RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Cluster’s approach is structured into five interconnected Research Fields, which incorporate 38 disciplines. It takes the material object as a starting point for investigating written artefacts in a global, comparative and comprehensive perspective. Each of the fields is structured by research directions.

RESEARCH FIELD A: ARTEFACT PROFILING
Refines existing and develops new methods using as far as possible non-destructive and non-invasive technologies and investigates the origin and change of written artefacts with scientific methods.
- Technical and methodological developments to implement non-invasive strategies
- Understanding artefacts on a material level: Origin → Change

RESEARCH FIELD B: INSCRIBING SPACES
Integrates epigraphy into the study of manuscript cultures and studies the various typologies of written artefacts in different spatial contexts.
- Signs of power
- Everyday life
- Epigraphy of death

RESEARCH FIELD C: CREATING ORIGINALS
Explores the relationship between individual written artefacts and their origins in art, economy, law, literature and religion, and the role they play in historical discourse and for notions of value.
- The written artefact as a material object
- Originators, producers and production of the written artefact
- Use of the written artefact

RESEARCH FIELD D: FORMATTING CONTENTS
Explores the dimensions of complex written artefacts in terms of multiple languages, layers, and visual signs, stressing aspects of changing formats and patterns for transmitting content.
- Multilingual written artefacts
- Multigraphic written artefacts
- Multilayered written artefacts

RESEARCH FIELD E: ARCHIVING ARTEFACTS
Studies the cultural practices related to archiving larger bodies of written artefacts and specific locations where they are kept together, from box to building.
- Storing written artefacts
- Archival practices in their cultural, social and political settings

A Research Unit that will provide sustainable research data management and a range of services from feature extraction, object recognition and interactive visualisation to recommendation services for researchers, based on techniques from statistical information retrieval.

PARTICIPATING DISCIPLINES
- Assyriology
- Austronesian Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Computer Science
- Cultural Anthropology
- Early Modern History
- Ethiopian Studies
- European Art History
- Experimental Psychology
- Finno-Ugrian Studies
- German Studies
- History of the Church
- Indoology
- Iranian and Central Asian Islamic Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American Art History
- Materials Mechanics
- Medieval Art History
- Medieval History
- Medieval Latin Studies
- Mineralogy
- Mircrology
- Performance Studies
- Physics
- Radiology
- Sinology
- Tamil Studies
- Thai Studies
- Turkish Studies
- Zoology

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