

International Conference Biblissima+ 2025 – Ancient written cultures without borders: International portals forum

“MEMO – MEMORY OF MONTECASSINO”. TOWARDS FREE AND OPEN ACCESS TO THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY’S WRITTEN HERITAGE

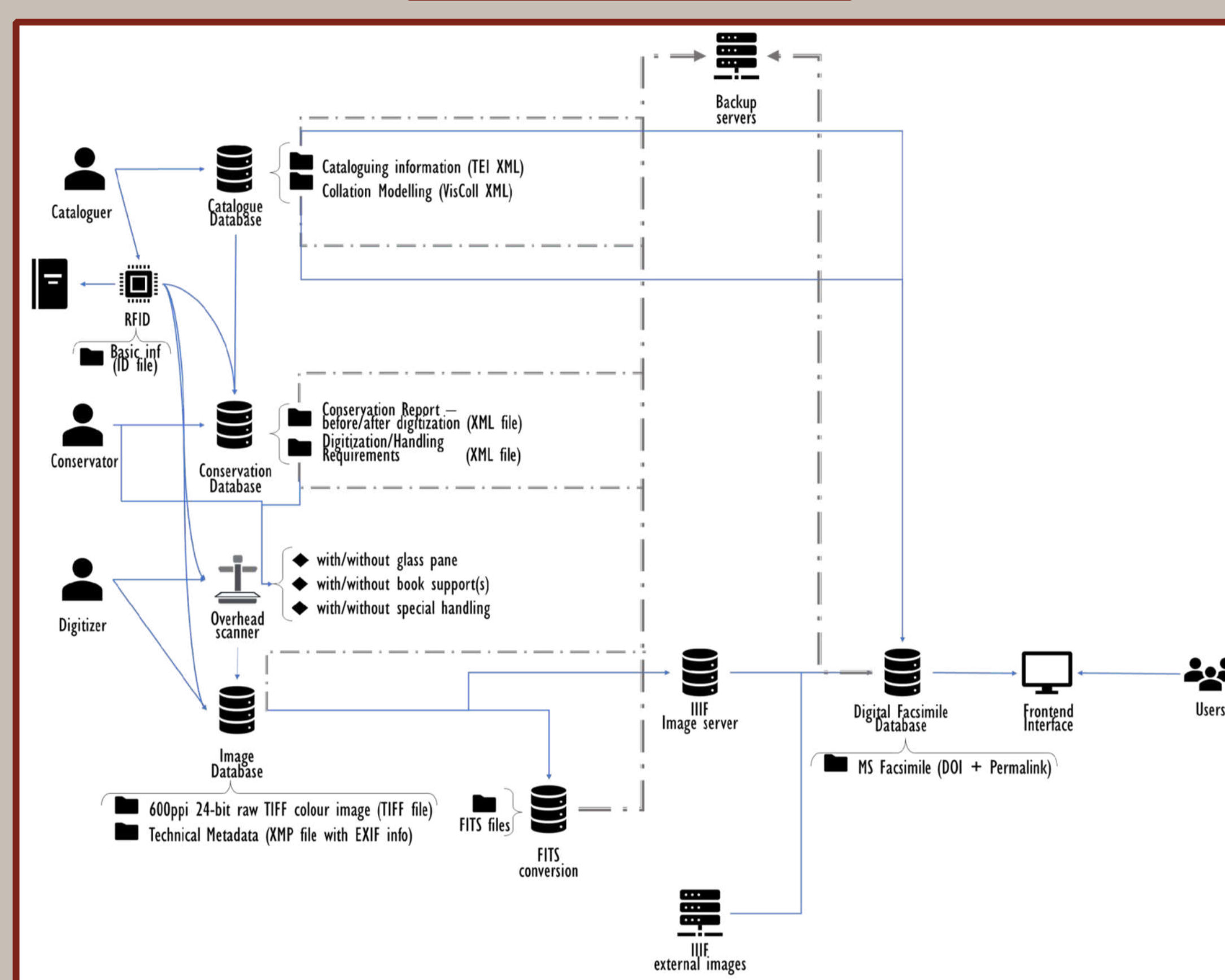


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“MeMo” is an integrated system, designed for the preservation, promotion, and enhancement of the mediaeval manuscript and printed heritage housed at the Abbey of Monte Cassino. These objectives are pursued through the digitisation of the manuscripts. The workflow has enabled the development of integrable tools, including:

1. access to scientific descriptions and digitised versions of the manuscripts;
2. creation of a repository for the long-term storage of images in FITS format;
3. establishment of a digital library that allows users to consult scans and descriptions of manuscripts, as well as perform searches using authority data (MeMo.dl);
4. development of a knowledge portal dedicated to the heritage of the Abbey of Montecassino, featuring thematic tours focused specifically on manuscripts (MeMo.Unicas).

WORKFLOW

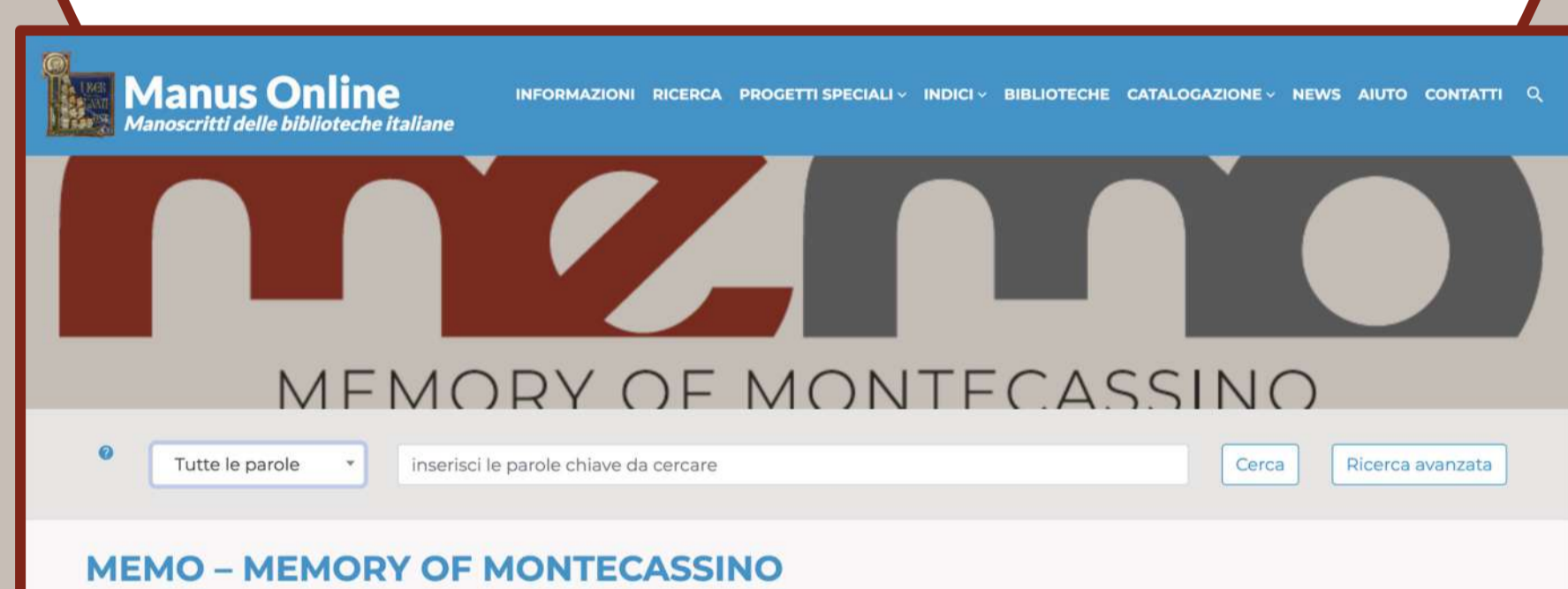


MeMo & MOL

1.

MeMo is one of the special projects that contribute to the Manus Online (MOL) database, which encompasses the description and digitisation of manuscripts preserved in Italian public libraries. The initiative operates under the auspices of the Central Institute for the General Catalogue of Italian Libraries and for Bibliographic Information (ICCU).

Through the MOL platform, users can access both scientific description and high-quality digital reproductions of the manuscripts held at the Abbey.

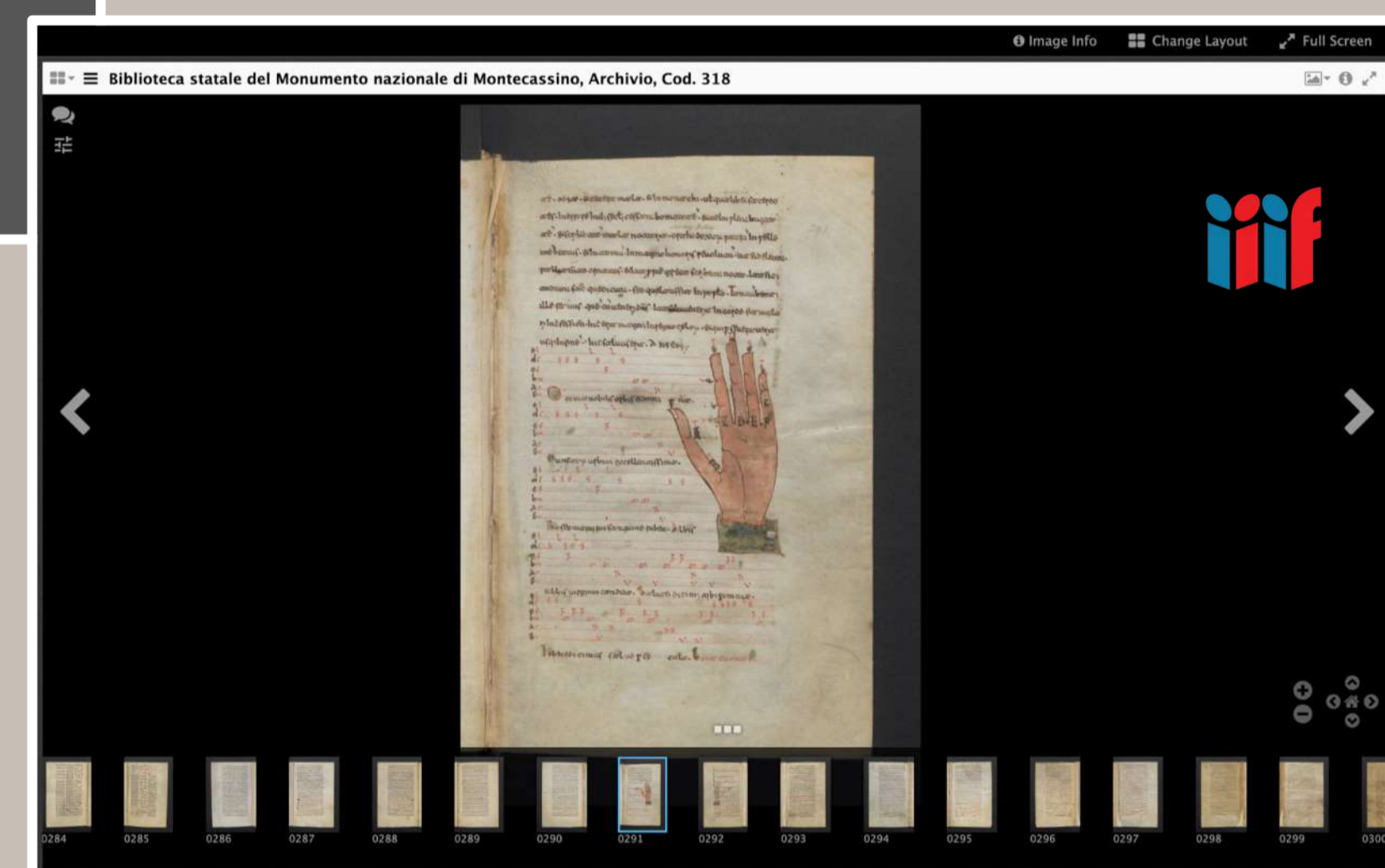


2.

The Omnes multifunctional platform, developed by DBSeret, supports the storage, management, and retrieval of data and content, as well as the processing and long-term preservation of manuscript images. Digital objects are delivered through APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) that are fully compatible with the IIIF (International Interoperability Framework) standard. Each manuscript is accompanied by a brief description and a permalink to its corresponding record in Manus Online (MOL).



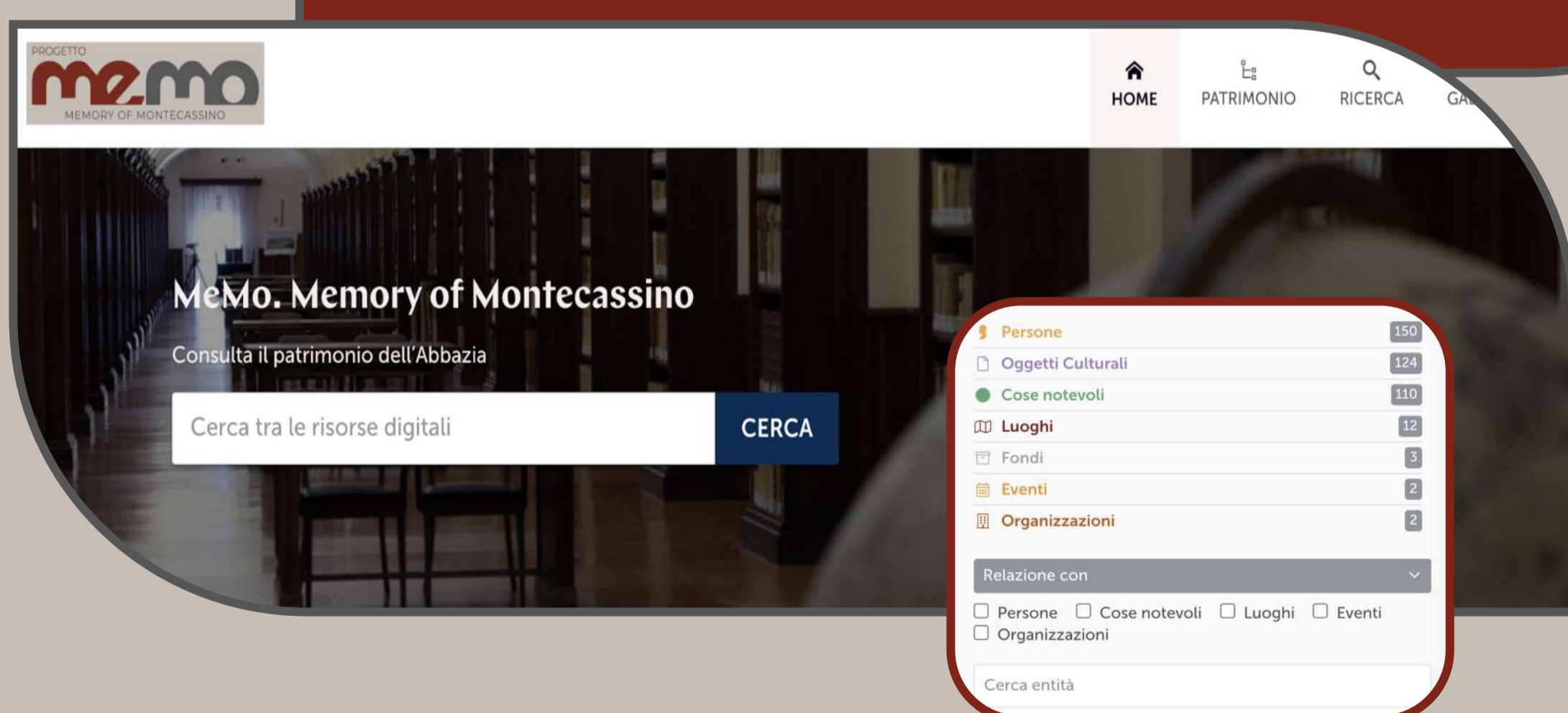
MeMo & Omnes



MeMo.dl

3.

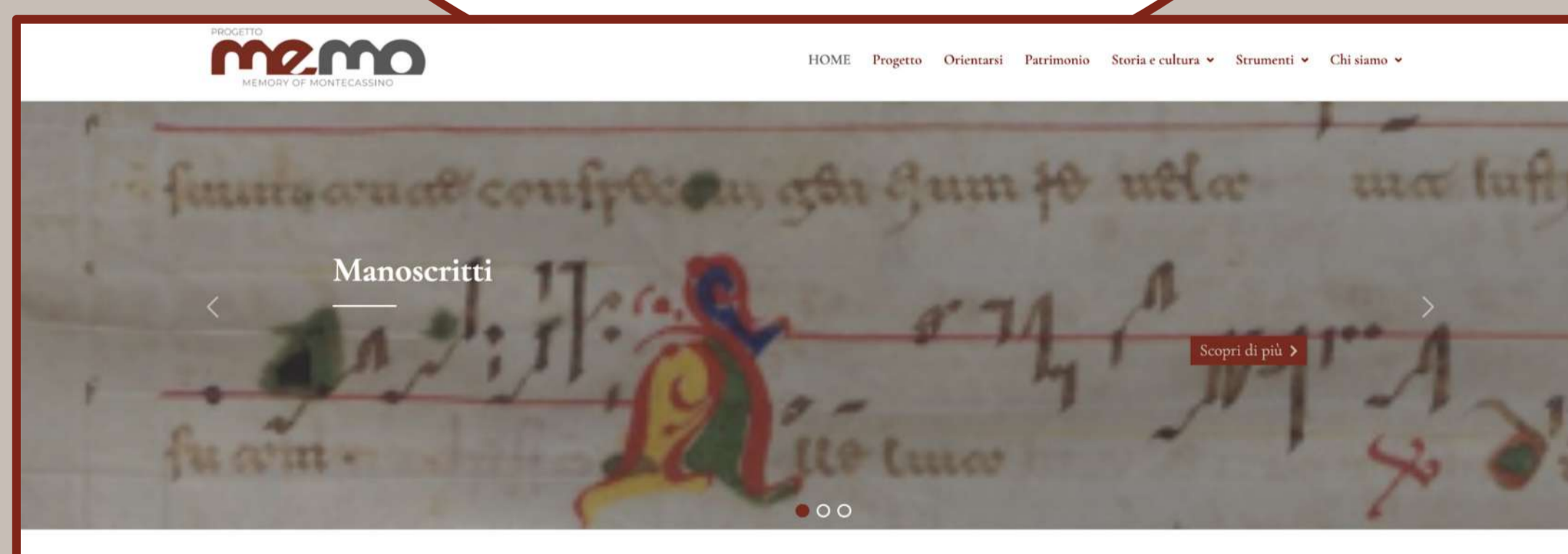
MeMo.dl is an essential tool for accessing cultural heritage. It is a digital library developed by the IT company **Hyperborea**, which, through its web application **Arianna4**, manages, describes, and publishes manuscripts and documents, systematically adopting the IIIF visualisation protocol. Moreover, Memo.dl offers an integrated digital environment for **authority-based searches**, allowing users to query by **personal names** (such as scribes, abbots, authors, and translators), **places**, **script types**, **titles** and many other metadata.



MeMo.Unicas

4.

The central portal for the project is **MeMo.Unicas**. It provides users with access to comprehensive information about Memo's activities, offers insights into the history and written culture of Monte Cassino, and features thematic paths dedicated to the Abbey's heritage. A dedicated section hosts the scientific publications produced within the framework of the project.



SOCIAL NETWORKS

The portals facilitate public access to content and promote its use in line with the principles of Open Access and public engagement, supporting the dissemination of Monte Cassino's cultural heritage. MeMo's official social media accounts further ensure the visibility and dissemination of information related to the project's activities.

MeMo
(Facebook)



MeMo
(Instagram)



FIRST RESULTS

During the project, the three main partners achieved significant results:

1. The **University of Cassino** catalogued approximately 270 manuscripts, of which 217 have been integrated into the MOL database. Of these almost 200 manuscripts have been digitised and 170 are now accessible via MeMo.dl and Omnes.
2. The **Sapienza University** analysed and described over 900 parchments. Their images and descriptive metadata have been integrated into Omnes and are available on MOL.
3. The **University of Catania** was responsible for the cataloguing and description of over 200 incunabula: 96 of these were recently digitised by the University of Cassino team and will soon be published on the project's online platforms.

These numbers continue to grow each day, and MeMo remains committed to its work!

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