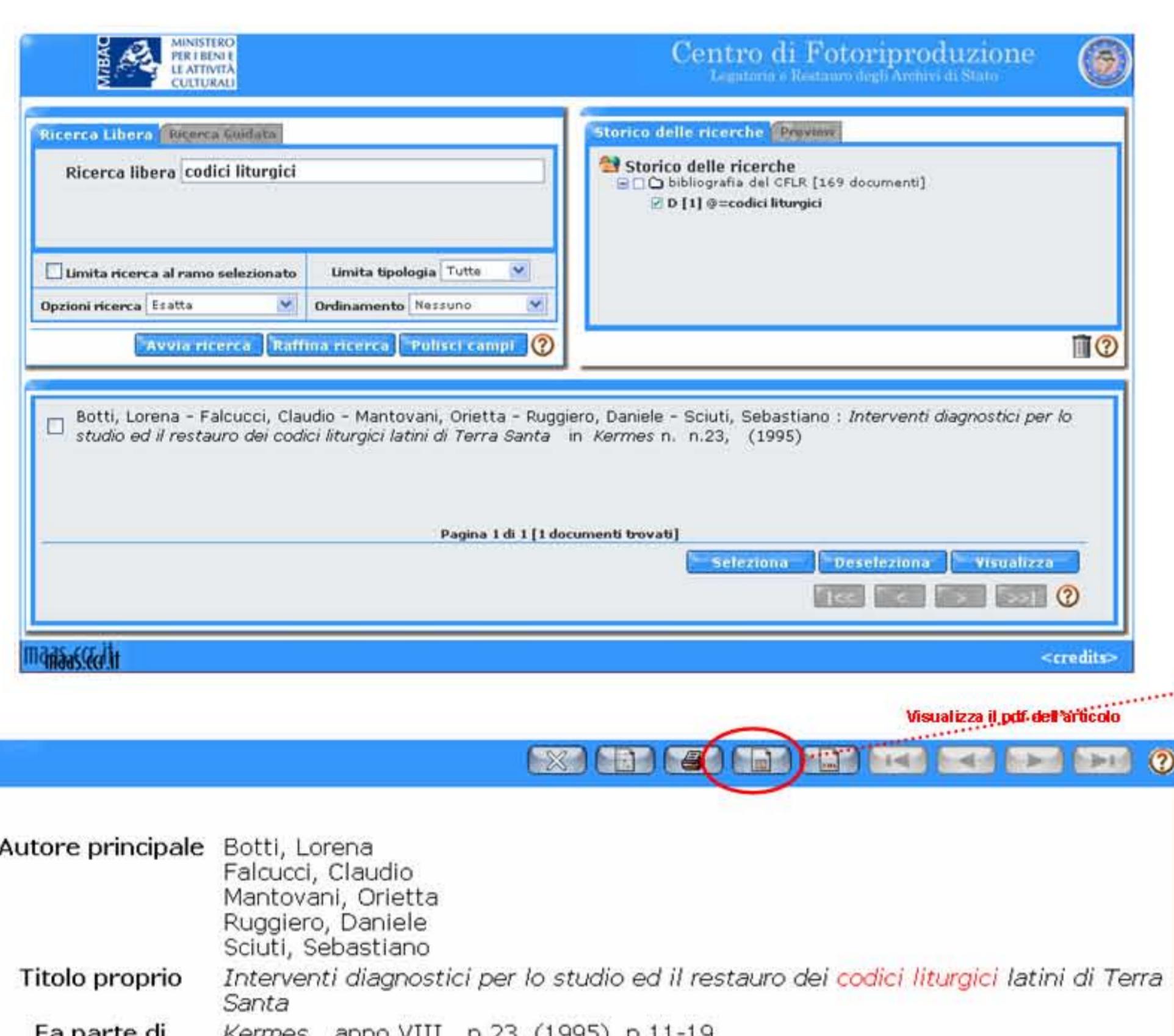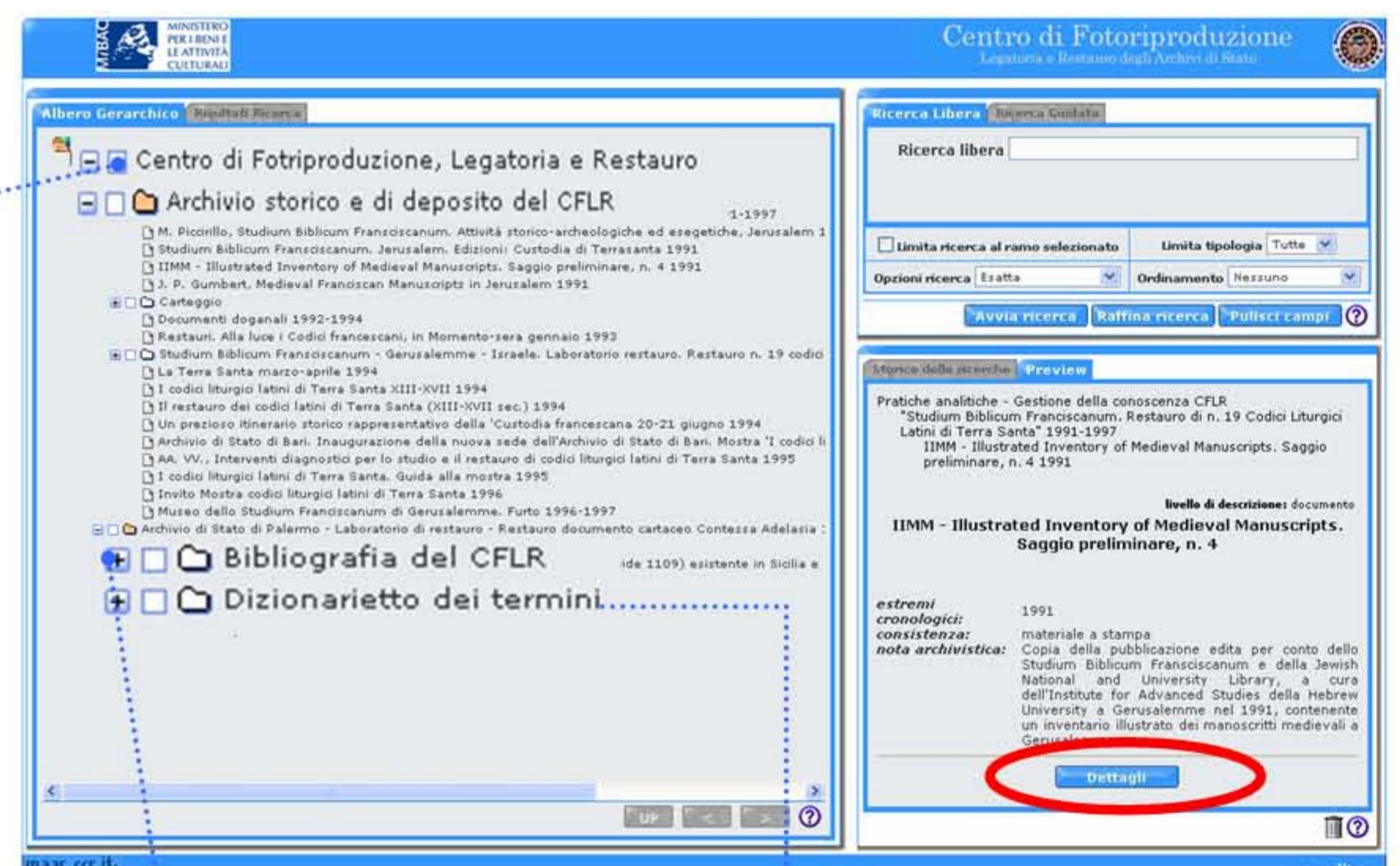
Bibliography

A database has been produced with all the articles written during their professional activities by the restorers working in the CFLR. The standard MODS - *Metadata Object Description Schema* (an XML-based international standard) – has been used for the description of the articles, which have all been digitized and converted in PDF format, and then indexed full text.
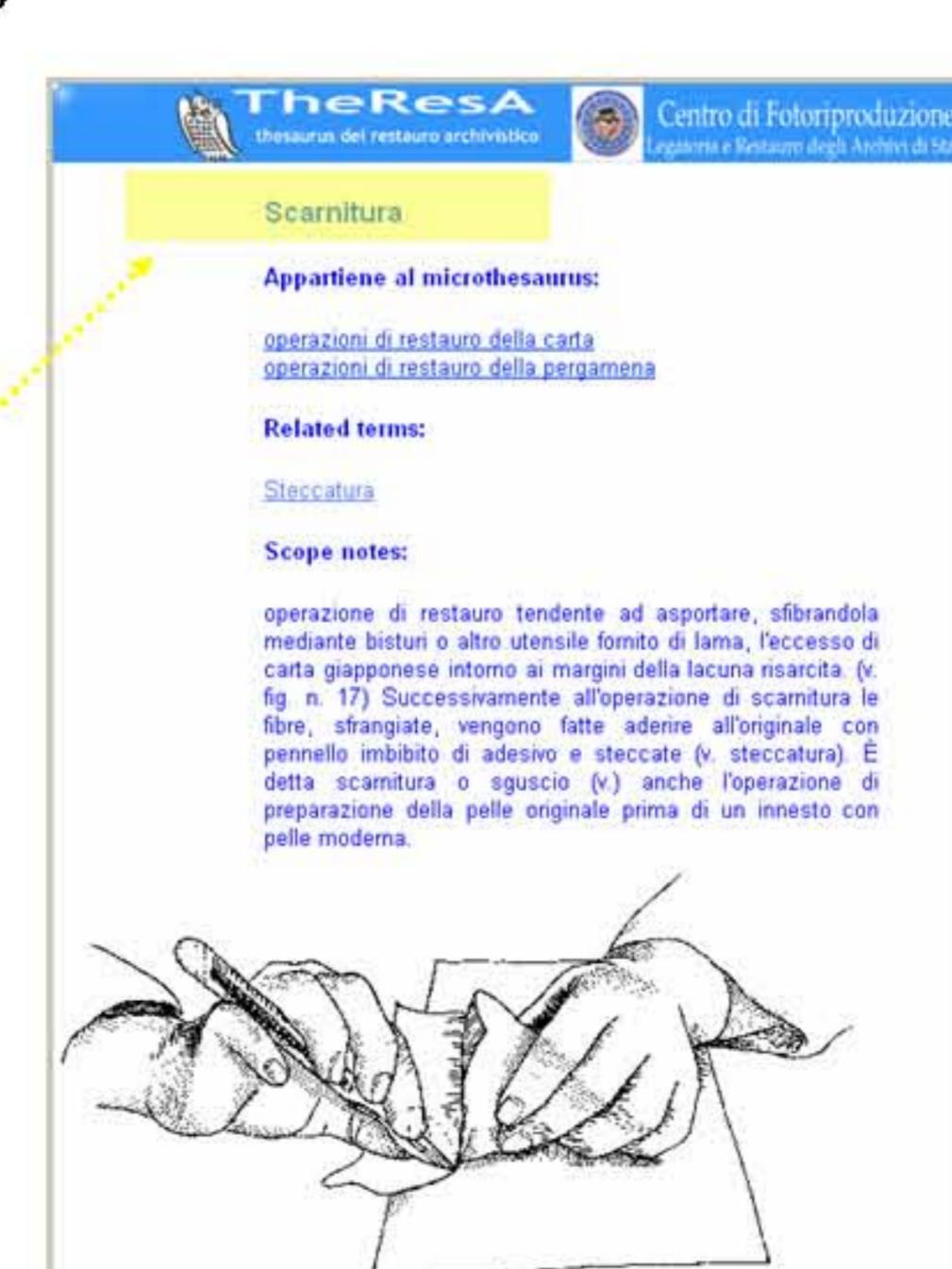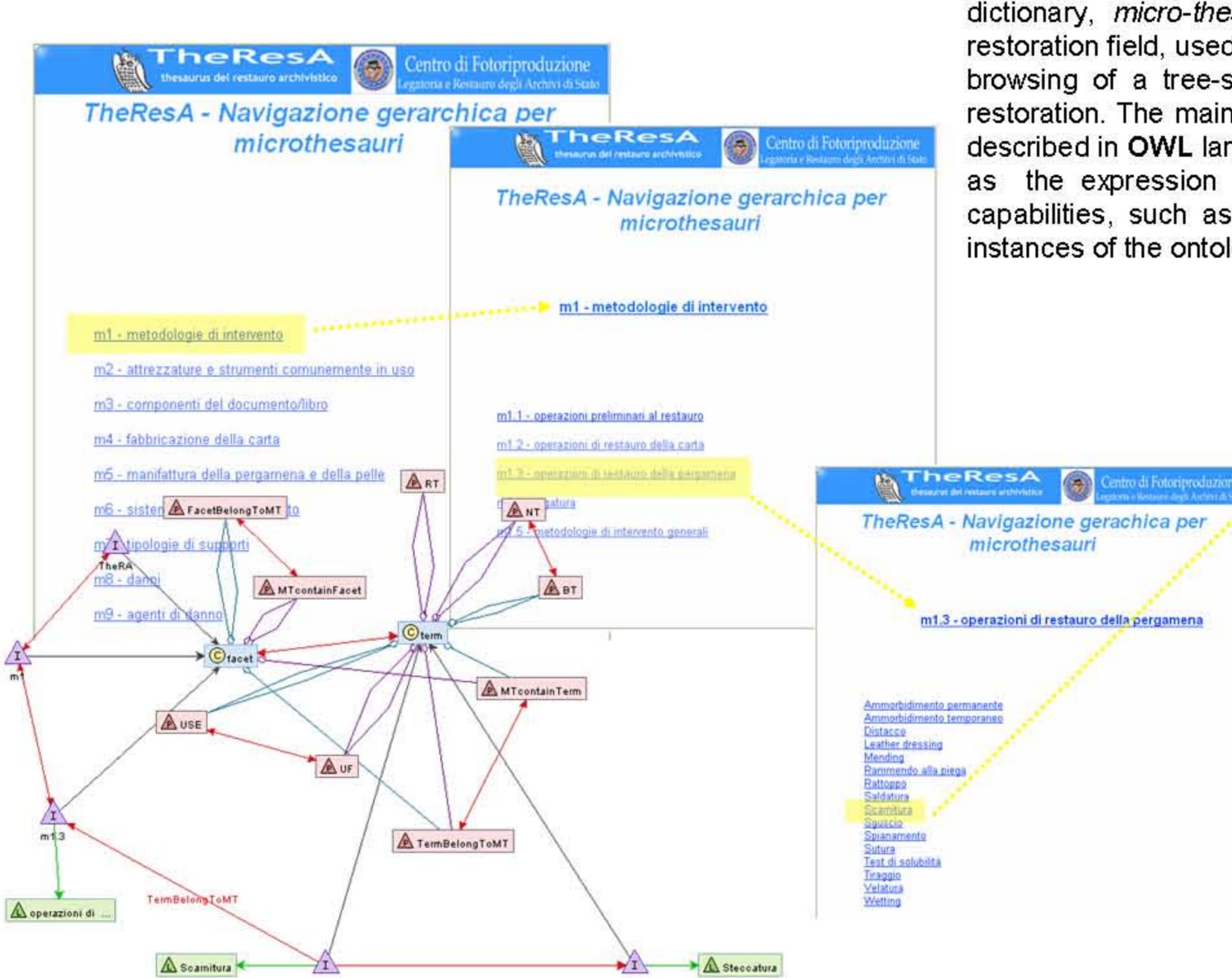
A Thesaurus for Archival Restoration

TheResA is the conversion in the form of a thesaurus of the "Dizionario dei Termini del restauro archivistico" (Dictionary of terms for archival restoration) written by Ms. Cecilia Prosperi (CFLR); starting from the paper dictionary, *micro-thesauri* were elaborated, which are thematic subdivisions pertaining to the archival restoration field, used to facilitate the search of terms in the thesaurus and, at the same time, allowing a web browsing of a tree-structure, that describes methodologies, techniques and tools related to the archival restoration. The main outcome of the digital translation of this dictionary was the elaboration of an ontology described in **OWL** language (*Web Ontology Language*), unifying on one hand thesaurus functionalities, such as the expression of the relations among terms and *micro-thesauruses*, and on the other hand OWL capabilities, such as the possibility to establish further relations among classes, subclasses and single instances of the ontology.