

# Fragmentology

A Journal for the Study of Medieval Manuscript Fragments

*Fragmentology* is an international, peer-reviewed Open Access journal, dedicated to publishing scholarly articles and reviews concerning medieval manuscript fragments. *Fragmentology* welcomes submissions, both articles and research notes, on any aspect pertaining to Latin and Greek manuscript fragments in the Middle Ages.

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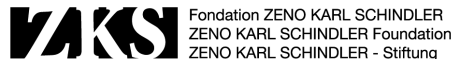
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## Project Report

### *Challenges in the Description of in situ Fragments: host volume, shelfmarks, and images*

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Since 2021, the team of the [Ticinensia disiecta](#) project<sup>1</sup> has entered into the *Fragmentarium* platform more than 110 descriptions of in situ fragments. The fieldwork, carried out in part in a pioneering manner, has led to some reflections that we would like to share with the community of editors and projects working on the database, as well as with fragment researchers more broadly, in the hope of provoking a fruitful exchange of experiences. Specifically, working with in situ fragments has revealed challenges related to using the *Fragmentarium* description module for describing host volumes, assigning shelfmarks to fragments still present in a carrier, and documenting that carrier with photographs. In each of these areas, however, we envision some possible solutions.

## Host Volume

The *Fragmentarium* web application includes the Description Module, featuring a multi-section form to be filled out and intended to cover scholarly descriptions of a wide range of manuscript

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. M. Bernasconi Reusser, R. Iacobucci, L. Luraschi, “Frammenti in situ nelle biblioteche cappuccine del Canton Ticino (CH)”, *Fragmentology* 5 (2022), 51–78, at 62–67 (<https://doi.org/10.24446/gkuy>).

### Edit Description

F-fuds – Iustinianus, Institutiones cum glossa  
 Parchment · 1 leaf (part) · 1301 – 1400 CE; 1451 – 1500 CE · Italy · 173 x 26 mm  
 Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MS 62 Ga 7

Information about the Description

Description for Document: *	F-fuds: Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MS 62 Ga 7
Bibliographical Reference for this Description: *	Renzo Iacobucci, Laura Luraschi, Lugano, Biblioteca... <span style="float: right; color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">List all</span>

Dashboard Collections Documents Descriptions Sequences Projects Indices

Page Reference: ⓘ	<input type="text"/>
Allow other persons to change this description? ⓘ	Yes <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Language of Description: *	Italian <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Description URL: ⓘ	<input type="text"/>
Description Copyright: *	CC-BY (Creative Commons, Attribution) <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Publication Form:	Born Digital <span style="float: right;">▼</span>
Remarks by the Editor: ⓘ	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span>B</span> <span>I</span> <span>U</span> <span>X<sup>2</sup></span> <span>X<sub>2</sub></span> <span>☰</span> <span>☲</span> <span>☱</span> <span>☴</span> <span>☵</span> <span>☶</span> <span>☷</span> <span>🔗</span> <span>↶</span> <span>↷</span> </div> <div style="font-size: 0.9em;">                     Renzo Iacobucci (fragment description).                      Laura Luraschi (host volume description, images management).                      Si ringrazia il dottor William Duba per le indicazioni                 </div> </div>

General Information

Original Condition ⓘ

Current Condition ⓘ

Decoration and Musical Notation

Content

History

Host Volume ⓘ

Bibliography

Cancel
Save
Save & Publish

**Figure 1: The Fragmentarium Description Module (subfields collapsed)**

fragment material [Figure 1]. While the section designated to the host volume may seem exhaustive in the case of a manuscript, in the specific case of it being a printed book—the type in which most of our fragments are found—it deserves to be expanded [Figure 2].

Since we are dealing with printed editions, produced between the 15th and 19th centuries, it would be desirable for the structure of the section to draw more inspiration from the [MARC21](#) format which is designed to be a carrier for bibliographic information about

The screenshot displays the 'Host Volume' section of a description module. The interface includes a navigation bar with options: Dashboard, Collections, Documents, Descriptions (selected), Sequences, Projects, and Indices. The main form is divided into several sections:

- Title:** appertinenti ad essa. Raccolte per opera di Giulio Folco. Con le tavole de' capi & delle materie.
- Date of Origin/Publication:** 1581
- Place of Origin/Publication:** In Roma, appresso Francesco Zanetti. Below this field are buttons for 'Rome: Origin' and 'Add Place To Host Volume'.
- Shelfmark:** MdS 62 Ga 7
- Page/Folio Reference:** (empty field)
- Persons:** Nota manoscritta sul frontespizio, occultata da tassello in carta; visibile in basso: Loci Capuccinorum Locarni. Below this field are buttons for 'Cappuccini Locarno: Previous Owner', 'Folco, Giulio: Author', 'Zanetti, Francesco 1530: Printer of Host Volume', and 'Add Person To Host Volume'.
- Conditions of Deposit:** (empty field)
- Remarks (including about the binding):** Legatura semifloscia con coperta in manoscritto membranaceo di recupero, sul dorso la vecchia segnatura della biblioteca del Convento dei Frati Cappuccini di Locarno: E II 14. Below this field is a rich text editor toolbar.

Figure 2: The host volume section of the Description Module

printed and manuscript textual materials, computer files, maps, music, continuing resources, visual materials, and mixed materials.

**Title:** the section could distinguish more clearly between author and title of the work by creating a separate author field from the title field, with the possibility of importing authoritative names directly from VIAF.

**Persons:** this section is designed to describe the agents related to the edition and the copy, as indeed the label with the terms “authors, editors, printers, bookbinders” suggests. We have

also used this space to indicate the former owners of the host volume, whether corporate bodies or persons.

**Remarks:** this is the space reserved, as the label suggests, for information on the binding. Our experience with the in situ fragments has shown that the description of the fragments' position, especially in the binding, is very important and therefore requires a dedicated field, separate from the one reserved for general remarks.

The way the fields are now organised has repercussions in the overview page, where the information is presented to the users. Specifically, the page [Figure 3] provides a list of names associated with the document, but in alphabetical order. The result is chaotic, especially when these are numerous, and not differentiated by descriptive area. To avoid possible misunderstandings, the platform should distinguish the indexing results of names pertaining to the fragment from those coming from the host volume. For example, a fragment [[F-fuds](#)] of the *Institutiones* bound in a 1581 imprint of Giulio Folco, *Effetti mirabili de la limosina* (Orselina-Locarno,

The screenshot shows the overview page for a fragment titled "Iustinianus, Institutiones cum glossa - Fragment". On the left, there is a thumbnail image of a parchment fragment with a color calibration chart and an "IMAGE RIGHTS" section. The main content area includes the following information:

- Title:** Iustinianus, Institutiones cum glossa - Fragment
- Material:** Parchment - 1 leaf (part) · 1301 – 1400 CE, 1451 – 1500 CE · Italy · 173 × 26 mm
- Identifier:** F-fuds
- Location:** Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MdS 62 Ga 7
- Permalink:** <https://fragmentarium.ms/overview/F-fuds>
- Metadata:** <https://fragmentarium.ms/metadata/iiif/F-fuds/manifest.json>
- HOW TO QUOTE:** Iustinianus, Institutiones cum glossa (Fragment), Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MdS 62 Ga 7 (<https://fragmentarium.ms/overview/F-fuds>)
- SCHOLARLY DESCRIPTIONS:** Renzo Iacobucci, Laura Luraschi, Lugano, Biblioteca Salita dei Frati, 2021. [Show description](#)
- THIS DOCUMENT IS PART OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:** [Ticinensia disiecta](#)
- CURATED TAGS:** [Topic: Legal](#), [Topic: Lyric Poetry](#)
- CENTURY:** 14th century, 15th century
- TEXT LANGUAGE:** Latin
- SCRIPT TYPE:** Gothic Script (generic)
- PERSONS:** Cappuccini Locarno (Previous Owner), Folco, Giulio (Author), Iustinianus I (Author), Orlinus Laudensis, asi 1188-asi 1252 (Author), Zanetti, Francesco 1530 (Printer of Host Volume)
- PLACES:** Origin: Italy, Origin: Rome
- SUMMARY:** Il frammento reca nel margine inferiore una glossa costituita dai versi 1227r-1227u del *De regimine et sapientia* potestatis di Orfino da Lodi.

Figure 3: *Fragmentarium* overview page

PERSONS
Cappuccini Locarno (Previous Owner)
Folco, Giulio (Author)
Iustinianus I (Author)
Orfinus Laudensis, asi 1188-asi 1252 (Author)
Zanetti, Francesco 1530 (Printer of Host Volume)

PLACES
Origin: Italy
Origin: Rome

Figure 4: Detail of *Fragmentarium* Overview page for [F-fuds]: information outlined in red pertains to the fragment, blue to the host volume

PERSONS
Alexander de Hales, 1185-1245 (Author)
Concilio de Trento 1545-1563 (Author)
Fabrio, Carlo (Previous Owner)
Francescani Orselina (Previous Owner)
Modesto da Milano (Previous Owner)
Zanetti, Cristoforo, 1520-1582 (Printer of Host Volume)

PLACES
Origin: Germany
Origin: Venice

Figure 5: Detail of [F-g23v] Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MdS 66 Aa 17 Overview page: red is fragment, blue is host volume

Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MdS 62 Ga 7) produces a difficult confusion between information pertaining to the two texts [Figure 4, Figure 5].

In the case of *Sammelbände*, that is, miscellany volumes binding together multiple imprints, the results can be quite baroque [Figure 6]. Since the places of printing of the works contained in the miscellany are many, the place of origin of the fragment is not immediately identifiable. In addition to dividing more clearly in the Overview page the places referring to the fragment from those referring to the host volume, the platform should support the category ‘place of publication’ alongside ‘origin’ and ‘provenance’.

PLACES
Origin: Augsburg
Origin: Freiburg im Breisgau
Origin: Geneva
Origin: Italy
Origin: Novara
Origin: Padova
Origin: Rome

Figure 6: Detail of *Fragmentarium* overview page for [F-glko], an Italian binding fragment contained in Orselina-Locarno, Biblioteca Madonna del Sasso, MdS 22 Aa 5, a *Sammelband* with six imprints; the fragment is outlined in red, and the host volumes in blue.



## Shelfmarks

In *Fragmentarium*, the area labeled “Shelfmark” in Basic Metadata is intended for “shelfmark, box, call number, or other identifier used to indicate the fragment or the unit that contains the fragment”. At the beginning of the project, and not yet fully aware of the difficulties involved in describing fragments in situ, it was decided to use the shelfmark of the host volume for the fragment, without any distinction. As the work continued, the conviction and opportunity arose, firstly, that the fragments could be identified with specific identifying markings, thus distinguishing them from the host volume. Secondly, the question arose as to how the individual fragments could be numbered. In this regard, based on the location of the fragments within the host volume, we proceeded by assigning them a number starting from the outside to the inside and following the sequence from top to bottom. Recently, we have started to use a shelfmark combination of the individual fragment in situ structured as follows: ‘host volume marking/FX’, where ‘F’ stands for ‘fragment’ and ‘X’ is a sequential number.

## Images

The *Fragmentarium* platform offers the possibility to publish multiple images of the host volume, documenting the parts with particular significance for its relationship to the fragment. For instance, it is possible to include photographs of the entire binding, the endpapers with possible watermarks, the title page, handwritten notes of ownership, stamps and former shelfmarks. These are elements that we generally describe accurately because, by illustrating the history of the printed copy in which the fragments are bound, they provide fundamental information on the second life of the manuscript.

As part of the *Ticinensia disiecta* project, we have so far carried out three image collection campaigns. The complex operation of photographing the fragments in situ, which requires specific skills and equipment, is in itself very costly both in terms of time and financial resources. Photographing further parts of the volume entails

a substantial and necessary slowing down of the work, resulting in increased costs but also in the number of images to be published.

As fragment cataloguers on a limited budget, what are the elements that need to be present? How do we provide the most useful service with the human and financial resources at our disposal?