

Editorial

Annali di Ca' Foscari. Serie orientale, the journal of the Department of Asian and North African Studies of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, was started back in 1970 and is to date one of the oldest journals of its kind in Italy. Its mission is to foster original and interdisciplinary research in the fields of Asian and North African Studies and its manifold linguistic areas, from Arabic to Japanese.

Each annual issue features articles and reviews written by leading scholars whose contributions span across a vast array of topics. These can be gathered under four main headings: 1. Linguistics, philology and literature; 2. Religions and philosophies; 3. Archaeology and cultural heritage, visual and performing arts; 4. History, economy, politics and international relations.

As always, each proposed article is evaluated by qualified scholars of international renown through double-blind peer review. By utilizing a web-based secure IT platform, the referee tools employed in the process correspond to the ones current amongst the most authoritative scientific journals.

After three years of forced interruption (2011-13) due to the fusion of the two Departments of Euro-Asiatic Studies and Eastern Asia into our present Department, the journal has evolved into electronic format, being digitally edited by Edizioni Ca' Foscari. Moreover, from 2014 *Annali di Ca' Foscari. Serie orientale* has become an Open Access resource.

But in order to look forward towards a bright future it is mandatory to cultivate the memory of the past and to appreciate what was achieved by the prior generations of scholars who contributed to the journal. In this spirit, several years ago the project of digitalization of the entire 1970-2010 collection, comprising a total of more than 40 volumes and 600 articles, was patiently undertaken.

In 2015, thanks to the painstaking work of librarian Dr. Maria Loretta Manzato and her staff of the Linguistic Library of Ca' Foscari University, the digitalization process was finally brought to completion.

An index of all articles, divided by subject areas with titles, keywords and link to their full text, is now available at the following digital archive: <http://lear.unive.it/jspui/handle/11707/1302>. All texts can be easily searched for, retrieved and downloaded and we warmly invite scholars and students alike to visit our archive of *Annali di Ca' Foscari. Serie orientale* and make the best use of it.

