PROGETTO

me.mo

MEMORY OF MONTECASSINO

MeMo

A digital journey into the heart of medieval written memory
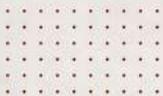
MeMo - Memory of Montecassino, recognized by the Ministry of University and Research as a Project of National Relevance (PRIN 2020) and directed by N. Tangari, is the result of the expertise of the "LIBeR. Libro e Ricerca" lab, based at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio.

Its **mission** is to revive the manuscript heritage of the Montecassino National Monument's Archive and Library. By using advanced digitization and cataloguing tools, MeMo makes these treasures freely accessible, connecting past and future through memory and innovation.

Thanks to high-resolution images, detailed records, and multimedia content, MeMo makes medieval manuscripts, archival documents, and early printed books, accessible and engaging—even for non-specialists.

Blending scholarly rigor with outreach, the project brings written heritage to life and fosters a shared memory that reaches beyond local borders.

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

SOL PER NOCTEM
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CASSINO E DEL LAZIO MERIDIONALE · 1979 · 3^E

CASSINO ABBAZIA NOW DI MON

Università di Catania
SICILIAE STVDIVM GENERALE 1434

DTC LAZIO

REGIONE LAZIO

ROME TECHNOPOLE
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

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A close-knit team and a network of prestigious collaborations

MeMo brings together experienced scholars and emerging researchers in a **dynamic team**, where faculty, postdocs, doctoral students, and collaborators work side by side. Young talents are trained in digitizing and promoting cultural heritage, contributing actively at every stage.

Led by the University of Cassino, the project partners with Sapienza University of Rome and the University of Catania, each offering specific expertise: Cassino in manuscript cataloging and digitization, Sapienza in archival research, and Catania in incunabula studies and digitization.

Ongoing collaboration with the Montecassino monastic community and support from an international scientific committee—alongside partners like the Vatican Apostolic Library, CNRS–IRHT (France), the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, and the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries (ICCU)—ensure global reach and academic impact.

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A rigorous and efficient organization

MeMo's work begins with the careful selection of manuscripts with the greatest scientific and outreach value, followed by a conservation assessment by a qualified expert. This step identifies the most suitable volumes for digitization and the appropriate method—either a planetary scanner or a high-resolution digital camera.

Digitization is handled by skilled operators trained at the University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, ensuring fidelity to the originals. The images then undergo meticulous post-production.

But MeMo goes far beyond digitization: images are converted to the **IIIF** (International Image Interoperability Framework) standard for global accessibility and compatibility with major digital libraries. For long-term preservation, files are saved in **FITS** (Flexible Image Transport System) format on permanent media. In parallel, a team of specialists catalogs the manuscripts on the **Manus Online** platform using a standardized protocol.

From memory to the web:
A unique written heritage just a click away

Beyond description and digitization, MeMo comes to life through two key tools that make Montecassino's heritage accessible and interactive.

The first is Omnes, a multifunctional platform by **DBSeret** for long-term archiving, managing, and preserving digital images.

On **Omnes**, each manuscript is paired with a brief description, and the **IIIF viewer** lets users to explore high-resolution images and compare digital objects side by side. This allows virtual reunification of manuscripts now scattered across libraries or enables precise philological and paleographic analysis on materials, even when held far apart.
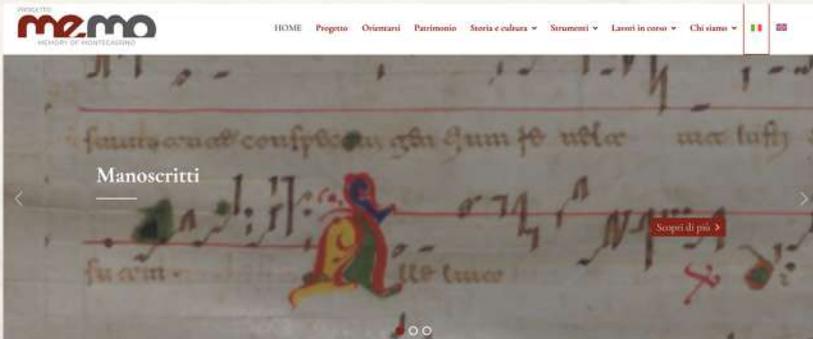
An innovative digital library

One of MeMo's key achievements is the creation of the **MeMo Digital Library** (**MeMo.dl**), an innovative platform that provides open access to Montecassino Abbey's book and archival heritage. Available through the "Heritage" section of memo.unicas.it, it allows easy, immediate browsing of digitized materials, organized in a tree-like structure.
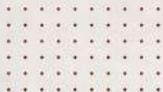
The Digital Library has an advanced entity-based search system, enabling users to filter content by author, title, scribe, script type, and more. This reveals the unique qualities of Montecassino's manuscripts and supports researchers in fields like paleography and codicology.

The platform also integrates Mauro Inguanez's historical catalog, offering digital and transcribed records for the first time alongside the manuscripts.

Developed with **Hyperborea**, MeMo.unicas is more than a digital library getaway. It is a dynamic platform showcasing the project's team, goals, ongoing activities, and publications. With thematic pathways and informative itineraries, the portal invites all users to explore Montecassino's written heritage, combining accessibility with academic depth.

MeMo goes social: telling and sharing research

The project is also active on social media, with an official Facebook page and an Instagram profile. Through clear, dynamic, and engaging content, these channels narrate the team's work step by step—from methodologies and results to future developments.

These social media pages are intended as active spaces for dialogue, where students, and enthusiasts can interact directly with the team and become integral participants in the project's ongoing story.

The future of memory has already begun

From the start, MeMo responded to a shared need to explore and share the treasures of Montecassino Abbey. This mission continues, now with a broader goal: to make Montecassino's entire cultural heritage, including its museum collections, fully accessible online.

To that end, the **MeMo – ViAM** (Virtual and Accessible Museum) project was launched by the University of Cassino in partnership with Sapienza University of Rome. It will create a digital museum with 3D reconstructions, virtual lecterns, animations, texts, and images, offering an immersive experience of Montecassino's book arts within the Abbey's wider story.

Accessibility is key to MeMo – ViAM: the platform will include assistive technologies for users with sensory or cognitive disabilities, building on tools already developed by the "Museo Facile" lab.

MeMo – Memory of Montecassino is more than a research project: it is a bridge between past and future, tradition and innovation. By combining digitization, cataloging, and outreach it has made priceless cultural heritage accessible and shareable.

Driven by international collaboration, MeMo stands as a model for cultural heritage valorization—showing that accessible memory fosters knowledge, dialogue, and global growth.

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