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Medic@'s digitization policy

<http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/medica.htm>

Initiated in the autumn of 2000, **Medic@** library is the digitization project of the BIUM Department for the History of Medicine. It is a complement of other information products developed by the Department (image databank, bio-bibliographic database of physicians, virtual exhibits, "ask a librarian" service, etc.). As of July 2010, the digital library offers online 7 000 documents (2 M pages).

The project has been developed according to the following guidelines :

1. Goals

- Provide Web access to **electronic resources dealing with the history of medicine and dentistry**, in a field (health) where online publications are used daily.
- Reach a **new audience** in France and abroad.
- **Promote** the BIUM's old and rare **collections**, as well as its **information services**.
- Enhance the BIUM's **visibility**.
- Make the BIUM a **reservoir of primary resources**, and not just a distributor of secondary information.
- Set up a French-speaking **portal** in a domain where English-speaking websites predominate.

2. Targets

- **Researchers** interested in the history of medicine, dentistry and health.

Medic@ aims primarily to serve **specialists**, and to provide the documents and tools they need and use.

However great or small their numbers may be, Medic@ is designed to reach these communities, those specialists who are **users** and who **teach** students.

These communities are **international**, and are located mainly in Europe and in North America.

- **People interested in the history of medicine**, dentistry and health. Some are members of learned societies; some have already used the BIUM's services.
- The **general public**, who use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or others to seek information.
- **Students** (post doctoral, graduate, undergraduate, high-school) who may need information (texts, images) for academic purposes.

3. Content

- Medicine and dentistry
- Any topic related to health
- Medic@ will promote **multidisciplinary topics** that broaden the perspectives of the field and place medical practice within a larger context (scientific, social and artistic).

Examples : Ancient Physicians' Corpus (history of medicine, philology, ancient history), Melancholy (humanities, medicine, psychology, psychiatry), E.-J. Marey (cardiology, physiology, cinema, photography, art).

Such a multidisciplinary approach will allow Medic@ to widen its audience and to reach people who do not presently use the BIUM. The richness and importance of its non-medical and multidisciplinary collections can be of great interest to a very large public.

4. Digitized documents

- Documents in the **public domain**. Copyright-protected texts will be included with the owner's authorization.
- **Documents belonging to the BIUM**. Documents in the collections of other libraries will be digitized, only if they significantly complete the BIUM's collections.
- **All kinds** of documents : monographs, journals, articles, dissertations, dictionaries, reports, manuscripts.
- Documents on a given subject and sufficient in number to make up a significant and valuable **corpus**. To a lesser extent, isolated documents may be digitized when requested by a user, partner, or colleague.
- Documents in **all languages** : French texts will predominate, but foreign language documents will be digitized when necessary to enrich the corpora.
- **New acquisitions of old and rare books** will be digitized to make them more accessible to users.
- **Fragile and damaged documents** will be digitized when possible as a conservation measure.

5. Organization

The digital library is organized like a traditional collection and includes several series :

- Ancient Physicians' Corpus : the most important editions of classical sources from the XVIth to the XIXe centuries.
- Medieval Medicine : authors and major texts.
- References : the major dictionaries of the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries ; the Dictionary of Eponymic Syndromes, which includes descriptions of the first published syndromes ; medical journals (hygiene, public health, surgery, tropical medicine) from the first issue up to the 1930s ; the catalogue of Parisian medical dissertations.
- Epidemics and diseases : diachronic presentation of some diseases.
- History of medicine and medical institutions : syntheses dating back to the XVIIth century, history of the Faculté de Médecine of Paris (Paris Medical School), history of its library.
- Physicians and Scholars : the works of major authors.
- Medical Specialties : sources of medical specialties.
- Miscellaneous : other texts and files (catalogues of surgical instruments, etc.).

These series include files (i.e. Bichat, Daremberg, Doyen in the series "Physicians and Scholars"), accompanied by one or more **papers** written by specialists (principally original articles).

Each file will include digitized publications. Documents will be integrally digitized, with some exceptions.

Beginning in 2006, every specialist's introduction will be translated into **English**, and into another language when necessary.

6. Scientific partnership

As often as possible, the **collaboration of researchers** will be requested. They will be asked to :

- confirm the subject and the corpus.
- suggest documents to be digitized (titles, editions) and/or to confirm those chosen by the Department.

- provide an introductory paper that will be published online.
- suggest the electronic corpus to their colleagues, virtual institutions, students, and research institutes that might be interested.

These specialists will be well-known **French or foreign** authors, who may already be among the BIUM's readers.

7. Institutional partnership

The BIUM will try to develop an active partnership with institutions maintaining similar digitization projects, in order to set up a **collaborative and international** network able to offer Web access to electronic resources in the history of medicine.

In France :

- a joint project with the **Bibliothèque nationale de France** and **Gallica** that has been underway for two years : file sharing, mutual information exchange about corpora to be launched, resource harvesting within the OAI-PMH framework.
- cooperation with **libraries** (Paris 6), **major institutions** (Collège de France, Académie Nationale de Médecine, École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort), and **research institutes** (Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes).
- cooperation with the **European Digital Library's** project, launched in 2005.

Abroad :

- with the **National Library of Medicine** (USA), the major medical library, that has developed a unique portal (online catalogues, image databank, virtual exhibitions, etc.) and that will launch a mass digitization program. Collaboration with the NLM is highly favoured (20% Medic@ users are from the US), and would allow a global information network to be set up. This massive network would benefit researchers worldwide.
- with any institution having similar initiatives and willing to share and participate.
- with the European consortium EOD (eBooks On Demand, <http://books2ebooks.eu/>), BIUM's participation being effective in January 2009 and dedicated to the scanning and delivery of copyright-free documents on users' demand.

8. Cataloguing and promotion

Medic@'s files will be **catalogued** in:

- the BIUM's online catalogue : http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/medecine/catalhoriz_cad.htm
- French National Union Catalogue SUDOC : <http://www.sudoc.abes.fr/>

Every new e-corpus will be **publicized** using :

- **discussion forums**, general (Biblio-fr) and specialized (AgorassClass, Classics-L, Teuth...).
- **institutions, research institutes, laboratories and researchers.**
- **major libraries** developing old and rare books collections in the history of medicine : National Library of France, National Library of Medicine (USA), Wellcome Institute (London), University of Michigan, Karolinska Institutet, etc.
- **libraries, portals and websites**, French (Cismef, for instance) or foreign that might be interested.

Hence, significant efforts will be made to promote Medic@'s products to major institutions.

In addition, Medic@ will be presented at scientific meetings devoted to the history of medicine, professional meetings and to library schools as well.

OAI-PMH repository :

Medic@'s descriptive metadata can be accessed via an **OAI-PHM repository** (<http://web2.bium.univ-paris5.fr/oai/oai2.php>), mentioned by international directories such as OAIster.

Medic@ harvests any OAI-PMH repository dedicated to the history of medicine and following its quality standards.

9. Technical information

The digitized documents will be in slightly compressed JPEG format using a controlled optical support (CD-Rom) and on a server.

The online images will have an average resolution, with size varying according to the format of the original (40 pix./cm, or about 100 dpi, which corresponds to an image slightly larger than the original on a CRT 17-in. screen in 1024x768).

From the beginning of 2005 the online images include a copyright logo (© BIUM).

The documents are put online in image mode, most often only in one level of zoom. For some documents (large formats), a zoom will be available for examining the images in high resolution.

These images will be supported within a structure that permits facile navigation among different parts of the document (most often, the table of contents). Two modes of navigating within the document are available: by chapter (only pages with a structural element figure in the "table of contents") or page by page (all pages can be viewed, i.e., p. 153 of a specific publication). A third mode of navigation will be developed. It will allow navigation from an illustrated page to the following illustrated page.

Some groups of documents permit the use of specific research tools, i.e. dictionaries (entry word search in all online dictionaries :

<http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/medica/dictionnaires.htm>

This is also the case for important collections of periodicals, whose digitization is in progress. (Annales médico-psychologiques, Annales d'hygiène publique, Annales d'hygiène et de médecine coloniales, Archives générales de médecine, Mémoires de l'Académie de chirurgie, Histoires et mémoires de la Société royale de médecine, Recueil périodique d'observations de médecine, chirurgie, pharmacie...):

<http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/medica/periodiques.htm>

Each document has a permanent address that allows it to be cited, whether on the Web or in a printed publication (ex : <http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/histmed/medica/cote?01894>).

Each page also has a permanent address

(ex. : <http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/medica/page?01894&p=86>).

An RSS feed briefly indicates new documents available online.

Since 2008, the users have been given the possibility to produce their own PDF files from any Medic@ digitized item.

10. Derived products

Every digitized text will be offered for sale (**CD-Roms**) :

(http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/medica_pres3.htm)

Digitized texts can be **printed** on demand :

- ordered by users (minimum order : 30 copies).
- suggested by the library itself.

For further information, see <http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/reprints.htm>

Joint ventures with commercial publishers are possible and will be examined.

11. Links to other information products

Medic@ will work closely with other products developed by the Department :

- Medic@ library, the old digitized catalogue (1472-1951), the general online catalogue (1952 to the present) and the bio-bibliographic database are linked in order to provide several access points to Medic@ texts.
- Medicina, the Ancient and Modern Medicine Newsletter (<http://web2.bium.univ-paris5.fr/medicina/debut.htm>) enhances the Ancient Physicians' Corpus, and gathers additional and complementary resources.
- some topics will make it possible to use simultaneously Medic@ and virtual exhibitions, thus to provide users with the most complete documentation by combining images, texts and different technologies and to cover the various aspects of a subject (for example, E.-J. Marey).
- The images databank (http://www.bium.parisdescartes.fr/histmed/hm_img.htm) includes Medic@ materials' illustrations and plates.