

A project devoted to coin finds

The project *COIN FINDS HUB – Italy / Rinvenimenti monetali in Italia*, promoted by the University of Salerno and conceived by the team of numismatists of the Department of Cultural Heritage Sciences / DiSPaC, is aimed at the census, classification and cataloging of numismatic records for coins found in archaeological contexts from Italy, with the aim of generating interpretative processes to be used on several levels.

The project involves the creation of a digital platform in an open format, which allows archiving, research, knowledge and free use of information and data collected, **now also considering contextual relations**.

This demand arises from the need to set up a consultation system tailored to users, providing for the application of web-based technologies for the creation of a multi-channel portal that facilitates the dissemination of data and results developed within the project.

The platform hosts contents, bibliographic and archival materials, useful for those who approach the knowledge of the problems of coins found in multilayered archaeological sites.

Information on descriptive ontologies is collected and reported for this category of material and for their correct sharing, in order to provide updated bibliographic and normative tools.

The production of knowledge

The aim of *COIN FINDS HUB – Italy / Rinvenimenti monetali in Italia*, as well as offering itself as a place of connection and meeting for the international scientific community interested in the study of coin finds, is to structure an architecture working as a link between the needs of research and the protection and enhancement strategies promoted by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage (MiBACT) and its peripheral bodies. That's why, integration is envisaged between the systems currently used for the management of information on public numismatic assets, in full compatibility with the open sharing systems most in use among the major international entities.

The system, guaranteed by a rigorous scientific approach and supported by an international team engaged for decades in the planning of research and management strategies of numismatic assets, is designed to prevent digital obsolescence and to be integrated into similar international collaborative and contributory projects.

The main portal acts as a **platform for thematic sections**, which may concern the findings of individual sites, specific or regional contexts, and monographs that will be promoted by Universities, the peripheral bodies of MiBACT or public or private bodies that will join the project, with the aim of collecting data and information for their study and use.

The creation of a contributory system allows operators engaged in scientific research to carry out transversal and multidisciplinary research, drawing on the panorama of information made available to them: classes and types of material; destinations of use and contexts that have returned the numismatic material, ways and forms of circulation, etc.

A key point concerns the generation of knowledge: the goal is the **creation of interpretative processes** that can be useful for academic research and the scientific community in general, in order to generate new cognitive processes. A beta-testing phase on the scientific projects currently underway by UNISA (Naples, Pompeii, Paestum, Velia, Fractional coins), carried out with the use of a Virtual Private Server (VPS) allowed to verify the correct functioning of the logical architecture and the stability of the system. In this phase the compatibility of the metadata that characterize the information and their sharing was also validated. The information produced according to this model will be easily transferred to the data collection portals on national cultural heritage (SIGECweb, Catalog of Cultural Heritage, National Geoportal for Archaeology).

Description and protection of the numismatic heritage

The system provides the experimentation of descriptive ontological models, acting as a pilot project for their application in archaeology and numismatics: this is the case of the Ar.Co. (a new Italian platform serving as "Architecture for knowledge") promoted by the National Institute for Catalog and Documentation and now implemented in a system based on Linked Open Data. In this way, accessibility from external applications and the use of data for scientific, enhancement and dissemination purposes are provided.

The integration between descriptive ontologies, regulatory criteria and needs related to the **research and interpretation of the numismatic records** is favored using the Numishare system: it is a suite of applications open source for the management of digital cultural heritage, developed on the needs of finds such as coins and medals.

The system developed by the American Numismatic Society, with an architecture based on XML structure, foresees the description of the finds in an XML adaptation of NUDS, the Numismatic Database Standard (<http://nomisma.org/nuds>). Numishare's codebase is based on a modular set of open source applications running within Apache Tomcat, including Orbeon, Apache and eXist-db; the changes made to the logical architecture and internal vocabularies make it possible to combine various information components at the same time: the absolute obligation according to the national description system integrated or modified in the **section dedicated to coin finds** from excavation according to the needs of the research and the criteria to be able to share this information in existing networks of proven reliability (nomisma.org, European Coin Finds Network, NUDS).



Partners

- Direzione Generale Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio
- Direzione Generale Musei
- Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione
- Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle biblioteche italiane e per le informazioni Bibliografiche
- Istituto Centrale per l'Archeologia
- Fondazione Cultura e Arte

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