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Abstract and biographies for the conference 'PRINTING REVOLUTION'

Title: The use and reuse of printed illustrations in 15th-century Venetian editions

Abstract: How did printed book illustrations circulate in the 15th century? Which were the different editions and texts where these illustrations appeared? Is it possible to track the geographical movement of the blocks or of the iconographic subjects they portray? How did printers use images? What was the relationship of 15th-century printed illustrations with the preceding manuscript sources, and their influence on the following manuscript and printed production?

Our paper will present the 15cILLUSTRATION, a searchable database of 15th-century printed illustrations developed by the 15cBOOKTRADE project in collaboration with the Visual Geometry Group (Department of Engineering Science of University of Oxford).

To address the research questions listed above, 15cILLUSTRATION allows to search the database using images (or image region) as query, and using multiple text search keywords. 15cILLUSTRATION is the first comprehensive and systematic tool to track and investigate the production, use, circulation, and copy of woodblocks, iconographic subjects, artistic styles, etc. within 15th-century printed illustrated editions.

The features of 15cILLUSTRATION will be demonstrated using early printed Venetian illustrations as a pilot dataset.

Abhishek Dutta is a Research Software Engineer at the Visual Geometry Group in the Department of Engineering Science of University of Oxford. He received his doctorate from the University of Twente (Netherlands) in 2015, his MSc in Computer Science (by research) from University of York (UK) in 2011 and his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Tribhuvan University (Nepal) in 2009.

Matilde Malaspina is a DPhil (PhD) student at the University of Oxford and a member of the 15cBOOKTRADE Project (ERC). She got her BA and MA from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan, Italy), where she specialised in Medieval and Humanistic Philology. Her doctoral research concerns 15th-century printed book illustrations, with a focus on Italian editions of texts of Aesop, the Classical author of fables extensively used for primary education over the centuries.