

Italy

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Policy scenario

1. General description of the political support for digitisation (and national ownership)

The Ministry for cultural heritage and activities is entrusted with the task of administrating, safeguarding and promoting an Italian artistic and cultural heritage. With a view to streamlining the administration and dividing the functions among the various offices more homogeneously, MiBAC was recently object of a radical reform that followed the promulgation of the new *Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio* (Code of cultural and landscape heritage) (legislative decree no. 42 of 22 January 2004).

www.bap.beniculturali.it/organizzazione/leggi/Codice2004.pdf

Four Departments operate under the Ministry. These are, respectively, for cultural and landscape heritage, for archive and book heritage, for research, innovation and organization and for entertainment and sport, divided into various General Directorates.

A streamlined organizational reform forces the Ministry to give a strong impulse to the modernization and innovation of its operational structure, improve and render functional the available expertise and professional resources, provide tools and methods for an efficacious use of the financial resources. These tasks were assigned to the Department for research and innovation, "the real heart of the reform".

The General Directorate for technological innovation and promotion operates within the sphere of this department. It covers the areas of communication, promotion and marketing of the Ministry, as well as the initiatives connected with the application

of new technologies to cultural heritage.

At political level and in agreement with the *Linee guida del Governo per lo Sviluppo della Società dell'Informazione nella legislatura* (Government guidelines for the Development of the Information Society in legislature) issued in 2002, between the end of 2003 and during 2004 some important regulatory provisions in the field of new technologies were issued which had considerable impact also in the field of cultural heritage and their digitization.

www.innovazione.gov.it/ita/documenti/socinfo11_06_02.pdf

- The directive of 18 December 2003, *Linee guida in materia di digitalizzazione dell'amministrazione per l'anno 2004* (Guidelines with regard to the digitization of the administration for the year 2004) which has among its main objectives accessibility to the websites of the civil service and the development of on-line services for citizens, confirmed and consolidated by the directive of 4 January 2005, *Linee guida in materia di digitalizzazione dell'amministrazione* (Guidelines with regard to the digitization of the administration), issued in order to improve the internal documental flow of civil services and for strengthening the supply of on-line services to citizens.

www.governo.it/GovernoInforma/Dossier/digitalizzazionepa_2004/direttiva.html

- The directive of 19 December 2003 of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department for Innovation and Technologies, *Sviluppo ed utilizzazione dei programmi informatici da parte delle pubbliche amministrazioni* (Development and use of computer programmes by the civil service) with which guidelines are provided to the civil services with regard to the

arrangement or purchase of software, encouraging reuse and the use of open source tools.

www.innovazione.gov.it/ita/intervento/normativa/allegati/Dir191203.pdf

- Finally, the so-called *Legge Stanca* (law 4 of 9 January 2004), *Disposizioni per favorire l'accesso dei soggetti disabili agli strumenti informatici* (Provisions to support the access to information technologies for the disabled) the first legislative initiative in Italy as regards accessibility of digital, the effect of which will be that of conforming all websites and digital resources produced by a civil service to criteria of usability and accessibility. www.innovazione.gov.it/ita/intervento/normativa/allegati/disegno_Stanca_disabili.pdf
www.pubbliaccesso.it/normative/law_20040109_n4.htm

The provisions regarding the digitization of the national library heritage are entrusted in Italy to the ICCU, the Central Institute for the single catalogue of libraries, which since the year 2004 has initiated the long-term programme of the Biblioteca digitale italiana (BDI) (Italian Digital Library), a report on which was presented in the previous edition of the Progress Report. These provisions consider also all that was prepared within the sphere of MINERVA
www.iccu.sbn.it/contesteu.html

The activity carried out up to now on 186 historical catalogues of 32 Italian libraries may be consulted at the address
<http://catalogohistorici.bdi.sbn.it/code/index.asp>

Within the sphere of the BDI programme, the digitization

process has begun of manuscript and printed musical documents that contain well-known music, preserved at some of the main national libraries, with the possibility of navigating from a bibliographic record both towards the digitized image and towards any possible corresponding sound document. As of now 60,000 pages of manuscript and printed musical documents have been digitized (Archivio digitale della musica veneta).
<http://marciana.venezia.sbn.it/admv.htm>

The computerization of periodicals has also begun after a period during which a special work group coordinated by the ICCU established the standards and procedures to be adopted. At the moment a data base is already available that can be updated on-line, that reports on finished projects or those in progress, and that gives access to the 410,000 pages of pre-Unity of Italy historical magazines already digitized. The form of the administration-management metadata (MAG) was updated for this activity. This form was prepared by the MAG Committee which was established in order to coordinate at national level the implementation of metadata in the digitization projects in the various sectors of cultural heritage and for connecting the Italian initiatives with European and international initiatives.
www.iccu.sbn.it/indaper.htm

2. Available instruments and the use of those: guidelines, funds, target organisations

With a view towards proving concrete tools for carrying out individual projects within the BDI, during 2004 the Guiding Committee of the Italian Digital Library established work groups for defining further guidelines for digitizing periodicals, photographs and cartography.

www.iccu.sbn.it/PDF/Linee_guida_fotografie.pdf (photographs)
www.iccu.sbn.it/PDF/Linee_guida_cartografia.pdf (cartography)
www.iccu.sbn.it/standardBD.html (general page)

For the MAG form of administration-management metadata used in the national digitization projects of library heritage see
www.iccu.sbn.it/Eschemag.htm

A special work group is looking after the translation, updating and adaptation to the Italian scene of the *Technical guidelines for digital cultural content creation programmes* edited by MINERVA; publication is foreseen in the near future. The English version is at the basis of some big national digitization initiatives (see below).

Co-operation

1. National networks

Apart from the SBN library network (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/>

2. International co-operation

In its role of coordinator of the MINERVA project, MiBAC was invited by the UNESCO Venice Office (ROSTE) to present the European coordination mechanisms typical of the Group of National Representatives (NRG) in an international session organized in Ohrid in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – FYROM – in March 2004 to which representatives of the countries of South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro) were invited. The cooperation activity will continue with the preparation of training for experts based on the MINERVA products. Among the most important actions within the sphere

of international cooperation we would like to mention that one concerning the future of digital memories in libraries, in archives, in museums and in the sector of the arts: ICCU, in cooperation with the European projects Erpanet and MINERVA, created a special work group on the occasion of the international convention dedicated to the Preservation of digital memories organized by the Institute in Florence on 16 and 17 October 2003. The first work phase for the group consisted in promoting a cooperation process, in defining priorities and mechanisms able to increase coordination and the effectiveness of the initiatives of a national nature or pertaining to the sector of digital preservation in Europe. The fruit of this activity is the document *Firenze Agenda* which was undersigned by 27 countries. Two reports were also presented during the Conference: one tells about some emergency and risk cases; the other records an investigative study on the state of the regulations, procedures and guidelines for preservation, currently in force in some countries of Europe and in the world (www.minervaeurope.org/structure/nrg/documents/firenze_agenda031017draft.htm). The work group continues its work with the objective of presenting a proposal in support of its initiative to the European community. Within the sphere of the large international cooperation projects, the sector of library heritage stands out: the Central Institute for Book Pathology of MiBAC (ICPL, www.patologiaibro.beniculturali.it/) is one of the partners of the Community project ConBeLib (www.conbelib.org), a project aimed at the definition of a "map of skills" for the preventive preservation of library heritage on traditional and digital support. The Institute for Catalogue and Documentation (ICCD) of MiBAC will shortly transfer on-line the *Multilingual Thesaurus of Ecclesiastical Equipment*, fruit of international cooperation between Canada,

France, Italy, Portugal and the United States. The Antonio Baldini State Library of Rome (www.baldini.librari.beniculturali.it/index.htm) participated in one of the e-TEN community programmes, TOUCH & TURN Mediation of rare books over the Internet, which developed and validated a service to view rare books and manuscripts from libraries and other cultural and private institutions delivered through the Internet (www.touchandturn.com/). The Antonio Baldini Library chose for this purpose Ciampini's book, acquired in 1995, one of the precious jewels of its collection of rare books.

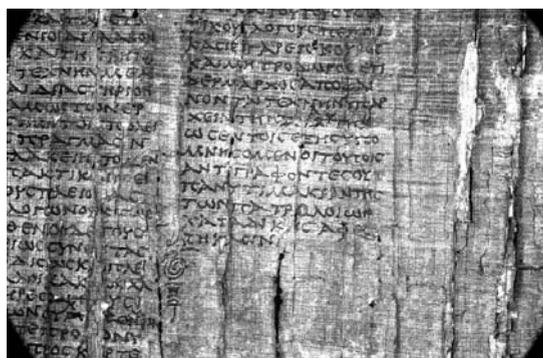
3. Impact of the results of the NRG/MINERVA network

The tools produced within the sphere of the MINERVA project had an extensive impact at national level, especially those relative to the quality of cultural web communication.

The *Technical guidelines* but also the products for the quality of the web of MINERVA were adopted by the big national digitization projects, especially the Italian portal of on-line culture, to be completed shortly, but also the big government project Scegli Italia (Choose Italy), the multilingual site sponsored by the government that will be the main window on the web of Italian cultural, environmental, tourist and food and wine wealth, and that will offer on-line services for tourists and operators of the sector.

The *Handbook for Quality in Cultural Websites* was the object of a long period of experimentation by an Italian work group of MINERVA on the quality of the cultural web, in which 27 between public and private institutions were involved and who offered their websites for controlling the strong and critical points of the model

PHerc. 1427, Filodemo, *La retorica* I, secondo quarto del I sec. a.C.
Photo: Steven W. Booras, 2000
© Biblioteca Nazionale, Napoli, Brigham Young University, Provo (Utah)





Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Sicily

proposed. The results, accompanied by a vast promotion campaign of the book (over 600 participants in 27 seminars) appeared altogether more than positive, so demonstrating the high level of awareness of Italian cultural institutions as regards the importance of a correct communication through the web.

The Italian work group of MINERVA "Identification of user needs, content and quality framework for common access points" prepared, on the basis of the *Handbook for Quality in cultural Websites*, Museo&Web, a prototype of a high quality cultural website expressly structured on the requirements of a museum that is small in size but which also considers the criteria of usability and accessibility with a special reference to the above-mentioned "Legge Stanca"

(www.minervaeurope.org/structure/workinggroups/userneeds/prototipo/index.html).

This work, available free of charge on-line together with model pages for unloading, has been applied already in a couple of institutional sites of MIBAC:

la Soprintendenza archeologica di Roma prepared its ADA site - Archivio di documentazione archeologica (Archive of Archaeological Documentation)

(www.archeorm.arti.beniculturali.it/ada/)

in which the archive heritage of the Office is gathered, including an index of the main collections; the same institute also prepared, according to the same principles, the website of one of its offices, that of the Museo nazionale romano di Palazzo Altemps (National Roman Museum of Palazzo Altemps)

(www.archeorm.arti.beniculturali.it/MNRA1temps).

The site contains full information on the history of the Museum and of the Building that hosts it as well as on the history of the sculpture collections.

Computer indexes on the collections are also available.

The Museo&Web tool, presented on various institutional

occasions, has been appreciated by numerous cultural and non-cultural institutions, so much so that its basic criteria, together with a general plan of high quality cultural communication, were officially adopted by the Ministry itself which undertook launching an "Osservatorio tecnologico sui beni culturali" (Technological Observatory on cultural heritage) based on the MINERVA results.

This Observatory will carry out activity of support, formation and information on the creation of high quality cultural websites based on the prototype as well as digital applications, for the creation and recovery of digital contents in the field of cultural patrimony according to shared high quality standards and criteria. It will be addressed to public cultural subjects providing services of advice, monitoring, coordination and formation, to assist them in creating and updating high quality websites and in digitizing the contents.

In particular, for institutes linked to MIBAC, the Observatory will offer information and advice on the plan of coordinated communication of the websites connected with the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities for a clear and unequivocal perception of the institutional websites by the users who use the network for researching and consulting information. The Observatory will also look after the updating and maintenance of the *Technical guidelines for digital cultural content creation programmes* and it will form a centre of expertise for the censoring and description of the digital collections.

The website, into which part of the information already contained in the MINERVA site flows, will be a fundamental tool of communication of all the activities and services promoted by the Observatory.

Another result of considerable interest is the fact that another Ministry, that of education, of Universities and of Research, has signed an agreement with MiBAC to apply Museo&Web to the sites of schools and

to spread the MINERVA contents even in the sphere of education.

As regards individual projects or activities that were inspired by MINERVA and that used MINERVA's results, apart from the national archivist network SIAS already mentioned, there is one of the greatest cultural networks of the Ministry, RE.MU.NA. - "Virtual Museum of Naples: network of the Neapolitan museums" (see below), and the site of the Community programme Euromed Heritage (www.euromedheritage.net/en/legacy/philosophy.htm), inspired by the MINERVA high quality criteria for web cultural communication.

Main digitisation initiatives

1. National portals for culture / networked digital repositories / services for users

One of the most interesting cultural sites organised on a local basis is the network RE.MU.NA. - "Museo virtuale di Napoli: rete dei musei napoletani" (virtual Museum of Naples: network of the Neapolitan museums), sustained by the Italian Ministry of Education, of Universities and of research. RE.MU.NA was created by the Cybernetic Institute of Naples and brings together all the local offices of MiBAC, dealing with the different categories of cultural heritage: archaeology, architecture, archives and museums. In Naples the formula "system of cultural heritage" is rooted on precise and solid historical and institutional bases: since the 17th century, in fact, all the existing royal collections of antiquities, books, archives, as well as academic, cultural and scientific institutes were joined into the "Palazzo degli studi", then named "Real Museo Borbonico"

now "Museo archeologico nazionale di Napoli". The project RE.MU.NA. represents therefore an experimentation of a cooperation model in which knowledge is compared, integrated and converged towards the common goal of promoting and developing the archaeological, architectural, historical-artistic and documentary heritage of Naples, and of spreading knowledge of it through a multi-sectorial approach. The project involves eighteen Neapolitan cultural institutes, belonging to different disciplinary fields. The project intended to create a computer system for the virtual enjoyment of the artistic and cultural heritage of the city. As a result of the synergy between the skills of the subjects involved and of the Istituto di cibernetica "E. Caianiello" – CNR, Napoli, Re.Mu.Na. first of all considered and enriched the meaning of "virtual museum": it transformed temporary events into permanent, thanks to a new virtual dimension and to new exhibition frameworks.

As a distributed Contents Management System, Re.Mu.Na. has two aims: to permit the enjoyment of the cultural heritage of Naples, referring both to its cultural institutes and to the city as a united "open museum", and, as a consequence, to promote cultural tourism in Naples, just like many cultural sites. Finally, RE.MU.NA. is experimenting the possibilities offered by the Semantic Web to relate meaningfully the information about the different categories of cultural heritage.

www.remuna.org

The project CASTORE (acronym for regional historical cadastres) is promoted by the Direzione generale delle politiche territoriali e ambientali, Servizio geografico regionale (General Management for Territorial and Environmental Policies, Geographical Regional





Service –Tuscany Region) and by the Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali, Direzione generale per gli archivi (Ministry for cultural heritage and activities, General Directorate for archives). CASTORE aims at enhancing the historical knowledge of the regional territory, through making catalogues and digital reproductions of the detailed cadastral cartography of Tuscany.

The Dipartimento degli studi storici e geografici (Department for historical and geographical research) of the Università degli studi of Florence participates in this project offering scientific support.

The project involves a two-year period of cooperation between the Servizio geografico regionale (Geographical Regional Service) and the Archivi di Stato (National Archives) of Arezzo, Florence, Grosseto, Livorno, Lucca, Massa, Pisa, Pistoia, Prato, Siena.

The work consists in carrying out the storage acquisition, cataloguing and digital reproduction of eighteenth century detailed cadastral maps. To be more precise, it will work on the maps belonging to the land register created under Pietro Leopoldo which cover the greatest part of the Tuscan area, on the Bourbon maps, for the province of Lucca, and on the maps of the Este family, for the province of Massa.

Thanks to the CASTORE project more than 11,000 cadastral maps - covering the entire Tuscan territory - will be available on-line. At present it is possible to have an idea about how the maps may be consulted in the future on-line, on the site

www.rete.toscana.it/sett/pta/cartografia_sit/sit/progetti.htm

Among the most interesting and innovative projects jointly funded by the Istituto Centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche del MiBAC – ICCU, (Central Institute for the single catalogue of libraries) is Galileothek@ - Archivi

digitali integrati di risorse galileiane (Integrated Digital Archives of resources of Galileo): ten thematic data bases regarding the life and works of Galileo Galilei can be consulted on-line, from the complete biography of the scientist to the full texts of his works even as far as the places in which he lived and operated.
<http://moro.imss.fi.it:9000/struts-aig/primoIngresso.do>

The Italian regions also play a fundamental role in the digitization of the cultural heritage. There are a few instances of new or improved portals; Piedmont has activated a portal about cultural and tourist itineraries that will also promote access to digitized resources in the future.

www.piemonte-emozioni.it

The Institute of cultural heritage of Emilia-Romagna, has enhanced its site with access to museums' data-bases (with 463 museums/collections in Emilia-Romagna, links to their URLs and other relevant data-bases) historical theatres with digitized images and the MUSA project.

www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it
www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/h3/h3/.exe/amuseier,
www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/teapre.htm
www.isac.cnr.it/musa/index.php

On the library side, the IBC's Soprintendenza website leads to IMAGOplus, the portal of graphic arts and cartography for access to graphical works, photos and historical maps subdivided into catalogues, databases of authority files etc.

www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/soprintendenza/htm/imago.htm

Tuscany presents a regional digital archive of 7,322 graded and listed historical, artistic, archaeological and natural sites, all geo-referenced

http://cultura.toscana.it/paesaggio/carta_vincoli/

Two more local examples in Tuscany can be mentioned: the website of Opera del Duomo in Florence with its digital archive of sources related to the years 1417-1436 when Brunelleschi's cupola of the cathedral was built and baptism records from 1450 to 1900 with 71,000 digitized pages.

www.operaduomo.firenze.it

The Datini economic institute in Prato has activated the digital database of economic and social history of pre-industrial revolution years.

www.istitutodatini.it

Finally, it is opportune to indicate the digitization of the papyri found in Herculaneum carried out by the Officina dei papiri ercolanesi (Office of the Herculaneum scrolls) "Marcello Gigante" at the National Library of Naples. The work, of high scientific importance considering the carbonization of the finds, was promoted by the Institute for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts of Brigham Young University. This work made it possible on the one hand to reduce the risk of further decay for the papyri due their manipulation, and on the other to improve their legibility. Today an archive of 346 CD-Rom, containing over 30,000 images in TIFF format of 940 papyri, are available for scholars.

Future programmes foresee the on-line publication of the multimedia catalogue of the entire block of edited papyri. A prototype of the website is already in the network.

www.bnonline.it/sezioni/papiri.htm

<http://hcc1.byu.edu/PHerc/1084/1084homepage.htm>

2. Services for users

Among the most important on-line services for users, the Tesauro stands out. This is a technological system that achieves an innovative synergy between a private publishing house (Liguori editore), four of the most important Italian national libraries (Biblioteca nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III of Naples, Biblioteca nazionale centrale of Rome, Biblioteca Angelica of Rome and the Biblioteca nazionale Marciana of Venice) and the National Library Service with the objective of safeguarding and spreading the library heritage of the 17th century, making it usable free of charge on-line.

The user will be able to order print/work on demand, by activating an E-book, that will permit him to obtain various levels of an electronic edition, from an anastatic version to a reproduction with modernized characters. At the moment this patrimony covers two hundred printed books of the 17th century chosen from among those in possession of the libraries that are partners in the project and all the ex-copyright books that will over time be requested by the readers themselves. The network also provides users with copies on demand of the same books, for which the format and critical edition can be chosen.

www.retetesauro.net

3. Emerging initiatives

As already mentioned in the paragraph regarding the impact of MINERVA at national level, among the most remarkable emerging initiatives are those parallel of Scegli Italia (Choose Italy) and the Portale italiano della Cultura On-line (Italian Portal of On-line Culture). Scegli Italia is a government initiative for promoting cultural tourism through the net, while Portale Italiano della cultura on-line will be the Italian culture site promoted





by the Ministry. Both projects are benefiting from the results of MINERVA in terms of guidelines and standards so that they are conceived dialoguing and interoperable.

The national request for the community project MICHAEL coordinated by MiBAC, aimed at the constitution of a multilingual interoperable platform for searching information on European digital cultural collections can also be inserted in this context. Since the community funding of MICHAEL is aimed at streamlining and making compatible digital cultural resources already existing, the natural consequence is that this project and the above-mentioned national initiatives will be brought into line with common standards.

Both for MICHAEL and for the Portale italiano della cultura on-line, during the preparation phase, but above all during that of data insertion, numerous institutional actors will be involved beginning from the central and peripheral administrations of the Ministry itself, to the Italian Regions and libraries of the University sphere.
www.michael-culture.org

The project "La biblioteca digitale ed il network turistico culturale: realizzazione del primo nucleo di innovazione tecnologica" (The digital library and the cultural tourist network: creation of the first nucleus of technological innovation) of the Direzione generale per i beni librari e gli istituti culturali del MiBAC (General Management for Library heritage and Cultural Institutes of MiBAC) was begun in February 2004 in order to integrate the National Library Service (SBN) and achieve the main elements of technological innovation that are coherent with the object of constructing a technical, organizational, methodological and operational fulcrum of the Italian Digital Library (BDI).

The first results of this project are present in the Portale Internet Culturale (Internet Cultural Site). Internet

Culturale permits the user to access the catalogues of the National Library Service (SBN), search the contents and the digital collections possessed by the Italian Cultural Institutes, while at the same time providing the network user information of a tourist-cultural nature through virtual routes, information on the places of culture and visits in 3D.
www.internetculturale.it/

The Network will offer citizens new information and knowledge tools through the creation of a Portal specialized in the culture and promotion of the territory, the establishment of a centre of knowledge management for the creation of cultural tourist routes, the strengthening of the activities of coordination of the Digital Library initiatives present in the territory. In order to implement the objectives of the project four subsystems were identified. These were relative to the administrative management of the copyright, the payment of rights and security of transactions, knowledge management (the themes of which currently identified were each associated with a relative centre of excellence), the portal of the Italian Digital Library and the Cultural Tourist Network, understood as a new integrated service of access to digital and traditional resources that may achieve an overall redefinition of the digital image of the various access sites now in existence.

The project "Rete della musica italiana" (ReMI) (Network of Italian Music) – The establishment of the network of Italian Music represents an important thematic specialization of the BDI/NTC system, aimed at the specific treatment of musical and sound documents. The project foresees the initial gathering together of six musical poles chosen for representativeness, for the quality of collections possessed and for the digitization activities carried out: Turin, Venice, Modena, Parma,

Lucca and Rome. The creation of the first nucleus of the ReMI should moreover permit the rapid inclusion of other important realities present in the national territory: Milan with the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi and the Mediateca of S. Teresa; Naples with the Conservatorio San Pietro a Maiella, the Teatro S. Carlo and the Sezione Lucchesi Palli of the Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III; Florence with the Conservatorio L. Cherubini and the collections of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale.

During the year 2004 the National Library System – SBN – was enlarged with the inclusion in the collective catalogue of 111 new libraries, while the creation of new institutional and regional poles is foreseen for the year 2005.

Lastly, the creation of a standard interface will make it possible for the SBN to dialogue with different library management systems that use the most widespread bibliographic formats (UNIMARC, MARC21).

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A. Vassallo, Federazione fra istituti corporativi di credito Milano, Off. Lit. Anonima affissioni, 1918
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