



# SPOLIA.

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Teresa Nocita - Angelo Piacentini

## BoBo (Boccaccio Bookshelf): Giovanni Boccaccio's "Virtual" Library

**Abstract:** This research project aims to reconstruct Boccaccio's "virtual" library and, with the help of technology, to make it directly accessible for internet users. The entire corpus of manuscripts, autographs and annotations belonging to the author will be made available full-text for virtual "open-stacks" research. The project will give direct access to the manuscripts already available on the Web with links to their digital reproductions. In addition, it intends to provide for the digitization of unavailable or poorly digitized manuscripts, such as Krakow, Biblioteka Muzeum Narodowego, Oddzial Zbiory Czartoryskich, MS 2566; London, British Library, MS Harley 5383; Toledo, Archivo y Biblioteca Capitulares, MS Zelada 104.6. Upon completion of the project, Boccaccio's entire collection will be available for consultation *sine aliqua diminutione*, as stated in his will bequeathing his library to the convent of Santo Spirito in Florence.

**Keywords:** Boccaccio; Library; Manuscripts; Digital Humanities.

Authors' libraries mirror their knowledge and interests, representing the cultural repository from which they draw inspiration, the landscape within which their literary activity develops. In the case of medieval writers, the library is also an important witness from which to reconstruct the circulation of Latin and Greek classics, scientific works, Arabic texts, and French and Provençal literature.

Recent years have seen a growing interest in the personal libraries of the great medieval authors of Italian literature: Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio. An important exhibition at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome, dedicated to Dante's library, has reached in January 2022 its conclusion. As Roberto Antonelli notes in his introduction to the exhibition catalog:

In Dante's works and in the *Comedy* in particular, the tradition of classical, Christian, medieval and Romanesque culture is epitomized as if in a *summa*: authors, books, schools of poetry and philosophy, encyclopedias, ancient myths and Christian dogmas, canonical writers and obscure authors all come under the path of Dante's gaze. Indeed, while writing his texts, the poet simultaneously rewrites his own literary tradition. In this sense, understanding which readings, which books materially nourished Alighieri's