

Salone Restauro-Musei 2017 (22-24 marzo 2017, Ferrara Fiere)

ROUND TABLE:

Unveiling our cultural heritage: academic libraries for education, research and new opportunities.

22 marzo 2017, ore 14-17, Sala Ariostea, padiglione 5, Ferrara Fiere

The Round Table was organized by the University of Ferrara Library System at the Salone Restauro-Musei 2017 in order to discuss about libraries potential - especially the academic ones - in heritage conservation, thus adding new perspectives to this annual event, that in the future may be more and more focused on library-related topics.

Three case-studies were presented: the management of the University of Ferrara Libraries' special collections and particularly their promotion also by means of videos and heritage-inspired gifts; the care and promotion of archival collections in the Region Emilia-Romagna, mainly through the [ArchIVI - Città degli Archivi](#) website; the experience of bibliotourism at the Royal Library of Turin, included in the [BiblioTour Piemonte](#).

Different points of view were discussed by the speakers, who represented expertise in several subjects (librarianship, museology, archivistics and humanities but also architecture and economics) and belong to the academic world as well as to cultural institutions and enterprises.

The round table also focused on the need to outline a new role for academic libraries in connection with Education, Research and Third Mission issues, especially by promoting libraries' heritage in cooperation with museums and archives. One important outcome of the discussion was that to fulfill these goals it is important to extend to museums the network structure already adopted by most Italian libraries in the last decades and also to make more use of the new opportunities provided by digital technologies. Furthermore, a closer interaction with academic staff and professionals in digital humanities seems to be one of the priorities, as well as a stronger relation with the local context, where synergies should be established not only with other public institutions but also with private companies, especially those interested in cultural tourism. New skills are thus required for librarians, in order to allow libraries work in this new direction and also take advantage of the opportunities that will be provided by *2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage*.

Video recordings of some of the speeches are available on the [se@unife YouTube official channel](#) and the [Proceedings of the Round Table](#) have been published online and can be downloaded open access.