**Naples Time machine**

(authors: Antonella Ambrosio, Antonello Migliozzi)

**The background**

Since 2008 thanks to a collaboration between the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II and ICARus (International Centre for Archival Research) (https://icar-us.eu/en/) a research team is dedicated to the experimentation of digital technologies in research focused on the written sources of the Italian Middle Ages, especially of the Campania region, with a specific approach from palaeography, diplomatics and history of documentation (http://www.coop-unina.org/south-italy-medieval-documents/).

In particular, the digitisation of the parchments and the photos and their study, the publication of the digital representations of the archival fonds on Monasterium.Net and Topotheque, were carried out in synergy within a range of scientific and educational activities, accomplished with large-scale employment of digital technologies.

The team is coordinated by Antonella Ambrosio (<https://www.docenti.unina.it/antonella.ambrosio>), Associated professor at University of Naples of Palaeography and Diplomatics and director of the *Documents on the Web Lab* of UNINA.

At the beginning the research could be realised thanks to financial support from ICARus and was continued thanks to financing from the project ENArC (European Network on Archival Cooperation) – EU, Culture Programme, 2007-2013 (<http://www.recruitdigitaldoc.org/enarc-in-short/>). Afterwards the research activities are supported by the project co:op (Community as Opportunity. The Creative Archives’ and Users’ network) – EU, Creative Europe 2014-2020 (<http://www.coop-unina.org/>) and by some funds of the University of Naples dedicated to the international relationships.

The research team considered during these years the documentation of the South Italy and its digital archives a laboratory which enabled the experimentation of efficient and leading-edge solutions to problems of conservation, valorisation and usability, the Achilles’ heel of Italian and Western European documentation. During this experimentation an interest for new research methods in virtual environments awakened which allows for participation of researchers from different backgrounds, geographical, institutional and formative ones.

***Naples/Campania region Time Machine***

In this context the group launched a new ample project: *Naples/Campania region Time Machine* in the field of the activities of the European Time Machine (https://www.timemachine.eu/). The group in these project wants to make available the vast experience gained regarding the documentation of Southern Italy, and in particular in Campania, in an analogical and digital environment, in two directions:

- on the one hand supporting the development of some historiographical themes concerning Naples and Campania, overall at the outset to favor those lines of research in which the use of archival documentation has been more scarce over the centuries (the *Landscape* for example),

- on the other side connecting and offering to existing research, in fieri, or starting, concerning Naples and Campania, the necessary support to develop further in the European Time machine project.

**Naples Time Machine \_ Landscape**

The landscape and its history represent therefore a tangible element full of meaning of the European community spirit.

It should be stressed that the knowledge of the history of the landscape where the European citizens live is still essential for them today, because the landscape does not represent a neutral element in their lives, but influences them heavily. If the elements which constitute the landscape coexist harmonically and in a well-balanced way, they can make the live of the citizens more gratifying, contribute to their well-being (health, housing schemes, social relations, cultural identity) and better their economic and occupational situation. This is why it is important to protect the concept of multifunctionality and quality of the landscape.

How to implement this knowledge of the landscape and its history? Not only by building upon observations and studies of the today’s state of the landscape, but also by analysing historical dynamics and reconstructing them with historical methodologies. And here the archives are playing the key role. In the archives we find the sources for the reconstruction of the landscape of the past, with regard to a political, social, religious, economic and cultural point of view. Without withholding the fact that legal titles and legal evidence owned by men of the past and linked to the landscape are preserved in archives. The view and the dynamic reconstruction of the landscape are the indispensable starting points for the citizen, both as regards the management of today’s landscape (under pressure from various sides for different reasons) and the contribution to the planning of the future landscape. This is critical to avoid repeating old errors.

In short, we would start from the archives and realise on-line infrastructures capable of educating citizens in awareness for the complexity of the landscape and of improving their everyday life.

A interdisciplinary research group (from University of Naples Federico II and from MUSA - Museum of agricultural science) intends to create in this direction a first stage of a Naples/Campania region Time Machine deeply immersed in the context of the South Italy, which had intense relations with the European West and the Byzantine and Arab world in the Mediterranean.

With the term ‘Naples’ we refer to the city of Naples, but also to the whole South Italy because the documentation preserved in the local archives comprises the centuries from the 9th to the 19th and therefore the Duchy of Naples, the Kingdom of Sicily, the Kingdom of Naples and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, which had intense relations with the European West and the Byzantine and Arab world; some of these political institutions had a leading role in the Mediterranean.

**The Research group**

Current Landscape research group for the Landscape:

(IT) Antonella Ambrosio, Maria Rosaria Falcone, Vera Schwarz, Giuseppe Consolo (UNINA, Documents on the Web Lab) and a group of researchers and professors in Humanities and other disciplines (University of Studies of Naples Federico II/Monasterium Italy project)

(IT) Stefano Mazzoleni, Antonello Migliozzi and a group of researchers of the Museo delle Scienze Agrarie (MUSA) - Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Botany, Geographical Information System, Historical cartography and land use change)

The educational aspect will be curated in cooperation with prof. Flavia Santoianni - UNINA (Education and Pedagogy).

Since 2015 the group has been working on the digitisation of the historical documentation and has carried out the relating scientific research within national and particularly European projects, in order to reconstruct the dynamics of the evolution of the landscape of the Campania region, to identify and put in order the historical documentation of these changes, in digital archives standardized at European level. Much of the data and results of these projects will be used for the Naples/Campania region Time machine.

The group of the UNINA and the MUSA disposes of competences in studying and digitizing documentation, and focuses in particular on a vast area of southern Italy, Campania (which is among the European regions with the highest landscape, biological and cultural diversity), in order to reconstruct the dynamics of the evolution of these landscapes, to identify and put in order the historical documentation of these changes, in digital archives standardized at European level in a GIS sistem. These aspects will be analyzed in particular in relation to similar cases in the Mediterranean area. Ultimately, this would allow setting up training courses and educational paths of interactive musealization, functional to raise among European citizens the awareness of the common features of EU history, culture and landscapes.