

The TRAME Project – Text and Manuscript Transmission of the Middle Ages in Europe

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TRAME, Text and Manuscript Transmission of the Middle Ages in Europe, is a research infrastructure for medieval manuscripts, hosted by FEF/SISMEL on:

- <http://git-trame.fefonlus.it>.

The project was born in 2011. Its main aim was to build a research infrastructure project focused on promoting interoperability among different digital resources available in the medieval digital ecosystem by connecting repositories of digitized images of medieval manuscripts, their codicological descriptions, their textual and philological interest and their cultural significance in the context of the European history.

Currently it implements a number of features (including simple, shelfmark or advanced search mode etc.) on more than 80 selected scholarly digital resources on western medieval manuscripts, authors, and texts across the EU and USA, including digital libraries, research databases and other projects from leading institutions.

TRAME is more than just a piece of software: it is a research tool deeply rooted in the international medieval scholarly community, whose development is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding of the **COST Action IS1005** “*Medieval Europe Medieval Cultures and Technological Resources*”, representing 260 researchers coming from 39 leading institutions (archives, libraries, universities and research centers) in 24 countries across EU.

The engine scans a set of sources for searched query terms and retrieves links to a wide range of possible information, from simple reference to detailed manuscript record, to full text transcriptions.

The application is written in OO-PHP, the design follows the HMVC Pattern, the RDBMS is MySql and the front-end combines Xhtml and Javascript.

Since 2014 September 1st, TRAME has entered a new phase and the current work is focused on:

- extending the meta-search approach to other web resources,
- leveraging the users interaction to define an ontology for medieval manuscripts,
- re-designing the front-end towards a new UX approach.

TRAME is an ongoing collaborative international effort, rooted in the medieval research community. Its development agenda is deeply influenced by the needs expressed by scholars across EU and US.

Recent changes about the nature of the information available in the WWW influenced the development of TRAME from a mere meta search approach towards the establishment of a Medieval Semantic Knowledge base, using custom modules for information collection and integration (i.e.: web crawler, data miner).

References

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TRAME. Text and Manuscript Transmission of the Middle Ages in Europe. Evolving the System Towards Horizon2020 and VCMS Challenges. http://www.sismelfirenze.it/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&task=download&id=68_69e648d4f36e436d0ec96c334a0180a4&Itemid=266&lang=it