

Le catalogage des manuscrits médiévaux à la Bibliothèque nationale de France et dans les bibliothèques françaises : pratiques, enjeux et perspectives

Cataloguing Medieval Manuscripts at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and other French Libraries. Practices, Problems and Prospects (abstract)

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In 1739, Bernard de Montfaucon published his *Bibliotheca bibliothecarum manuscriptorum nova*. Around the same time, between 1739 and 1744, Abbot Bignon, the King's librarian, completed the publication of the four volumes of the *Catalogus codicum manuscriptorum Bibliothecae regiae*. Almost three centuries later, in 2002, the online catalogue of the manuscripts kept in French libraries was launched in XML-EAD. In 2007, the Bibliothèque nationale de France used the same standard to put its new digital catalogue of the manuscripts and archives online, "BnF archives et manuscrits". Originally, the records of this catalogue were derived from the digitization of many of the existing printed catalogues. Parallel to the launch of this online catalogue new thought has been given to the standardization of the access to the information by means of authority files, and new guidelines for manuscript cataloguing were elaborated for the French libraries at a national level.

The purpose of this paper is first to give an outline of the history of cataloguing practices for medieval manuscripts in the Bibliothèque nationale de France since the beginning and then to present the main steps of the computerization of the manuscripts catalogues at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the French libraries and the cataloguing standards. Finally, we would like to discuss the current opportunities and challenges of the digital manuscript catalogues in relation to the use of international authority files and the interoperability of online resources.