

# Welcome by the Rector of the University of Florence

**Luigi Dei**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad to introduce this Conference on the Universal Bibliographic Control. I would like to thank Professor Mauro Guerrini for having invited me to give these welcome remarks and please accept the warmest greetings and wishes by the University of Florence. It's always a great pleasure for a Rector of a big University where almost every discipline is cultivated to participate to the opening ceremony of an International Meetings: indeed, looking at the various programmes it's possible sharing the great horizons and frontiers of the advanced research in the various domains of the research. In particular, you will discuss about themes that truly permeate some important aspects of many topics dealing with cataloguing and libraries. As you well know bibliographic control is radically changing because the bibliographic universe is radically changing: resources, agents, technologies, standard, and practices. In this view libraries play a fundamental role in the digital ecosystem. Your conference will address many topics, as the new bibliographic universe, library cooperation networks, the legal deposit, national bibliographies, bibliographic agencies, new control tools and standard, authority control and new alliances, new ways of indexing documents by means of artificial intelligence, machine learning, text-mining and so on, role of thesauri and ontologies in the digital ecosystem. Let's me express gratitude to all the speakers who will participate to this Meeting that is held due to the pandemic at distance by virtual meetings. I am sure that the debate and the discussion that will take place during the meeting allows to stimulate new ideas for future research projects and possibly generate interesting partnerships among different research groups. I believe one of the most positive aspects of such meetings is the possibility, thanks to the human contacts, to establish interactions and contaminating some different knowledges on similar subjects. Unfortunately, the social distancing due to the pandemic has removed that wonderful aspect of Conferences which is to socialisation, but I want to hope that this year can be the renaissance year for meetings where people start again to be in presence. I am sure that the level of the contributions in this Meeting will be very high, and I hope you can continue to study and work at your Universities, Research centres, private or public institutions with a renovated will to improve the knowledge and develop new research strategies.

My best wishes for a fruitful and good Conference and I am very sad not being able to invite you enjoying with the cultural heritage beauties of our city. Thank you very much of your attention.