



The Library System University of Ferrara *2006-2016*



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The University of Ferrara Library System

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The University of Ferrara Library System consists of nine libraries organized in three main areas (Arts and Humanities, Economics and Law Area, Science and Technology Area, Life Sciences and Biomedical Area) as well as offices that manage all general activities such as acquisitions of bibliographic materials (print, electronic and multimedia resources) and all goods and services needed by the libraries.

Other centrally managed services are InterLibrary Loans and Document Delivery requests from all unife institutional users, hardware-software acquisition, maintainance and support, web portal management and also the University Online Annals.

Libraries deal with all front-office activities for users: general and subject specific reference, assistance for catalogues and e-resources use, book loans, Interlibro service (ILL between local libraries sharing the BiblioFe catalogue), DD and ILL requests from other Italian and foreign libraries.

Libray staff also deals with all back-office activities such as acquisition suggestions by academic staff, cataloguing and management of all physical items received by library.

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Main events: years 2006-2008

2006

- Foundation of the new Library System
- Planning of a web based system for ILL and DD requests, available freely to all institutional users (access through e-mail ID)
- Official opening of the new Economics Library in the newly restored Palazzo Bevilacqua Costabili (1458)

2007

- Starting and monitoring of the newly centralized activities: books, journals and e-resources acquisition, ILL and DD web-based requests
- “Tecnostoria”: a project in partnership with the Universities of Bologna, Modena and Parma, financed by the Region Emilia-Romagna, aiming at the setting up of a common web portal and search engine for a virtual archive and web portal of motor vehicles
- Support to the Research Department in setting up a repository of Unife research publications
- Official presentation of the newly founded Museum and Archive University System
- Starting of the UnifePress publishing project

2008

- Humanities Library: spaces reorganization and refurbishing, with new areas accessible to users and extension of books/journals storage areas
- New unife libraries Regulations, standardizing all services to users
- Mapping of old and rare book collections located in different sites at Ferrara University



2009

- Setting up of the Open Access Institutional Repository *EprintsUnife* (Doctoral Theses)
- The Library System is awarded of the Certification of a Quality Management System (UNI EN ISO 9001)
- An open access *link resolver* is set up for an integrated access to e-resources
- UnifePress starts publishing books by the University academic staff

2010

- *Information Literacy*: development of web tutorials on library services, design and publication of the new library system web portal, first seminar sessions for students at the Economics Library
- Special collections: St. Anne's City Hospital, Munster, Botany and Human Anatomy rare books collections are relocated in a specially arranged room at the Humanities Library

2011

- Participation in the Third National Survey of Italian Academic Libraries, organized by GIM (Gruppo Interuniversitario per il Monitoraggio dei Sistemi Bibliotecari di Ateneo).
- Organization of the first Round Table at unife on the subject of Open Access : “Open Access: accesso aperto alla letteratura scientifica” (Aula Magna Rettorato, 10/11/2011)



2012

- The *open source* software OJS (Open Journal System) is installed and customized to manage web publication of the e-journals edited and produced by the University of Ferrara academic staff
- A special software (SimonLib) is acquired, installed and customized to manage data and key performance indicators for annual check of the Libraries Quality System
- Planning and start of a long-term project of restoration and cataloguing of the rare books special collections held by the University libraries
- Design and publication of a web portal for museums and special collections at unife

2013

- Starting of a long-term project of restoration, cataloguing and digitization of the archive collection of Ferrara's engineer Carlo Savonuzzi (1897-1973), donated to the University of Ferrara
- Revision and dematerialization of books and journals acquisition procedures
- *Information Literacy*: first scheduled sessions for students on the use of catalogues and databases search strategies

2014

- In collaboration with se@unife (*University Centre for e-learning*) development of a learning platform to be used for Information Literacy e-courses and library staff group work on library science topics
- Customization of a commercial *discovery tool* for integrated search on e-resources and catalogues (cerc@unife)
- Project for the development of an *app* for mobile devices to search the online catalogue BiblioFE
- New design and publication of the web portal of the Library System

Main events: years 2015-2016

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2015

- New simplified access to all electronic library services for institutional users through their e-mail ID (*single sign-on*)
- Publication of the University Open Access Policy: support of the Library System to the Research department offices for preliminary drafts of the policy
- First acquisitions of academic e-books (pick-and-choose model)
- Implementation of EDI (*Electronic Data Interchange*) standard to improve acquisition procedures between our Information Library System and books/journals suppliers

2016

- Special collections promotion and communication strategies: videos and exhibitions (see details p.10)
- Customization of the new OPAC interface BiblioFe with web portal features (published in January 2017)
- Special collections development and communication strategies: production and free distribution of bookmarks, cards, shoppers, calendars and notebooks reproducing images taken from rare books and archive materials
- Exhibition and conference open to the public: *City of paper | City of stones | Engineer Carlo Savonuzzi's professional archive*
- Conclusion of the cataloguing project of the rare book collections.
Restoration activities still in progress

BiblioFe
Catalogue



LANFRANCO ZACCHIA, *De salario, seu Operariorum mercede tractatus*
(Roma, Francesco Felice Mancini, 1656) – Law Library

Special collections: rare books

The University of Ferrara rare books collections include a great variety of books dating from the 15th to the early 20th century. Conservation and promotion projects started in 2008 with a thorough check of all sites and materials, both in the University libraries and in research departments premises. This work ended up in a detailed listing of all collections held at our University (Human Anatomy, Evolution Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Economics, Physics, Humanities, Mathematics, Earth Sciences, Law, Ferrara University Historical Archive), including a special collection of Medicine which was temporarily entrusted to our care in 1992 by St. Anne's City Hospital.

Several books from the Botany and Medicine collections were selected for an important exhibition held at the Main City Library ("Dall'Hortus Sanitatis alle moderne farmacopee", Ferrara, Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea, 1 dicembre 2008 - 14 febbraio 2009).

Since 2009, thanks to the financial support of the University, several care and promotion projects have been carried out by the Library System, i.e. restoration of some damaged items, relocation of parts of the collections as well as cataloguing.

All collections are now located inside our libraries, where they can be better taken care of and made available to the public.



Special collections: rare books

Since 2012, 4.639 rare books belonging to the Human Anatomy, Botany, University Historical Archive and St. Anne's City Hospital collections have been catalogued.

This work was carried out by professional librarians specialized in rare books; great attention was given to the editions and to copy-specific information, so as to highlight each book's features and its value as a unique 'object' (book-plates, handwritten notes, bindings, etc.).

Thanks to this cataloguing project, by now nearly all our special collections data are searchable in our local (BiblioFe) and national (SBN) online catalogues.

Last but not least, a restoration project started in 2012 and is still going on, involving 19 rare books dating from the 16 th to the 19 th century; restoration data and images showing some steps of the work are available in our BiblioFe online catalogue. At present, 8 items (including two precious 16 th century editions, are still in the process of being restored.



Special collections: rare books

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During 2016 two videos focusing on rare books restoration and cataloguing were produced thanks to the support of se@unife (the University Centre for e-learning), IBACN Emilia-Romagna and a local professional restorer (Franco Antolini-Legatoria e Restauro, Ferrara). The videos are available on the official YouTube University channel (unifeTV - Area Patrimonio Culturale).

In order to enhance academic and other users' knowledge of our heritage, a series of everyday items with images taken our special collections was produced (bookmarks, cards, notebooks, calendars and shoppers)

A precious 17 th century edition of the famous Andrea Vesalio's Anatomy (Venice, 1604) was given on loan at the exhibition "Il corpo svelato - Arte anatomia e ostetricia nella ceroplastica del '700" (Ferrara, Sept 20-Nov 30 2016), thus reinforcing our cooperation with the University Museums System.

All ongoing and future projects aim at sharing knowledge of the University special collections, of the necessity to invest on their care and promotion and also at highlighting the professional competence of those involved in their care, so as to encourage all users, both academic and non-academic, to benefit from their use.

Video *"Anatomia per uso et intelligenza del disegno": the story of a book restoration*



Video *Let's promote the University of Ferrara valuable treasures - The art of rare books cataloguing*



Special collections: Savonuzzi's professional archive

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In may 2006 the University of Ferrara accpetd with a formal act Gloria Savonuzzi' wish to donate her late father Carlo's (1897-1973) personal professional archive to the Department of Architecture and its Library. Architect and Engineer, Carlo Savonuzzi played a leading role in the urban and architectural changes in the city of Ferrara in the 20 th century. This large collection consists of a variety of items (drawings, photographs, handwritten notes and documents) that had been carefully collected and classified by Carlo Savonuzzi during his professional career (1922-1965).

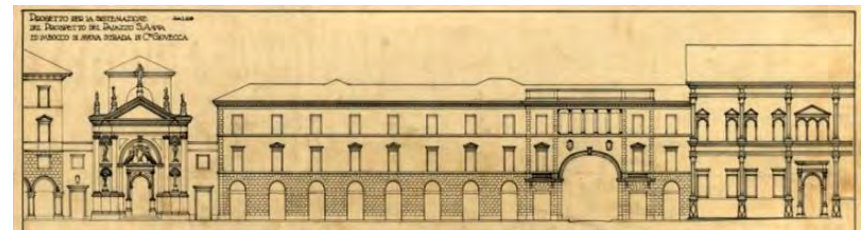
In June 2007 a research project was started, with the financial support of the Department of Architecture and of the local Foundation-Bank Cassa di Risparmio di Ferrara: «The history of Savonuzzi: a multipurpose critical-historical analysys of Carlo Savonuzzi's work based on the outcomes of the re-ordering and cataloguing of his professional archive» (Ferrara 1897 -San Remo 1973).

In July 2013 la Soprintendenza Archivistica per l'Emilia-Romagna (the Regional Archives conservation Board) gave authorization to start re-ordeing the archive, with a complete revision of the indexing subjects and aggregation of items, following new criteria based on the architectural project instaed of customers and dates of production..

In June 2014, thanks to an agreement with two Foundations (Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna e la Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna), the complex work of reordering and cataloguing started, and data are freely available on the web virtual archive portal «*Una città per gli archivi*»

(<http://www.cittadegliarchivi.it/>).

Video
City of paper | City of stones |
Engineer Carlo Savonuzzi's professional
archive



Special collections: Savonuzzi's professional archive

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During 2015 the analytical description of all items in the collection was carried on, as well as the reordering and attribution of new call numbers. In the same year, 1.700 architectural drawings were digitized and 65 of them were restored.

On October 26, 2016, Savonuzzi's archive was officially opened to the public, together with an exhibition ("*City of paper | City of stones | Engineer Carlo Savonuzzi's professional archive* ") that displayed at three different sites some of his works (Palazzo Tassoni-Department of Architecture, Palazzo Savonuzzi and also the city main Theatre (Teatro Comunale 'Claudio Abbado'). "

Two local secondary high schools (Istituto Superiore "L. Einaudi" and "M.M. Boiardo") were also involved in a project in which young students were asked to reinterpret some of the architect's drawings of Ferrara buildings, using different graphical technics; the works produced during the practical workshop were then exhibited, together with the original Savonuzzi's drawings at the University Chemistry and Life Sciences Library Santa Maria delle Grazie (December 16, 2016 to January 31, 2017).



Video *City of paper and city of stones.*

Reading and re-reading the architectural works of Carlo Savonuzzi



Library System strategies for 2017

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A more powerful communication of the Library System activities in different areas is the common theme to be found in our strategic goals for 2017 and beyond; our strategies are thus aligned with the University three missions: Education, Research and Third Mission. Our plans include:

- **Information Literacy:** users education, especially undergraduates, on bibliographic resources and library services, both with traditional means and through new electronic and multimedia technologies.
- New design and updating of our website, use of social networks as well as print materials as means of communication with users.
- Public events such as the Round Table organized at the Salone Restauro-Musei 2017 («Il patrimonio culturale si svela: le biblioteche dell'Università fra didattica, ricerca e nuove opportunità, 22 marzo 2017») Other projects such as cultural itineraries/exhibitions on themes relating to our special collections and heritage, also in partnership with secondary schools students.



Special collections - Humanities Library

Library System strategies for 2017

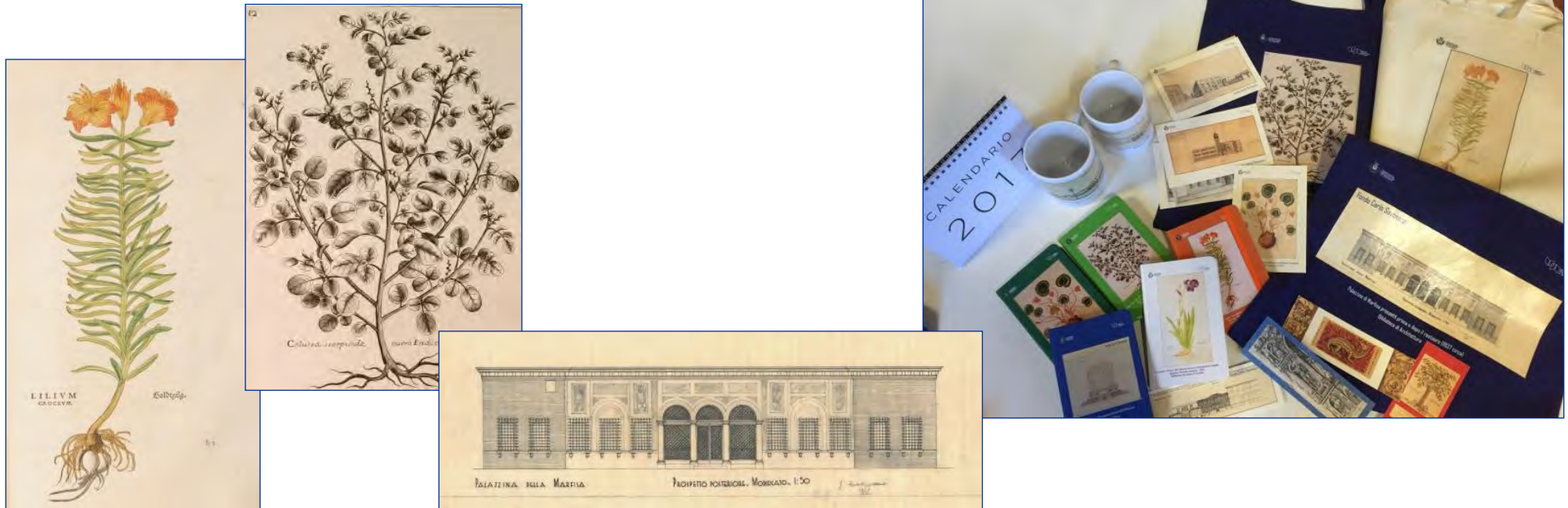
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The Library System strategies and communication actions take into account their economic sustainability as well as their educational and research value, even more so when special collection are at stake.

Both internal and external experts are involved, and the collection items to be promoted are chosen among those that may better interest all users, i.e. not only the academic staff but all citizens.

Many beautiful pictures from our precious medical, botanical and law historical books and Savonuzzi's Archive were used at the end of 2016 to produce bookmarks, cards, shoppers, calendars and notebooks, which are given for free on special events.

Other types of goods may be produced and merchandizing may start in the future to help the Library System in its care and promotion activities.





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Sistema
Bibliotecario
di Ateneo

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