



Press release

Rome, May 11th 2023
Auditorium Giovanni Paolo II
Pontificia Università Urbaniana

The Roman Union of Ecclesiastical Libraries (URBE) and @Cult announce the release of PARSIFAL, a linked data management system and entity discovery platform designed to facilitate the exchange and interoperability of bibliographic data, increasing the visibility of, and access to, their resources.

PARSIFAL responds to the need identified by the Rectors of the Roman Pontifical Universities to equip their institutions' libraries with a highly innovative search engine, bringing together bibliographic data and authority items from the 17 participating URBE libraries in a dedicated portal that provides a single access point to the libraries' vast patrimony of resources: the portal counts 2.8 million records to date, and is updated weekly or daily, allowing users to benefit from a streamlined, efficient, research experience, with results enriched by sources from individual catalogues.

The name of the portal is a symbolic reference to the central figure in the myth of the Grail, narrated for the first time in *Perceval* (a chivalric poem by Chrétien de Troyes) and subsequently expanded by the German, Wolfram von Eschenbach, in his work *Parzival*; this nod to the Arthurian legend and young Parsifal's quest for the Grail reflects the platform's primary objective of helping users in their search to find, identify, select, obtain and navigate information on works, creators and their relationships.

Created according to the BIBFRAME bibliographic model, with extensions to ensure compatibility with the IFLA LRM (Library Reference Model), an integral part of the RDA guidelines in use across the URBE Network since 2017, the technological platform is a component of the Share Family initiative.

The architecture on which the platform is built was created by the company @Cult, part of the Casalini Libri S.p.A. Group, innovator behind the concept, methodology, and technology of PARSIFAL and the other projects belonging to the Share Family (https://wiki.share-vde.org/wiki/ShareFamily:Main_Page).

The success of this venture lies not only in its technological innovation and strength, but, above all, in the cooperation and participation between the project partners and the librarians and cataloguers of the URBE Network: a clear demonstration of the significant benefits of collaboration between libraries, as together we pave the way for a flexible and sustainable approach to data management within the emerging bibliographic ecosystem.

FUP Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (DOI 10.36253/fup_best_practice)

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Moderated by Dott.ssa Agnese Galeffi of Università Sapienza - Rome, the presentation of the project will include contributions from:

- Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education
- Don Mauro Prof. Mantovani, Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library
- Don Luis prof. Navarro, President of CRUIPRO (Conference of Rectors of Roman Pontifical Universities and Institutions)
- P. Leonardo prof. Sileo, President of the Roman Union of Ecclesiastical Libraries (URBE)
- Prof. Carlo Bianchini, Università degli Studi di Pavia
- Dott.ssa Tiziana Possemato, Director of @Cult
- Dott. Stefano Bargioni, Università della Santa Croce
- P. Silano Danieli, Director of the Governing Council of URBE
- Dott. Michele Casalini, CEO of the Casalini Libri S.p.A. Group

Institutions participating in the PARSIFAL project:

Pontificia Università Gregoriana	Pontificio Istituto Orientale
Pontificia Università Lateranense	Istituto Patristico Augustinianum
Pontificia Università Urbaniana	Pontificia Facoltà Teologica Marianum
Pontificia Università San Tommaso	Pontificia Facoltà di Scienze dell'Educazione Auxilium
Università Pontificia Salesiana	Pontificio Istituto Giovanni Paolo II
Pontificia Università della Santa Croce	Pontificia Accademia Alfonsiana
Pontificia Università Antonianum	Pontificia Facoltà Teologica Teresianum
Pontificio Ateneo Anselmianum	Centro Pro Unione
Pontificio Istituto Biblico	

<https://parsifal.urbe.it> | www.urbe.it | www.atcult.com