Europeana Regia: a collaborative library of royal manuscripts from Medieval and Renaissance Europe

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The Europeana Regia Project

- Collaboration
- Digitization of a corpus of manuscripts from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance
- Virtual reconstructions of important royal collections
- Integration in Europeana
- Focus on users

Three historical collections

▸ **Biblioteca Carolina**
(8th and 9th Centuries)
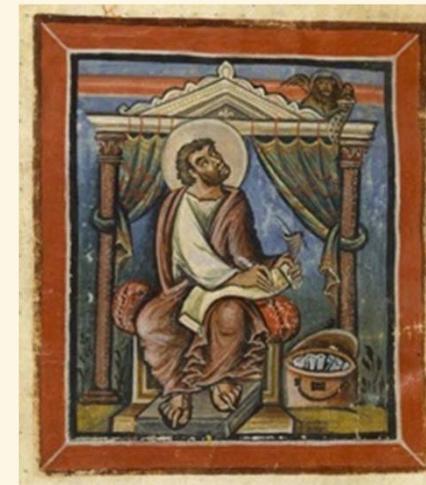
▸ **Library of Charles V of France**
(14th Century)

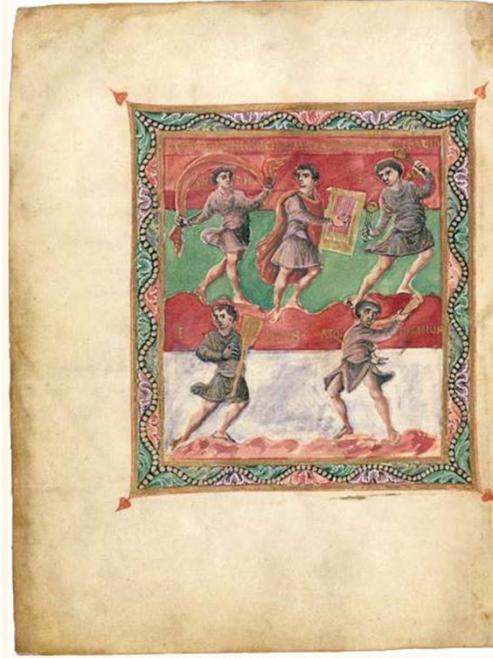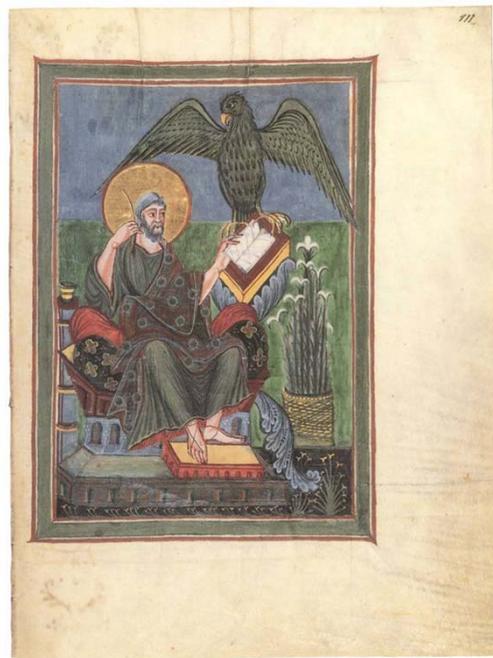▸ **Library of the Aragonese Kings of Naples**
(15th-16th Centuries)

Biblioteca Carolina

▸ **425** manuscripts from the most relevant workshops of the Carolingian Empire

Library of Charles V of France

▸ 167 manuscripts belonging to the king's library known as Bibliothèque du Louvre

Library of the Aragonese Kings of Naples

LVCII ANNEI SENECAE TRAGE

▸ **282** manuscripts created for one of the most impressive humanistic libraries

Europeana Regia partners

- Bibliothèque nationale de France   {BnF
- Bayerische Staatbibliothek   BSB
- Biblioteca de la Universitat de València   VNIVERSITAT D·V·VALÈNCIA
- Herzog August Bibliothek
- Bibliothèque Royal de Belgique   KBR·belgica

- French libraries
- Other collaborations

- European Commission   ICTpsp
  Information and Communication Technology Policy Support Programme

Some figures

	BnF + BM	BSB	BHUV	HAB	KBR	Total
Manuscripts						
Carolingian	225	114	-	57	29	425
Charles V	154	1	-	-	12	167
Aragon	189	1	92	-	-	282
Total	568	116	92	57	41	874
Images						
Carolingian	68.296	40.996	-	16.128	9.914	135.334
Charles V	66.134	208	-	-	4.178	70.520
Aragon	66.806	266	34.978	-		102.050
Total	201.236	41.470	34.978	16.128	14.092	

1. Digitization

2. Description: dealing with metadata

3. Integration in Europeana and other portals

4. The Europeana Regia website

5. User as the ultimate goal

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▸ Concerns for the digitization of ancient manuscripts

▸ Age and value of documents

▸ Importance of details

▸ Most common difficulties

▸ Fidelity to the original and quality control

▸ Long term preservation policies

▶ **Europeana Regia Recommendations**

- ▶ Digitization from the original document only
- ▶ Manuscript digitized in its entirety
- ▶ Full page digitization, one image per page
- ▶ Standardized technical parameters (file format, compression, resolution, colour depth...)
- ▶ Inclusion of metric rulers and colour charts
- ▶ Controlled conditions (lighting, special devices...)
- ▶ No changes to the equipment within the same manuscript

Descriptions: dealing with metadata

▸ **Problems with describing Medieval and Early Modern manuscripts**

▸ **Different institutional starting points**

▸ **Different metadata schemas used: TEI, EAD, MARC**

▸ **Defining two metadata levels for ER descriptions:**

   ▸ Core metadata

   ▸ Academic metadata

▸ **Establishing metadata mapping and crosswalks to ESE**

▸ **Standardizing terminology and vocabulary**

▸ Europeana portal

▸ The European Library (TEL) as the aggregator for ER

▸ Integration in other websites: Gallica, Manuscripta Medievalia, Belgica

▸ Local access to ER content

The Europeana Regia website

Users as the ultimate goal

▸ Target audience

- ▸ Researchers and academics
- ▸ Secondary school teachers
- ▸ Interested general public

▸ Different needs and expectation

- ▸ For specific research
- ▸ For a general understanding these documents in context

▸ *"Cultivate new ways for users to participate in their cultural heritage"* (Europeana Strategic Plan 2011-2015)

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▸ **Added benefits of Europeana Regia**

- ▸ To overcome the particularity of each manuscript to present them together in their original cultural context
- ▸ To foster trans-institutional and trans-border cooperation
- ▸ Building a new virtual context: difficulties and challenges
- ▸ To compare procedures and work on an international level
- ▸ To identify the possibilities of new technology

Thank you for your attention

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