

Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana digitale | Virtual Broader Access

The new digital library of the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana

1. Description and project objectives

The project “Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana digitale | Virtual Broader Access” has been created with the aim of enhancing some manuscripts of the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana through the digitization and the wide diffusion – public and free of charge – of quality digital copies available via the Internet, all to maximize the preservation and encourage at the same time their knowledge and use for purposes of study, research and high dissemination.

In a medium-long term timeframe, our aim is to make progressively available the handwritten patrimony already digitized in the past. Parallel to this operation of recovery of already digitized collections, the production of new high-resolution digital copies [mainly relative to four shelfmarks: Inferior (.inf), Superior (.sup), S.P. and Trotti] will continue. In the current project start-up phase, we are aiming foremost to favor the digitization and the consequent diffusion via the Internet of the precious exemplars excluded from the consultation because of their precarious state of conservation: in this way the digital copies will become true replacement copies, contributing to the preservation of the precious originals.

2. The value of the partnership

The project “Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana digitale | Virtual Broader Access” has been developed thanks to the effective cultural, scientific and technological collaboration of national and international partners who, in various ways involved, have made it possible. In alphabetical order: the *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek* (BSB) in Munich, the *Catholic University of the Sacred Heart* in Milan, the *Dedagroup*, the *IIIF - International Image Interoperability Framework*, the *University of Notre Dame* (IN, USA).

3. Innovation

The project “Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana digitale | Virtual Broader Access” was born with an eye towards the future: after more than four hundred years of history, therefore, the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana continues its journey of opening to the world – *ad publicum commodum et utilitatem* («for the good and the public utility») – declining its original mission also in the digital age, thanks to the digitization of some of its own manuscripts and the adoption of advanced technologies (high-resolution digitization, compatibility with the IIIF standard - *International Image Interoperability Framework*, use of the Mirador Web viewer), in order to allow the widest free of charge use of its own digital contents.



Contact person:

DR. FABIO CUSIMANO, PH.D.
Head of Cataloguing and Digital Asset Management (D.A.M.)
Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana,
Piazza Pio XI, 2 – 20123 MILANO
Phone: +39/0280692350
E-mail: fcusimano@ambrosiana.it



2018 
ANNO EUROPEO
DEL PATRIMONIO
CULTURALE
#EuropeForCulture