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*Astronomical Libraries Create Future:
Support to Public Communication of
Science as part of Library Scholarship*

2007: *Declaration concerning the EVOLVING Role in Research Centres*

- 1)** Great turmoil in the professional activity of librarians
- 2)** Cry of alarm for the particular situation of the Libraries in Research Centers

The Declaration in Italy

- ▶ 2008 INAF Librarians support Declaration (*Il Giornale di Astronomia*)
- ▶ 2009 Declaration at **75^o IFLA General Conference and Assembly** in Milan (Italy)

Poster presentation



LISA Conference Programmes show the EVOLUTION too:

- ▶ **1988 Washington : Library and information services in Astronomy I**
the first meeting of astronomical librarians
traditional information and delivery
- ▶ **1998 Tenerife : Managing change gracefully**
begin of Electronic Era
- ▶ **2002 Prague : Emerging and preserving : providing astronomical information in the digital age**
the importance of technology in the professional lives of librarians

The core of Declaration

1) **Electronic Era changed Librarian work:**

- traditional skills with... new tasks:
- more work, different and various abilities: identifying, retrieving, organizing, filtering, repackaging and disseminating information
- more and various media: books, e-journals, photographs, data bases, historical archives, videos

High level of specialization and international network of information resources

2) **Relative importance given by research centres to the essential role of libraries**

- invisibility of libraries

Our Question:

- ▶ Despite the advent of the electronic age and the wide dissemination of information of all kinds via internet, can our libraries play a central role towards a Knowledge-based society?

Otherwise

- ▶ By using their scientific authority and consequently validation of information accuracy by the astronomers, can astronomical libraries build a bridge between science and the public? Are they able to expand their role?

The ongoing discussion

- ▶ 2007 *How can a Research Library support public communication of Science?*

Poster presentation, Athens, Communicating Astronomy with the Public

- ▶ 2007 *Changing Roles of Academic and Research Libraries* (ACRL) ALA:

Some essential actions to remain vital in the future:

- ▶ **Librarians** : navigational guides
- ▶ **Libraries** : meeting place for academic community
open and friendly spaces

The sandwich effect of Knowledge-Based Society

Growth

Public Communication
of Science in Research
Centers

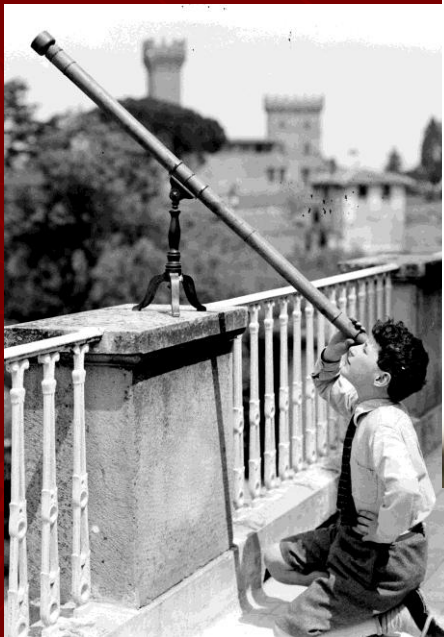
Arcetri Library:

2006: 90% Astronomers
10% Public

2010: 70% Astronomers
30% Public

From Cambridge to Pune: from new ideas to action

Information support to Public Communication of
Science: the past and the present as part of
library mission



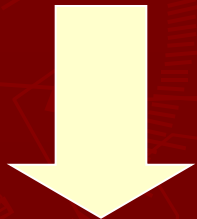
LISA VI Pune, IUCAA February 14-17 2010

The past: Valorization of historical resources

Reorganization of
Historical Archive



New research fields
Librarians and
Astronomers



New communication

“...l'une des plus belles comètes du 19ème siècle...”

*The worldwide impact of Donati's comet on culture, art and society
in the mid-19th century*



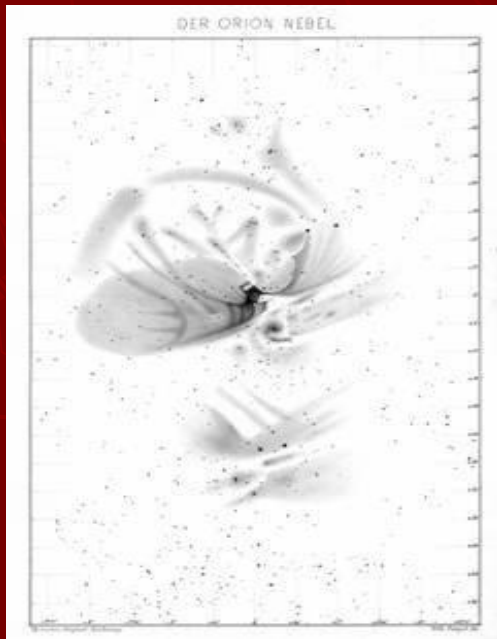
*A. Gasperini, D. Galli
INAF Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Italy
L. Nenzi
International University of Florida*

IAU Symposium 260
The role of Astronomy in Society and Culture
Paris, January 2009

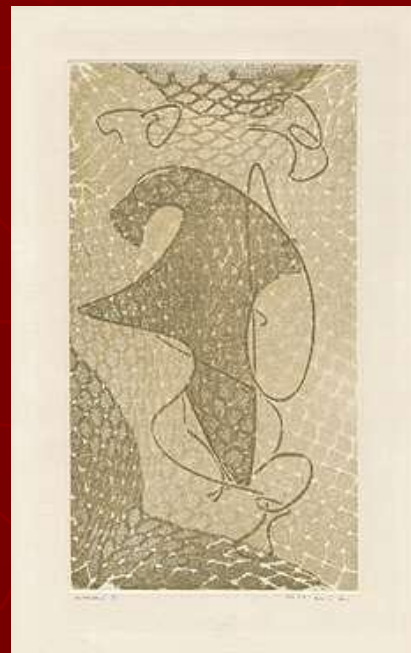
An example : L'exercice illégal de l'Astronomie

- ▶ Arcetri Historical Archive: Wilhelm Tempel
german astronomer worked in Arcetri from 1875 until 1889
and is known for his splendid *drawings of astronomical observations*
- ▶ National Library of Florence: *Maximiliana ou l'exercice illégal del l'Astronomie* rare book:
Max Ernst + Iliazd
- ▶ The Exhibition at National Library
The Catalog – Talks - New works

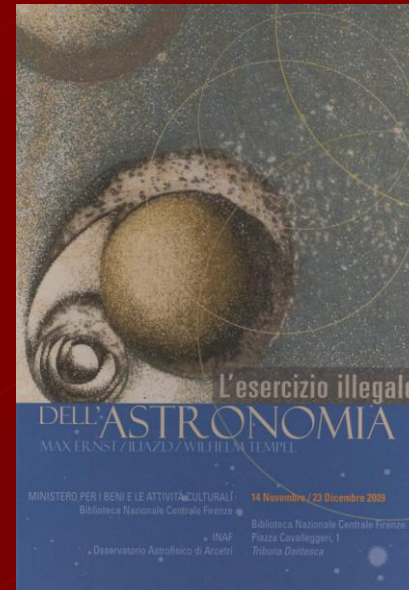
L'exercice illégal de l'Astronomie



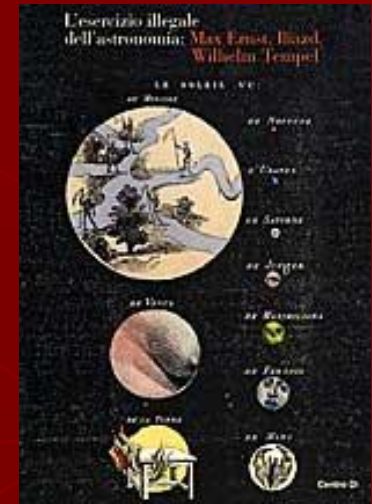
Scientific drawings



Rare book



Exhibition



Catalog of exhibition



Children work

The Present: support to Public Communication of Science

From the Library page to a new web site

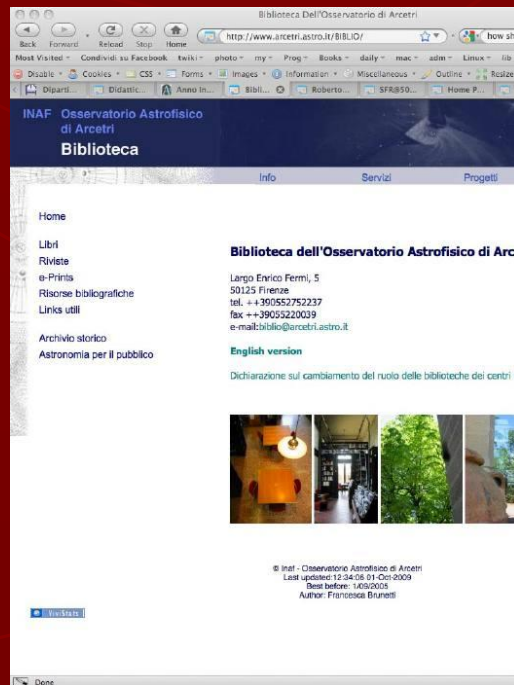
Library:

project and maintenance

Astronomers:

scientific validation and active participation

<http://www.arcetri.astro.it/po>



Astronomical books for children

- ▶ Online/paper
- ▶ Publisher + Library

Publisher: Liber Data base

Library: compilation

*Reference tool in the dissemination
of scientific information for children*

<http://www.media.inaf.it>

<http://www.liberweb.it>



Viewing the Sky

Universe Awareness for young children (UNAWWE)

- ▶ Unawe : supported by IAU and UNESCO
- ▶ Goals:
 - to broaden children's minds
 - to awaken their curiosity in science
 - to stimulate global citizenship and tolerance

<http://www.unawe.org/>



Arcetri : italian contact point

The idea: use astronomy and the sky mythology as a bridge between different cultures

Library : bibliographical research, web site and documentation (book, DVD)

Conclusions

- ▶ Extraordinary richness of information in astronomical libraries
- ▶ Dual functions:
 - high specialization
 - role of mediation between astronomers and public
- ▶ Expansion/broadening of the functions
- ▶ New life, new energy, new role for the library
- ▶ More visibility

Are other astronomical libraries involved in similar activities? Are there possibilities for collaborations?

*Thank you
for your attention!*

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