The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)

in collaboration with

Università degli studi di Cassino e del LM / Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

presents the following conference:

Manuscript Cataloguing in a Comparative Perspective: State of the Art, Common Challenges, Future Directions

7-10 May 2018 at the CSMC in Hamburg

During the last few decades, the study of the materiality of manuscripts (not only in codex form) belonging to European, Asian and African traditions has made significant progress, with a relevant impact on the understanding of their contents and the approaches to their scientific description. Scholars have become aware that the presentation of data in standard manuscript catalogues often does not allow to understand correctly the structure of the objects in relation to their contents, and sometimes even leads to the suspicion that their physical and historical complexity had escaped the attention of the cataloguers themselves.

At the same time, printed catalogues have been gradually complemented or replaced by electronic ones, increasingly numerous and varied as regards their features, promoters, and quality of the outcome. As a consequence, contemporary manuscript cataloguers ought to have not only a good training in the fields of palaeography and codicology and a solid knowledge of text histories, but also a growing familiarity with IT languages and architectures: a varied set of basic knowledge and skills that only a long and patient practice allows to strengthen and refine.

The conference's scope is
- to briefly summarize and compare the state, main methods and perspectives of manuscript cataloguing (both in print and online) in a wide range of European, Asian and African manuscript cultures;
- make scholars and cataloguers aware of the approaches in use, encourage them to discuss the reasons for their adoption and their compared relevance;
- help them define their own cataloguing approach and employ it to correctly understand the manuscripts, and clearly describe their original structure, their contents and the evolution they may have undergone in the course of time.

The programme includes examples of recent achievements (and still open problems) in the main manuscript cultures; comparisons of methods and strategies which may be applied to the description of the single 'external', 'internal' and 'historical' features of the manuscript book - with examples of good practices and open challenges; an insight into the state and the further developments of electronic cataloguing and digital collections, with an overview of open issues and a focus on the most needed missing tools. Printed and on-line catalogues will not be dealt with separately, but assessed and compared within each session with regard to their specific contribution to the progress of cataloguing methods.

May 7 PM

14.30-15.00   Welcome addresses
15.00-15.30   Patrick Andrist / Marilena Maniaci, *Issues and challenges of manuscript cataloguing in a comparative perspective*

Session 1 - COMPARED PRACTICES IN MANUSCRIPT CATALOGUING

15.30-16.00   Javier del Barco, *Practices and challenges, old and new, in the cataloguing of Hebrew manuscripts*

16.00-16.30   Coffee break

16.30-17.00   Alessandro Bausi / Denis Nosnitsin, *Cataloguing Ethiopic manuscripts: update and overview on ongoing work*
17.00-17.30   Tilman Seidensticker, *Different ways of cataloguing manuscripts within the Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts in Germany Project (KOHD)*

May 8 AM

Session 2 – DESCRIBING THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE CODEX

09.00-9.30   Patrick Andrist / Marilena Maniaci, *Codifying physical features*
09.30-10.00   Timothy Stinson, *Old meets new: describing and cataloguing manuscripts in a digital age*
10.00-10.30   Yasmin Faghihi, *TEI metadata standards for description of codicological features of manuscripts*

10.30-11.00   Coffee break

11.00-11.30   Ulrich Schmid, *Towards a joint digital catalogue of Sahidic biblical manuscripts*
11.30-12.00   Christoph Flüeler, *Describing fragments as physical objects: working with Fragmentarium*
12.00-12.30   Camillo Formigatti, *Material aspects of South Asian manuscripts. How to record them in catalogues?*

May 8 PM

Session 3 – DESCRIBING THE PHYSICAL FEATURES OF NON-CODEX MANUSCRIPTS

14.30-15.00   Élodie Attia-Kay, *The description of the Torah scrolls produced in Western Medieval Europe: state of research, , issues and perspectives*
15.00-15.30   Imre Galambos, *From scroll to concertina: The physical description of pre-modern Chinese manuscripts*
15.30-16.00   Emmanuel Francis, *Notable features of Tamil palm-leaf manuscripts unmentioned in catalogues*

16.00-16.30   Coffee break

16.30-17.00   Thies Staack, *Describing early Chinese bamboo and wood manuscripts: some challenges posed by their physical features*
17.00-17.30   Lampang Manmart, *Metadata development for manuscript management : a case of Thai palm leaf manuscript*

May 9 AM

Session 4 – DESCRIBING THE CONTENTS (TEXTS, IMAGES, MUSIC, GRAPHS…)

09.00-09.30   Michael Friedrich, *Cataloguing ritual and religious MSS of the Yao*
09.30-10.00   Ronny Vollandt, *How to navigate through a corpus of 10.000 Arabic Bible MSS with a research question in mind?*
10.00-10.30   Christian Brockmann, *Why philologists are reading manuscript catalogues*

10.30-11.00   Coffee break

11.00-11.30   Matthieu Husson, *Cataloguing astronomical manuscripts: the case of Alfonsine astronomy*
11.30-12.00   Julia Craig Mc-Feely, *Preserving ancient sounds: the challenges of describing the transmission of music in Medieval and early modern manuscripts*
12.00-12.30   Steve Delamarter, *What is the place of paratextual information in a catalogue of Ethiopian manuscripts? The Ethiopian psalter as a case study*

May 9 PM

Session 5 – NEW AND OPEN ISSUES

14.30-15.00   Matthieu Cassin, *ISMI: project of unique and stable numeric identifiers for manuscripts*
15.00-15.30   Marina Bernasconi, *How digital libraries can influence the description of manuscripts: working with e-codices*

15.30-16.00   Coffee break

16.00-16.30   Christoph Mackert, *Between in-depth cataloguing and collecting standardized basic informations: Current tendencies in describing manuscripts in Germany*
17.00-17.30   Columba Stewart, *vHMML reading room: metadata standards, authority control, and initial steps toward linked data in a comparative and comprehensive cataloguing environment*

May 10 AM

Session 6 - MISSING TOOLS

9.30-10.00   Pietro Liuzzo, *La 'Syntaxe du codex' and TEI. Models, mappings and visualization tools*
10.00-10.30   Alberto Campagnolo, *VisColl, a new model for the description of the collation of manuscripts and related tools*

10.30-11.00   Coffee break

11.00-11.30   Saskia Dirkse, *Introducing the structural visualization of Medieval manuscripts tool (StruViMan): principles, methods, aims and prospects*

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

11.30-12.30   Discussants: Claudia Fabian / Nuria M. de Castilla

GENERAL CHAIRS: Patrick Andrist, Alessandro Bausi, Michael Friedrich, Marilena Maniaci

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
https://www.manuscript-cultures.uni-hamburg.de/register_cataloguing2018.html