

EDITORIAL SCIRES-IT. NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE ENHANCEMENT AND ENJOYMENT OF CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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Abstract

This No. 1 issue of vol. 12 (2022) of SCIRES-IT (SCientific REsearch and Information Technology), like the previous No. 2 issue of vol. 11 (2021), collects interesting articles on Cultural and Environmental Heritage and the application of various innovative techniques and technologies. It also hosts some selected works on color techniques and two other contributions on innovative projects on Dante and the Divine Comedy carried out on the occasion of Dante's 700th anniversary. At the same time of the publication of both issues, in line with SCIRES-IT's Manifesto and Editorial Project, "Eco-sustainable Open Access Publications", an environmental restoration project was initiated, and largely implemented, by planting local ecotypes of native species.

Keywords

SCIRES-IT, Editorial, SCientific REsearch and Information Technology, Cultural and Environmental Heritage, Multimedia Technologies, Eco-sustainable Publications, Divine Comedy, Dante Alighieri.

The journal SCIRES-IT (SCientific REsearch and Information Technology) focuses on digital technologies applied to Cultural and Environmental Heritage, since its foundation; this activity continues today, at increasingly high levels. As already known, it was founded by Virginia Valzano, as part of the "Eco-sustainable Open Access Publications" project launched in 2009 by Valzano herself, for the development of open access electronic publishing, for rapid and barrier-free scientific dissemination, for the knowledge, protection and use of the cultural and environmental heritage, facilitating a policy of relaunching the territory and its natural resources and an ecologically sustainable cultural and economic development. (Proietti & Valzano, 2011). These goals were already defined in the 2011 Manifesto of the Journal, to which I was glad to collaborate from the early beginning, both as a member of the SCIRES-IT Editorial Staff and as Head of the Library at the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Technologies of the University of Salento, therefore interested in the development of Digital Libraries and Biodiversity in all its aspects.

SCIRES-IT is an Open Access Journal that has achieved, in a few years, a very high scientific level,

adhering to Best Practice and high publishing standards.

It has published open access scientific articles and special issues of great international relevance on ICT, cultural, architectural, historic, artistic heritage and landscape, as well as on the application of innovative technology for the knowledge, protection and (also virtual) fruition of the cultural, environmental and natural heritage. (Boero & Lucarella, 2018).

Over all these years, thanks to the Editors-in-Chief and the cooperation of the Editorial Team, Reviewers and authors, it has maintained its fundamental objectives and its policy, thus achieving excellent results in both national and international scientific fields.

In line with the editorial project "Eco-sustainable OA publications", for each issue of SCIRES-IT, an action of environmental restoration has been carried out in protected areas by planting local ecotypes of native species, in cooperation with CEIT (directed by Virginia Valzano) and the Botanical Garden of the University of Salento (coordinated by Rita Accogli).

Also this number 1 of vol. 12 (2022) of SCIRES-IT presents various and interesting articles in support of the documentation, conservation and

use of Cultural and Environmental Heritage, on the application of various innovative techniques and technologies.

Like the previous n. 2 of vol. 11 (2021), it hosts, among others, some selected works on the technologies and processes of color applied to Cultural Heritage, and contributions related to innovative projects on Dante and the Divine Comedy created on the occasion of Dante's 700th anniversary, which offer user new and interesting ways to enjoy the invaluable cultural legacy of the Divine Comedy, Dante's poetry and his message of love and deep respect for Nature in all its components, in its multiple forms and manifestations.

Thanks to modern technologies and new methods of communication, literature, art, music, biodiversity, history, architecture, archeology and digital technologies interact, in line with the themes of the journal and its editorial project "Eco-sustainable Open Access Publications", with the aims of the International Convention on Biological Diversity, with the principles of Open Access and Open Science.

As announced in the Editorial of number 2 of 2021 (V. Valzano & G. Gallo), for that same issue, in line with the editorial project and on the occasion of Dante's seven hundredth anniversary and his love for nature, an environmental restoration action has been started and largely carried out, also for this issue n. 1 of 2022, with the planting, in the University Botanical Garden, of local ecotypes of native species.

Structuring species of the Mediterranean scrub were used to create a vegetation cover to protect the soil and for drought mitigation.

Furthermore, a field-catalog has been created for the cultivation of local varieties of legumes recovered from custodian farmers, interviewed in various Salento municipalities.

The "Meat of the poor", so the legumes are indicated in the Salento gastronomy. Widely re-evaluated and enhanced, legumes return to our tables, among our dishes, thanks to new and healthier diets. Due to their high protein content, they can replace meats (red and white).

In the Divine Comedy, legumes appear indirectly, in Canto XXII of Purgatory, through the presentation of a biblical character, the prophet Daniel, who refused the rich food of the Babylonian

royal table and preferred to feed on water and legumes, so as not to be contaminated by sin of the throat, obtaining from God, as a reward, the gift of wisdom and the ability to interpret visions and dreams.

The sin of gluttony is the central theme of the twenty-second Canto, which introduces the sixth circle, where the gluttonous, horribly skinny, atone for their guilt, suffering a continuous and insatiable hunger and thirst.

Dante is severe with gluttony sinners, understood as afflicted by bestial greed, unable to observe the measure in eating and drinking, with the risk of losing consciousness of oneself; the chroniclers of the time reported his simplicity in the choice of food and sobriety; moreover, the gastronomic customs of his time favored the dissemination of recipes that taught how to cook legumes. The main dish of the poor was represented by a soup of legumes, while the meat often appeared on the tables of the rich. Legumes were an inexpensive and readily available resource, a source of protein and other important nutrients.

They are a real food heritage for Salento and Puglia; thanks to enhancement projects, they have succeeded to be appreciated for their qualities, for the content of proteins, vitamins, minerals and fibers. It is not a coincidence that legumes are among the pillars of the Mediterranean Diet, proclaimed an Intangible Heritage of Humanity by Unesco in 2010.

I would like to thank all the authors who, with their contributions on new digital technologies and innovative systems for the knowledge and integrated and sustainable use of cultural, environmental and naturalistic heritage, have enriched this issue, the reviewers for their precious and timely work, the 'Editorial Team and, in particular, the Editor-in-Chief and some members of the Editorial Staff who with passion and generosity manage all the scientific, editorial and technical aspects of the journal, keeping its level high.

As some authors have also reiterated in this issue, knowledge is a common good and it is important to encourage the widest dissemination of knowledge (Valzano, Sartor, Romani, & Accogli, 2022).

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