Satellite Meeting
"Conservation and preservation of library material in a cultural-heritage oriented context"
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The Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario

Armida Batori
Director of ICPAL
The Central Institute for the restoration and conservation of archival and library heritage (ICPAL) was born as a result of the merging of...
the Istituto centrale per la patologia del libro
(Central institute for book pathology)
with the Centro di fotoriproduzione, legatoria e restauro degli Archivi di stato (Centre for photo reproduction, binding and restoration of State Archives)
ICPAL is not merely a restoration laboratory but most importantly a research centre. Since its foundation, the Institute has been an organisation that reflects the interdisciplinary approach that inspired its establishment: the Institute is equipped with research laboratories for chemistry, biology, physics, and materials technology, and it has a specialist library and museum.
As a result of the new institutional organisation, ICPAL's scientific and restoration laboratories and its services are structured as follows:

• Restoration
• Preventive conservation
• Conservation of digital supports
• Environmental factors
• Biology
• Chemistry
• Physics
• Technology
• Documentation and information
• Communication and cultural promotion
• Teaching methodology
The Institute houses a specialist library that is open to its scientific and technical staff and other people who work in the sector. People following training courses in book and document conservation also have access to the library.
the Museum founded in 1938, is laid out in three distinct sections, each dedicated respectively to materials used in the making of documents and books, damage, and the safeguarding and restoration of archival and library materials.
Training courses and international conferences and workshops (refresher courses and for study purposes) are organised at the Institute, forming part of a programme aimed at the improvement and spread of knowledge about conservation and restoration of archival and library materials.
The Scuola di Alta Formazione e Studio (School of advanced training and study) for restorers of archival and library materials is set to be opened shortly at the Institute. ICPAL and the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at the Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" have set up a master's degree course in “Restoration of library materials (Remlib)” for the academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.
In addition to regularly providing consultancy for solutions to conservation and restoration problems in Italian libraries and archives, the Institute collaborates in areas such as technical organization and the drafting of norms.
The editorial output of the Institute attests to its research activities.
A cura di Rita CARRARINI e Carla CASETTI BRACH
*Libri & carte. Restauri e analisi diagnostiche*
Roma, Editore Gangemi, 2006, p. 172

A cura di Flavia PINZARI
*Scienza & ricerca per i beni culturali. Microscopia elettronica a scansione e microanalisi*
Roma, Editore Gangemi, 2008, p. 96

Mariasanta MONTANARI, Elena RUSCHIONI, Pasquale TREMATERRA
*Archivi & biblioteche. Sugli infestanti e le infestazioni*
Roma, Editore Gangemi, 2008, p. 80
A cura di Cecilia Prosperi
*Il restauro nei lavori della Commissione istituita nel 1909/10. Materiali per una storia della teoria del restauro documentario*
Roma, 2006

A cura di Luciano Residori
*Indagini scientifiche e metodi di restauro, Materiali archivistici, grafici, fotografici e pittorici*
Roma, 2008
I CENTOPASSI
della prevenzione in biblioteca

PROTEGGI I LIBRI
Strumenti per la conservazione preventiva dei beni librari

Istituto Centrale per la Patologia del Libro

La manipolazione dei materiali librari
Linee guida per i lettori e il personale delle biblioteche

PROTEGGI I LIBRI
Strumenti per la conservazione preventiva dei beni librari

icpal Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario
Engagement in international cooperation with consultancy and training
JAPAN
EGYPT

Collaboration began in 2006

Seven scholarship holders from the National Library and Archives of Egypt in Cairo took part in a practical and theory-based stage at the Institute.
EGYPT
YEMEN
YEMEN
ARGENTINA
ARGENTINA
ICPAL and the emergencies

The history of ICPAL is marked by emergency operations following disasters
ICPAL and the emergencies

Just as Cardinal Franz Ehrle's conference in St Gallen had done (1898), the experience of salvaging manuscripts in Turin drew attention to the overwhelming need to organise restoration methods.
ICPAL and the emergencies

1904 fire in Turin

Manuscripts thrown into via Po during the salvage operations
ICPAM and the emergencies

During the night of 25 December 1904, a fire struck the Turin National Library, devastating five of its rooms.

Declared a national library in 1873 at the end of the 19th century, it housed 250,000 volumes, 4,200 manuscripts and 1,000 incunabula
The fire, the cause of which is not known, spread rapidly due to the library's wooden structure.

The fire brigade, who rushed to the scene after a passerby reported seeing the glow of a fire, found the only access point was blocked by the fire.

When they reached the Manuscript Hall in the early hours of the morning, they discovered that it had been engulfed by the fire and that the roof and the ceiling had collapsed on the shelves and the glass cases where the manuscripts were permanently exhibited.
ICPAL and the emergencies

The fire destroyed half of the Oriental, French and Italian manuscripts and 30,000 volumes, including Piedmontese incunabula and Aldine editions.
ICP AL and the emergencies

1939-45 war

some 12 million books were destroyed or severely damaged in Europe during World War II
ICP AL and the emergencies

1939-45 war
in alcuni rifugi destinati bibliografico pregevole di llico si sia riscontrata la suffe nei libri conservati.
ICPAL and the emergencies

1966 great flood of Florence
ICPAL and the emergencies
1966 great flood of Florence

1,200,000 volumes damaged
ICPAL and the emergencies

1995 the River Tanaro burst its banks at Santo Stefano Belbo
ICPAL and the emergencies

earthquake
Messina
1908
From an initial inspection it is estimated that some 1,150,000 volumes were destroyed or had to be removed from dangerous buildings. Technical staff from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBAC) and the Libraries Office, the Civil defence, volunteers from the Lega Ambiente (the Environmental League association) carried out salvage operations.
2009 l’Aquila

52 volumes from the ancient section of the library of the Santa Chiara convent were frozen and transported courtesy of Bofrost freezer vehicles to a secure area.
ICPAL and the emergencies
2009 l’Aquila

The State Archive and its library, together with other public and private archives, were made secure and will shortly be available to the public in a specially built building in the industrial area of Bazzano, 10km from l’Aquila.
A MiBAC Office was set up, in which the Istituto superiore per la Conservazione e il Restauro, the Istituto centrale per il Restauro e la Conservazione del Patrimonio Archivistico e Librario and the Opificio delle Pietre Dure are taking part. ICPAL is also committed to collaborating in the drafting of guidelines for salvage operations and the carrying out of training for volunteers.