ArsTeWeB

La pinacoteca diffusa delle chiese di Teramo

How to access and search the site and the database "ArsTeWeb"

The site "ArsTeWeb"[1] makes the historical and artistic data accessible through a search that can be performed by the user through several different access modes. The descriptive apparatus created, integrates two distinct pathways to access the information made available through a database, and a hypertext providing additional information. The project also allowed for the digital acquisition of all the photographic material and, therefore, the text information is enhanced by a selected iconography of the studied works of art.[2]

The creation of information cards for the photographs was preceded by the following phases: inventorying of the photographic archive, designing of an information card system and implementation of an interface for the online consultation. The cataloging system adopted provides for the compilation of a connected card where the information about the depicted work of art is described.

The photographs, in both black and white as in color, have been digitized in 24 bit RGB color and saved in non-compressed .tiff format in the dimension of 3072 pixels for the wider side, according to the parameters of the ICCD national legislation, Level A. The .tiff files incorporate technical metadata that traces the history of the image. From this digital matrix, stored on SSD (Solid State Drive) and DVD, jpg formats were created, at high and low resolutions, to be used only for study and research purposes, connected, respectively, to the internet cards. The digital online catalog thus allows for the immediate and analytical research of all the works of art and photographs present in the database. It provides for a search through keywords or search words applicable to the information card of the work of art.

To consult or search "ArsTeWeb" online, one should log onto the website: "http://arsteweb.altervista.org/index.htm."[3] The website is structured with a homepage representing the main page of the site. Its structure is immediate and simple in its ease of navigation; the site's banner, present on all the pages, allows the user to return to the homepage

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[1] "ArsTeWeb," Art in Teramo on the Web http://arsteweb.altervista.org/index.htm.

[2] At the same time, the compilation of the photographic inventory made possible a survey of the state of conservation of the works.

[3] In the code of the main file, index.htm, according to the regulations of the MiBAC, were included descriptive-semantic metadata used to identify and retrieve primary documents, that facilitate the search of their content to a large number of portals and search engines, increasing the visibility of their content. The name of the owner, operator of the website, has also been added to the reference metadata.

at any time; it is located at the top and it contains all the distinctive identifying elements of the site: the "ArsTeWeb" logo and the title of the research.

Fig.1

The logo of the University of Teramo is also present in the index, allowing connection to the official website of the University. In order to increase visibility, there is a link for the English language for some pages that contain the main information of the research – "prezentazione" ("presentation"), "guida database" ("database guide").
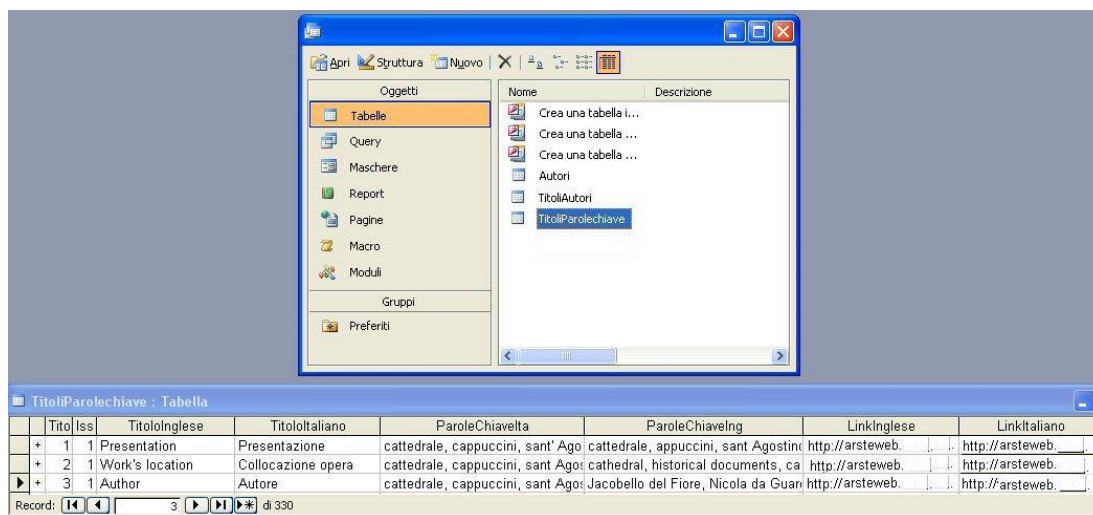
The homepage consists of four main units (blocks): the first unit contains information on the research: "prezentazione" (presentation of the site); "sommario" (summary of the research); "documenti" (index of the documents and related files); "schede delle opere" (the descriptive

cards of the works of art with related images); "guida database" (guidelines for use of the database).

Additional searches can be performed, that open pages in pdf format, by clicking on the image titles of the churches studied (fig. 1): "Polittico, Jacobello del Fiore;" "Chiesa Cappuccini;" "Cattedrale dei SS. Maria dell'Assunzione e Berardo;" "Chiesa S. Agostino;" "Il web per l'arte" (it contains an index and related files about the chapter on the "costruzione di un sistema informativo automatizzato" ("construction of an automated information system")).

The second unit contains the core part of the site, represented by the database, "Search – ArsTeWeb" ("Cerca – ArsTeWeb"), which contains a data archive, structured and linked together, to help the user through the search of information on works, preserved in the churches included in the research, such as: "year" ("anno"), "location" ("collocazione opera"), "author" ("autore"), "title" ("titolo opera"), "subject of the works" ("soggetto delle opere").

Three spreadsheets were implemented for the database ("TitoliAutori;" "Autori;" "TitoliParolechiave") and many server-side files[4], which contain information (links to files in Italian, links to files in English, titles in Italian, titles in English, a series of keywords, names of authors, subject, location of the work of art) that, once executed, return the result to the user of the request, made via the "Search" page as shown in fig. 2.

Spreadsheet example, "TitoliParolechiave"

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[4] The server-side files are executed and the response they produce, such as a list of records extracted from one or more spreadsheets in the database, is transformed into a coded page that the Browser can understand (e.g., HTM code) and sent to the client's Browser that requested it.

Fig. 2

During the initial search (fig. 2), additional information may be requested (subject of the work of art, work's location, title of the work), using the field "keywords." The words entered in the appropriate field must be separated by a "," if the user enters multiple search words or by the "%" symbol if the user searches with partial keywords. The result will be the display of information, or more information containing the same parameters (fig. 3).

Fig. 3

The remaining blocks are dedicated to historical information about the city of Teramo: a dynamic map of the city, the ancient sestieri ("districts"), churches inside the historical part of the city that have not been the subject of the research, a photo gallery containing old photos of the interior of the cathedral, and additional information on the knowledge and conservation of the cultural heritage (FAI, Cultura Italia, MiBAC, exhibitions and events), and the sacred art (Ufficio Nazionale per i Beni Culturali Ecclesiastici, Chiese Italiane, Polo SBN di Biblioteche ecclesiastiche, etc.).