

BITECA and its (Occitan and Latin) literary context. From the manuscripts to the digital world.

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ABSTRACT:

BITECA, continuation of other projects funded in previous calls, dedicates its efforts to manuscripts and early printed editions of medieval Catalan works in their Iberian context. This research, focused on the identification, description and study of these witnesses, the critical edition of unpublished texts and the study of their circulation and transmission (originals or translations), is channelled through a database of the same name (BITECA) integrated in PhiloBiblon. PhiloBiblon is a pioneering project ahead of its time and of any other initiative within the field of Digital Humanities: thanks to the application of electronic technologies, it allowed the use of and search in large databases, transforming as technology advanced, to become a relational database that covers all areas of the Iberian romance literature, freely searchable via the Internet. BITECA, therefore, integrates in the largest of the initiatives that deal with medieval Hispanic literature from the Digital Humanities, being the spearhead of some of the changes of the content of PhiloBiblon -introduction in the corpus of codicological data, of incunabula and early printed editions of medieval works- for which BITECA has developed research protocols and published joint studies.

The project aims to achieve these objectives:

- 1) Complete the description of different manuscript witnesses: i) manuscripts and early printed editions that preserve texts in Catalan, not yet studied or unsatisfactorily described; ii) Catalan manuscripts containing anonymous and apocryphal texts; iii) Latin medieval manuscripts with texts and vernacular translations of Cicero (*Pro*

Marcello; Paradoxae).

2) Identify and study manuscripts cited in bibliography, currently unreachable or lost.

3) Complete and enhance existing databases (PhiloBiblon / BITECA and the watermarks database www.biteca.net/filigranas) with a review of some tables (BIOGRAPHY, UNIFORM_TITLE).

4) Collaborate in improving the search mechanisms and the interface of the PhiloBiblon database.

5) Collation, critical edition or study of some Catalan, Occitan and Latin texts, of special interest (books of the 14th century Catalan Bible; chivalric and legal texts; Matfre Ermengaut's *Breviari d'amor*, vernacular translations of Cicero's *Pro Marcello* and *Paradoxae*).

6) Examine the textual / material context in which this literature spread, often multilingual, by means of a systematic review and identification of the Latin works that are copied together with Catalan texts; and examination of the manuscripts that transmit Occitan works, in order to make an updated inventory of primary sources of medieval Occitan literature to be used as reference catalogue (excluding the troubadours).

7) Analyse the late medieval manuscript transmission of Latin works that were translated into various Romance languages, in order to study the the flow of dispersion and diffusion of these works and assess their relationship to the works in the vernacular (limiting ourselves to two works by Cicero).

8) Assist in the improvement of the computing platform PhiloBiblon, in concrete in its transformation from a relational database to a semantic web.

BITECA is part of the coordinated project MEDBOOK: *The universe of the book in the Crown of Aragon (12th-15th centuries). Manuscripts, editions and readers from the manuscript tradition to the beginning of the printing press*. Directed by Gemma Avenoza. MEDBOOK joints the efforts of two research groups: the already mentioned BITECA and CITECA, *The circulation of scientific Arabic and Latin manuscripts in the Crown of Aragon (12th-15th centuries) and their transmission to Europe*, directed by Rosa M. Comes Maymó (UB).

Keywords: Digital Humanities, Codicology, Medieval Iberian Literature, Latin, Arabic, Occitan, Catalan.