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Work done / results accomplished (during the report period)

(indicate the Work Package(s) Nr. and Task(s) Nr.)

## WP2 – T2-3

- a) *Geographical references for GIS* [achieved]: The database of geographical references especially created for GIS (August 2007) was revised and increased up to 13000 references, corresponding to 8000 different European existing cities. A supplementary lot of old medieval sites were identified or disambiguated and all region names were changed and normalized according to recent European norms (NUT).
- b) *Optimization of watermarks databases for statistical purposes* (also WP4 – T4-2) [in progress]: Since watermarks databases were not conceived for statistical purposes, a huge amount of data (more than 92000 records for Piccard on Line [POL]) should be reworked in order to be interfaced with GIS. “Reworking” means: correction of wrong dates or places of paper use; extraction and reorganization in different fields of heterogeneous data which are now mixed in the same field (“Bemerkungen”); normalization of data written in different forms in the existing fields; creation of typological classes at different levels; expliciting of implicit information... and so on.
- c) *Classification of POL “bull’s head”* [in progress]: The “paths” used for searching watermarks in the databases are not useful for paper historians, because the result of a query is always a mixture of heterogeneous papers (i.e. sheets of paper which do not come from the same region or paper mill, or which were not transported on the same trade roads and were not available on the same market). The only manner to avoid this “disaster” consists in creating manually several homogeneous groups based on the close morphological similarity of the watermarks concerned. This works fine, but it is a very long and expensive job when applied to the over 25000 “bull’s heads” available in POL.

## WP4 – T4-1 and T4-2

- a) *Paper-Incunabula integration* [in progress]: In POL, more than 4000 watermarks were recorded from printed books. Unfortunately, Piccard did not provide an accurate identification of the editions. Now, all watermarks belonging to the same edition are grouped and 564 editions are identified by their serial number in the ISTC database. A direct link with incunabula reproduced online is also provided.
  - b) *The location of Incunabula copies in GW* [achieved]: The current location of the surviving copies of incunabula in European libraries allows a partial reconstitution of the production and spread of printed books in European countries during the XV<sup>th</sup> century. Since the GW online database gives a complete set of locations only for 2000 editions, the locations for the editions formerly described in printed vol. I-VIII (about 10000) were scanned and textualized.
  - c) *Authors in incunabula* [in progress]: More than 3500 authors are represented in about 28000 editions printed in the XV<sup>th</sup> century. The most relevant biographical
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data concerning their works are collected in a specific database which will be linked to the main incunabula database.

- d) *Other databases included in GIS: a “plague” database* [in progress]: The capacities of GIS will be largely increased if the software comes with its own data, the majority of which consist of situations or events related to book history or paper history. Plague was an endemic calamity which heavily perturbed all activities in European countries, especially the production of paper and books. The creation of a database including a complete geo-chronological list of plague epidemics (1348-1600) is currently under way.

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Dissemination activities (papers, talks, collaborations, advertisements...)

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Materials bought / subcontracting (only in relation to this project)

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Global evaluation in relation to the project's objectives

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Improvements / Proposals / Comments

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