



biblissima

patrimoine écrit du Moyen Âge et de la Renaissance

Biblissima and Sustainability: challenges, priorities, possibilities

Elizabeth MacDonald

Biblissima Programme Coordinator

User Interface and Software Sustainability Workshop, King's College London, 13 November 2014



bibliotheca bibliothecarum novissima

the library of libraries for the 21st century

focus on manuscripts and early printed books
written in Medieval and Renaissance Europe in
Arabic, French, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, etc.

circulation of texts, evolution of libraries,
transmission of knowledge



funded by the Agence nationale de recherche, part of the “Investissements d’avenir” programme

7.1 million euros over 7 years (2012-2019)

team of 8 people, specialising in web development and metadata (coordinator: Matthieu Bonicel, BnF)

100 researchers

project lead: Campus Condorcet

9 partner institutions

IRHT

CAMPUS 
CONDORCET
Paris-Aubervilliers

{ BnF



centre
Jean
Mabillon

École nationale
des chartes



aprat



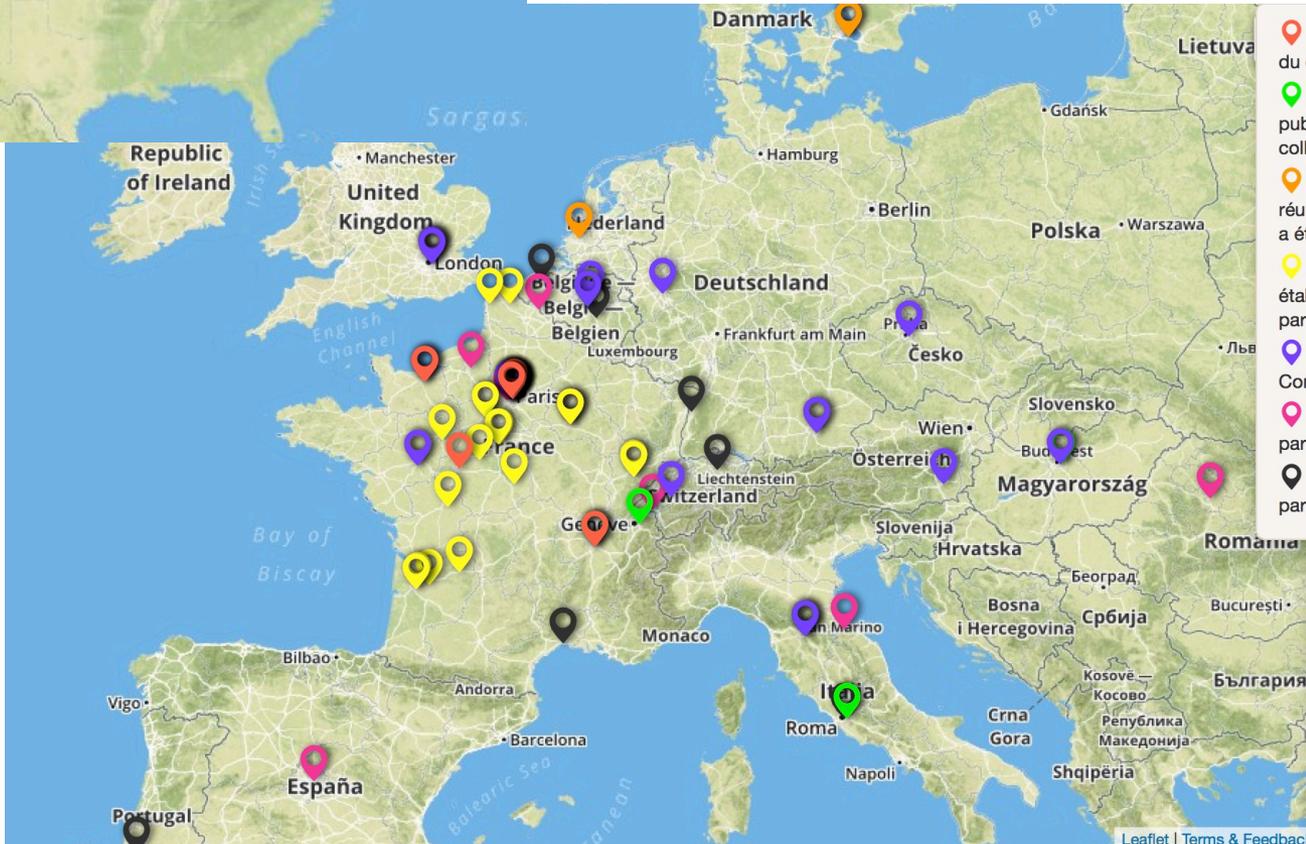
Centre d'études supérieures de
la Renaissance


CRAHAM
Barville
UMR 6273 (CNRS/UCBN)

UMR
5648
iham

M R S H
NORMANDIE - CAEN
Maison de la Recherche
en Sciences Humaines
CNRS - Université de Caen Basse-Normandie

An expanding community



- **Partenaires fondateurs** : membres du consortium Equipex Bibliissima
- **Présentations** : présentations publiques lors de conférences, colloques...
- **Manifestations** : événements et réunions officiels dans lesquels Bibliissima a été impliqué
- **Projets partenariaux** : établissements impliqués dans les projets partenariaux (hors partenaires fondateurs)
- **Conseil scientifique** : membres du Conseil Scientifique de Bibliissima
- **Ecole d'été de Chartres (2013)** : participants (stagiaires)
- **Ecole d'été de Troyes (2014)** : participants (stagiaires)

- Bibliothèque municipale de Perpignan
- Bibliothèque universitaire de Lettres Bordeaux 3)
- Bibliothèque municipale à vocation d'Orléans
- Bibliothèque Municipale de Blois
- Bibliothèque Municipale d'Angers
- Bibliothèque patrimoniale des Quatre Bourges

Two phases

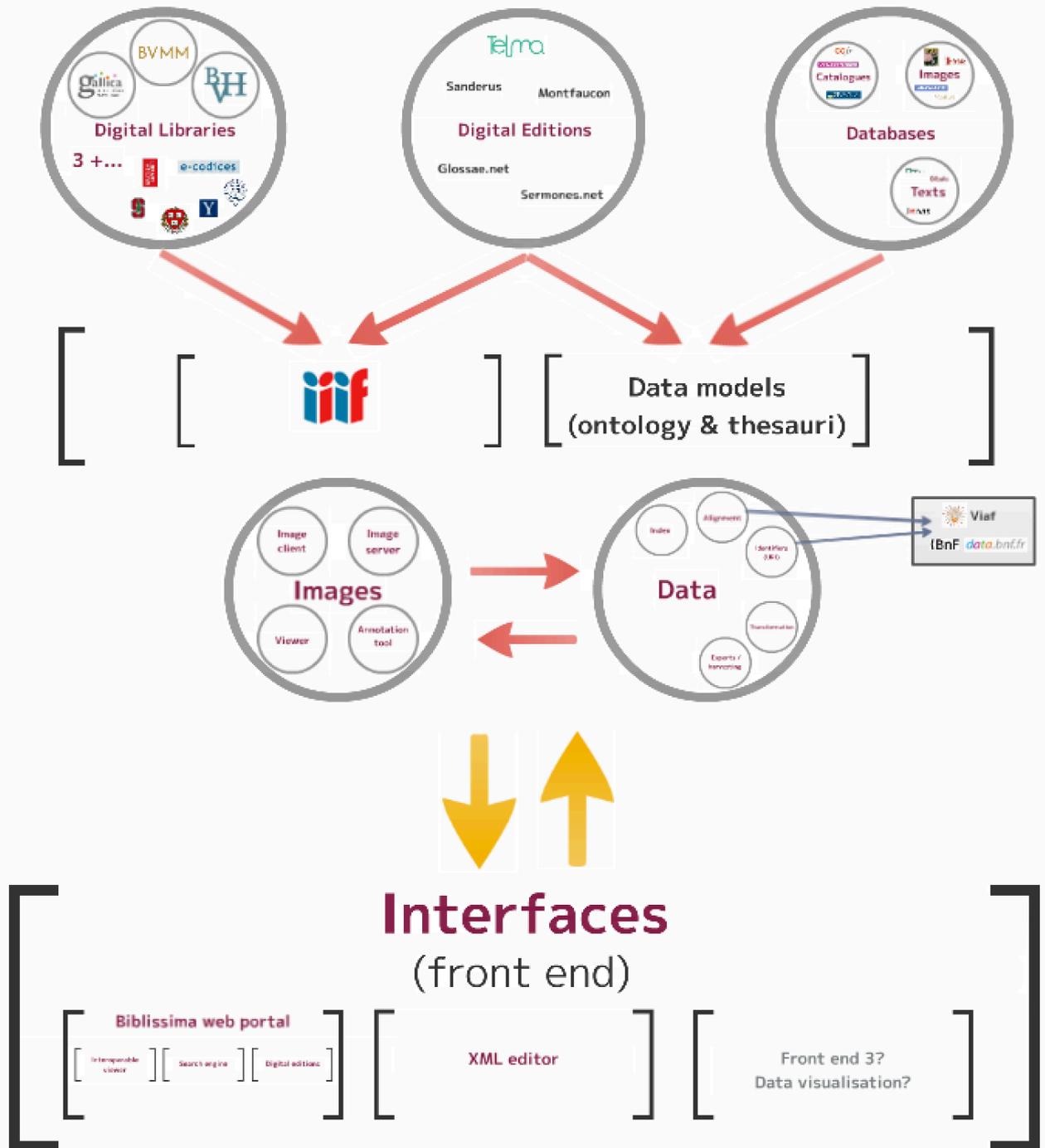
Data sets

- contents: digital libraries, databases, digital editions
- 70% of funding

Observatory

- tools and infrastructure, the portal
- 25% of funding

The Big Picture



BVMM

gallica
BIBLIOTHÈQUE
NUMÉRIQUE

BH

Digital Libraries

3 + ...

BRITISH
LIBRARY

e-codices



The logo for Telma, featuring the word "Telma" in a green, stylized, lowercase font. The letters are connected and have a slightly rounded, modern appearance. The logo is centered at the top of a large, thick grey circle.

Sanderus

Montfaucon

Digital Editions

Glossae.net

Sermones.net

CCfr

Archives et manuscrits

Catalogues

LIBRARIA



Initiale

Images

reliures.bnf.fr

Medium

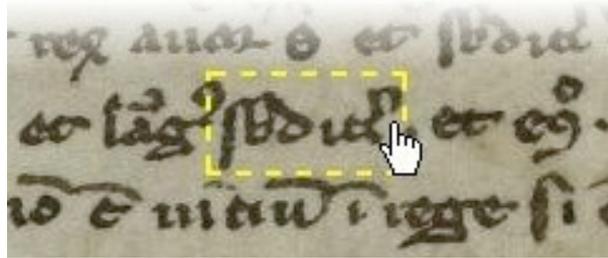
Databases

Πινακες

Bibale

Texts

Jonas



Album de paléographie



Collatinus

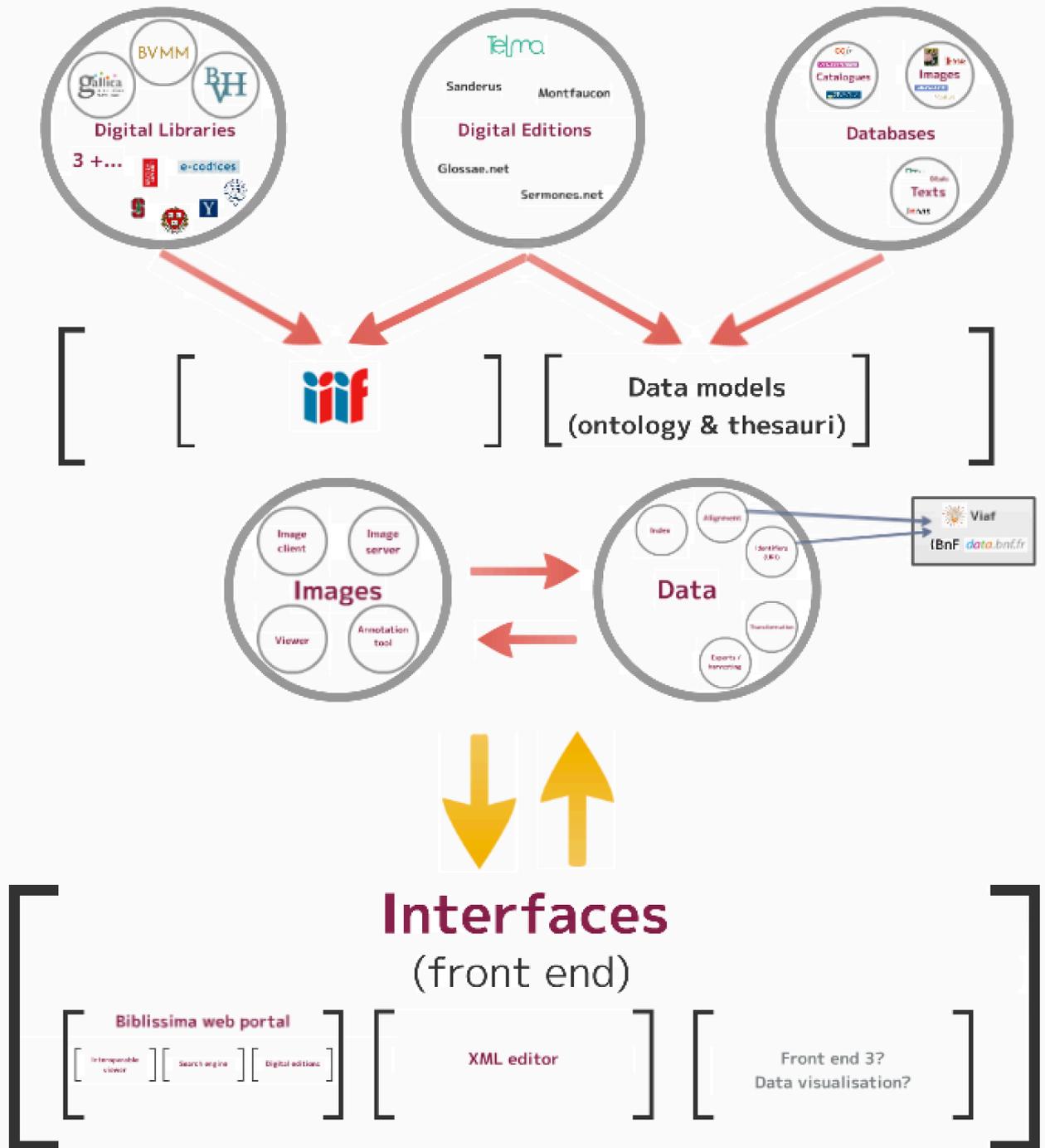
BaOBab



Eulexis

Biblissima Toolkit

The Big Picture





Data models
(ontology & thesauri)

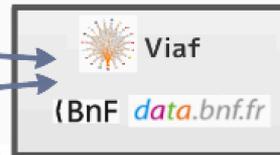
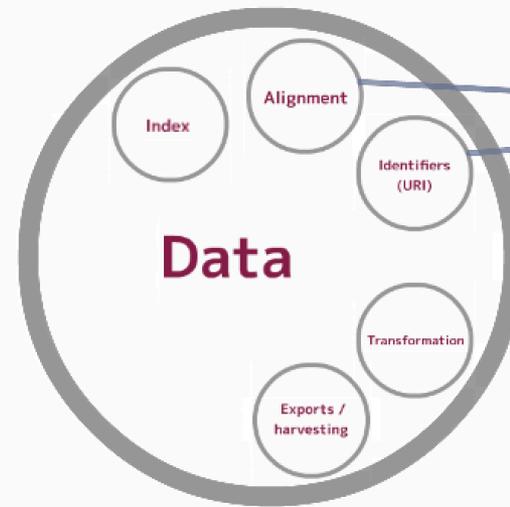
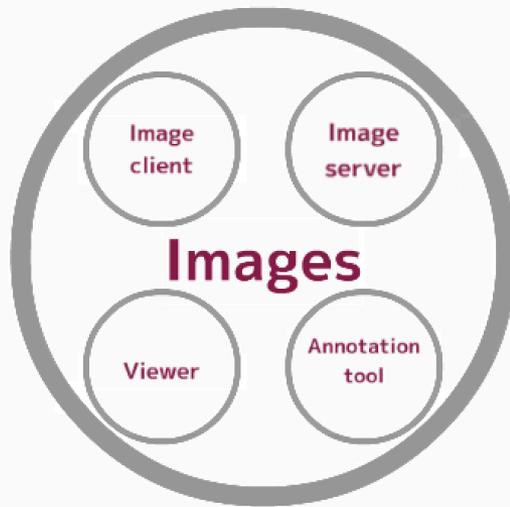


Image interoperability

International Image Interoperability Framework

developed at Stanford University: <http://iiif.io>

view images stored in different repositories using any compatible viewer

compare, manipulate and annotate high resolution images

images are loaded dynamically



Data interoperability

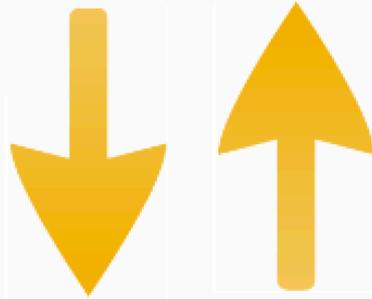
Ontology: [CIDOC-CRM](#) and [FRBRoo](#)

modelling the history of collections and the transmission of texts

Thesaurus: [SKOS](#) (ISO-25964)

technical terms relating to medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, incunabula and early printed books

Authority files: [BnF authority file](#), [VIAF](#) ...



Interfaces

(front end)

Biblissima web portal

Interoperable
viewer

Search engine

Digital editions

XML editor

Front end 3?
Data visualisation?

Where we are today

Tools: <http://outils.biblissima.fr/>

Collatinus and Eulexis: two online tools for the lemmatisation and morphological analysis of texts in Latin and Ancient Greek

BaOBab: a set of tools for working with medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, incunabula and early printed books

Where we are today

Demos: <http://demos.biblissima-condorcet.fr/>

Mirador image viewer: consult images of manuscripts held in different digital repositories

IIF case studies: images with aligned TEI transcriptions (Roman du Mont Saint-Michel), dispersed manuscripts (Florus Dispersus)

RDF demo: SPARQL queries (Eusebius of Caesarea's *Historia ecclesiastica*)

Where we are today

Documentation: <http://doc.biblissima-condorcet.fr>

information about the technologies, standards and formats adopted for the Biblissima portal to ensure image and data interoperability

updated regularly as the project progresses

Where we are today

Prototype: Mandragore and Initiale (development)

databases of manuscript illuminations (BnF, IRHT)

provide a common interface to search for and consult records on illuminations and illuminators from both databases

sample data set using all illuminations with geographic descriptors

Initiale





Sustaining Biblissima

Sustaining the project results

Data and resources

the partners who develop and enrich them will also be responsible for maintaining them

partners will ensure the data they produce will be permanently accessible: databases, digital libraries, digital editions, authority files, etc.

Sustaining the project results

Tools, portal and infrastructure

challenge: ensuring sustainability for everything that will be developed as part of the observatory

- developed by a dedicated team, hired specifically for the project (4 years), on behalf of all the partners
- no single institution will be responsible for maintaining them once developed

What needs to be preserved?

- the portal and its technical infrastructure, user management
- documentation
- thesaurus
- IIF infrastructure for the image viewer
- tools: BaOBab, Collatinus, Eulexis, etc.
- XML editor (XXE)

Developing for sustainability

choice of technical solutions based on pre-existing standards and technologies that are community developed and driven, are widely adopted and are well-maintained

- standards and formats (CIDOC-CRM, FRBRoo, SKOS, IIF, TEI-P5...)
- open-source software wherever possible (Ginco, Ontology Browser, BaseX, Mirador, Drupal...)

Developing for sustainability

building collaborative tools and resources to ensure that content can be updated easily by other people, even after the end of the project

- Biblissima thesaurus
- BaOBab toolkit

Developing for sustainability

improving project visibility on an international level and expanding the user community to increase the chances of it being maintained after the funding period ends

- multilingual tools and resources: thesaurus
- DARIAH contributions in 2015: thesaurus, BaOBab, XML editor for transcribing/editing manuscript inventories, Saint-Omer summer course

Possible solutions

while no final decisions have been made at this time, several possibilities are emerging:

sharing the responsibility for sustaining different parts of the project among the partners

possible creation of a national or international network: different partners responsible for maintaining different elements according to their area of expertise

Possible solutions

in future, the Campus Condorcet might host and maintain various infrastructures as part of their mission build a campus focussed specifically on the Humanities and Social Sciences: the Biblissima portal and its infrastructure could integrate or enrich this platform (to be determined)

other partners could potentially do the same for various tools and resources where they have made significant contributions to their design and development

Possible solutions

there is no single right solution; sustaining Biblissima will likely involve some combination of several factors:

- good development choices
- existing communities around the standards, formats and tools adopted
- financial investment from the institutions in whose best interest it is to maintain these tools and infrastructure

Sustainability in the Humanities

to achieve sustainability, we will need to work towards the full integration and interoperability of the software, tools and platforms used to access, manage, enrich and publish project results

these platforms must in turn find their place within a larger infrastructure, at the national or international level