



# PROGETTO ECUMENE

Experience acquired from the development of technological instruments for the transmission of knowledge on Italian cultural heritage.

## ECUMENE PROJECT

"Ecumene" is a project designed to develop technological instruments for the integrated use of web-deliverable descriptions of the various spheres of knowledge concerning cultural assets.

The objective is to disseminate knowledge on the historical, artistic, archival, architectural and bibliographic heritage owned by the Catholic Church in Italy by telematic means.

### Working procedure

The working groups are strongly interdisciplinary, comprising persons with technical or humanistic skills. A training course, correlated with the project, has prepared a group of students to deal with problems specific to different areas such as information technology and the management of cultural assets.

### The organisations involved in Ecumene are:

Research institutes:

- I.S.T.I. of the C.N.R. - Pisa
- The IT Engineering Department of the University of Pisa

Private companies:

- Hyperborea s.c.r.l. - Pisa
- IDS Informatica Distribuita e Software s.r.l. - Messina
- UNITELM s.p.a. - Padua

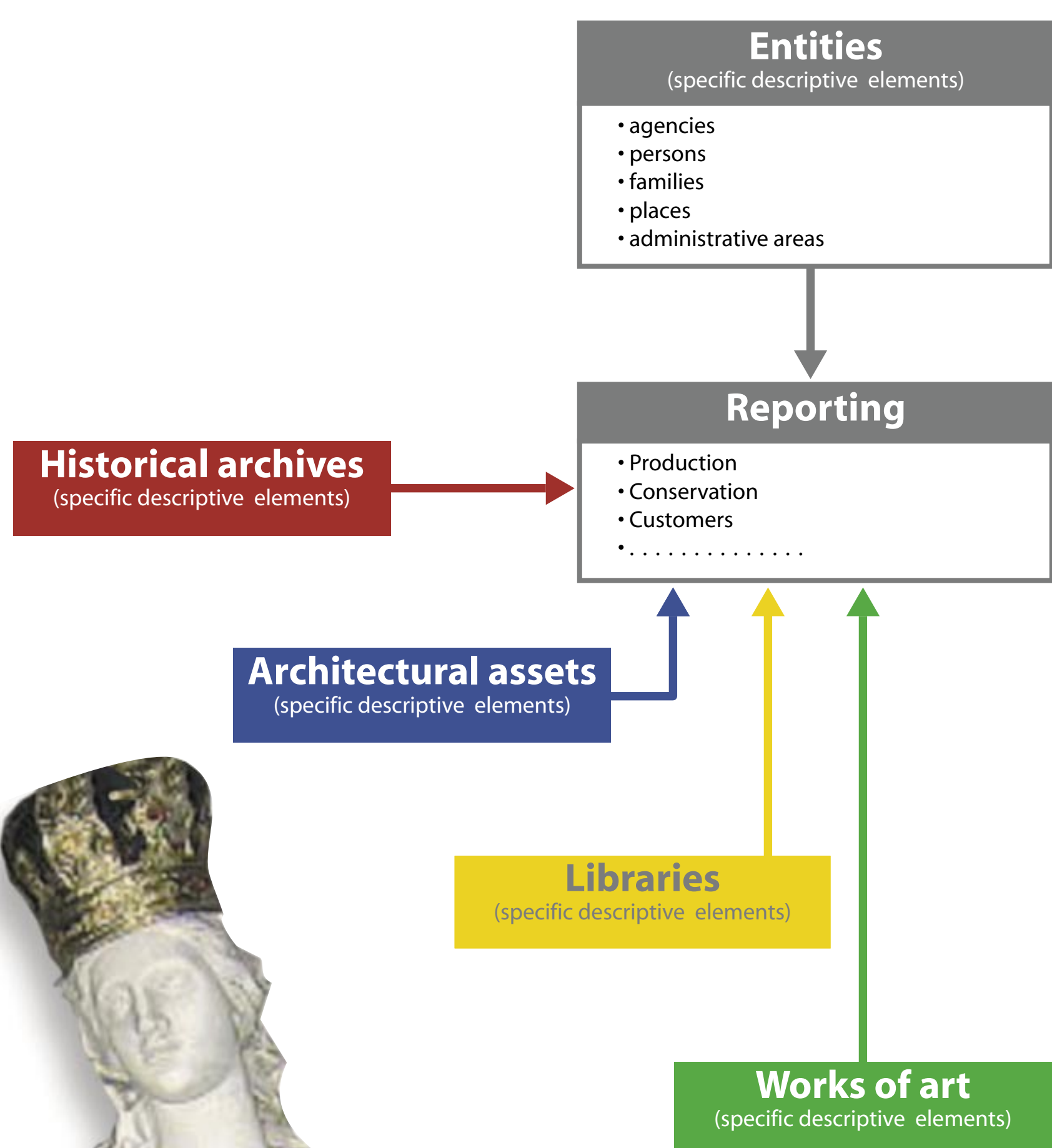
### Lines of research

The working groups are at present engaged in the study of various lines of research:

- the descriptive model
- the system architecture
- technological products and tools
- user profiles

### The descriptive model

The descriptive model developed for the use of different types of cultural assets is based on the sharing of certain common elements that constitute the context within which every cultural object is created and located:



### The products and the technological tools

- the XML family technologies defined among the W3C standards have been chosen to facilitate the exchange of data between the various parts of the system;
- it was also decided to experiment with the use of technologies for the 3D representation of some objects;
- an interdisciplinary working party is concerned with the maintenance of the portal using content management software mechanisms.

### User profiling

Research on user profiling is aimed at ensuring the diversification of the service provided by the system with respect to the various requests and interests of the different types of users.

The objective is to produce a portal in which every type of user can receive information in an integrated manner on the various works of art and architectural, archival and bibliographic assets; i.e. a single framework for the presentation of a variety of cultural assets.

### System architecture

