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BEYOND THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG:

Grey Literature in the Study and Protection of Northern Tuscany's Archaeological Records

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SCAN ME

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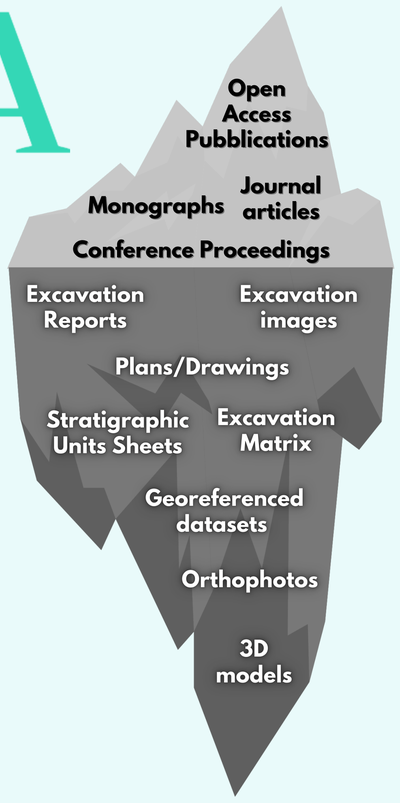

Figure 1. Examples of White and Grey Literature in Archaeology

MAGOH project

MAGOH (Managing Archaeological data for a sustainable GOvernance of the Heritage) is a digital platform developed by the MAPPA Laboratory (University of Pisa) and the Superintendence for the Metropolitan City of Florence and the provinces of Pistoia, Prato, Pisa, and Livorno. It provides access to archaeological data through the digitization and vectorization of grey literature from 103 Tuscan municipalities (**Fig. 1**). Online since 2023, it offers downloadable vector geometries in accordance with **FAIR** principles and enables archaeological excavations to be analysed at both macro and micro scales.

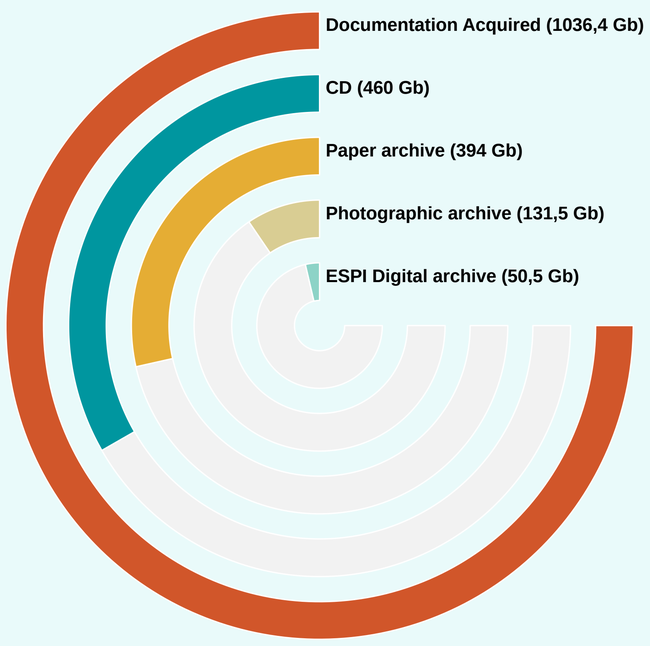

Figure 2. Documentation Acquired by the MAGOH Project

Data collection

The project's data collection covered all archaeological documentation stored in the Superintendence's archives between 1961 and 2016 (**Fig. 2**). Paper records were digitized and data held on fragile media (CDs, DVDs) were migrated into more durable and accessible formats. In addition, the platform integrates datasets drawn from undergraduate and doctoral theses and other research project (**MAPPA project**). As a result, approximately 9,000 records were created, each documenting an archaeological excavation.

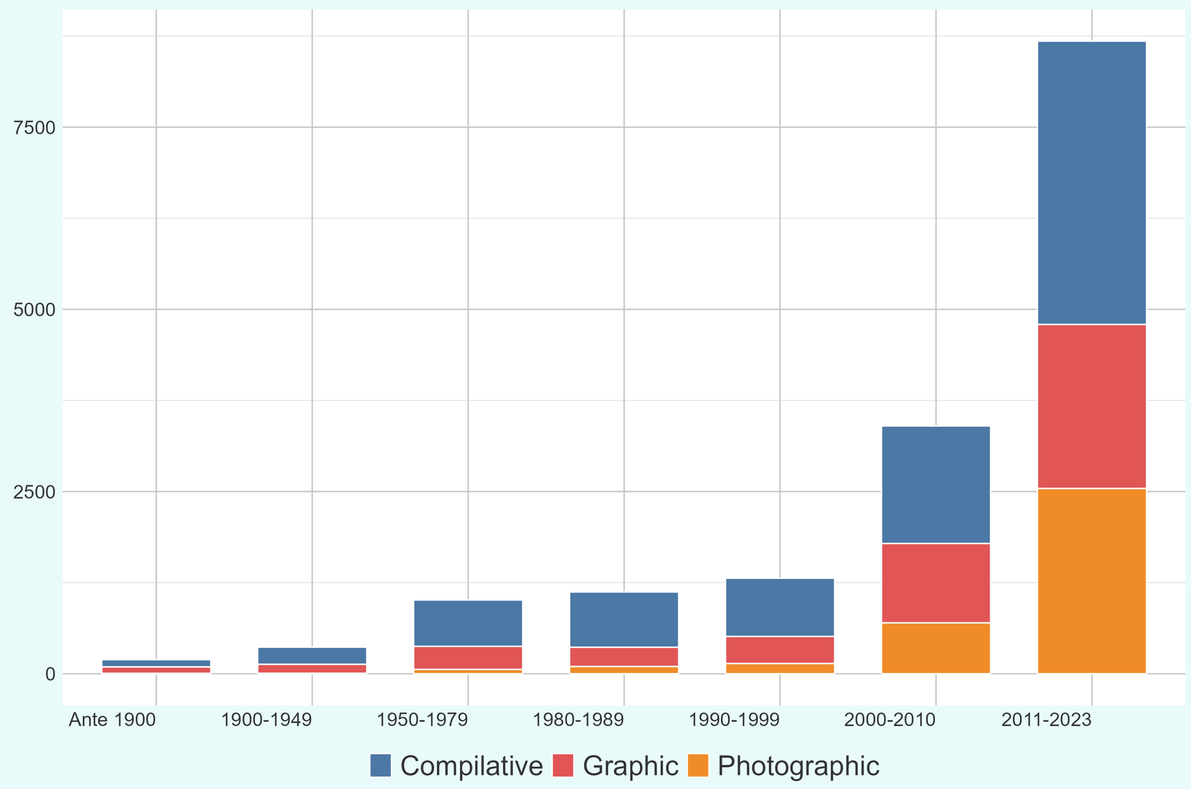

Figure 3. Typology of Archival Documentation Over Time

Metadatation

Documentation for each record is attached, and during data entry metadata were assigned to each file, organized into main categories (compilative, photographic, graphic) with subcategories specifying the type of archival document (**Fig. 3**). The metadata schema is now being semantically enriched using the leading ontology in the field, paving the way for the dataset's future publication as **Linked Open Data** (LOD) and its integration with other datasets.

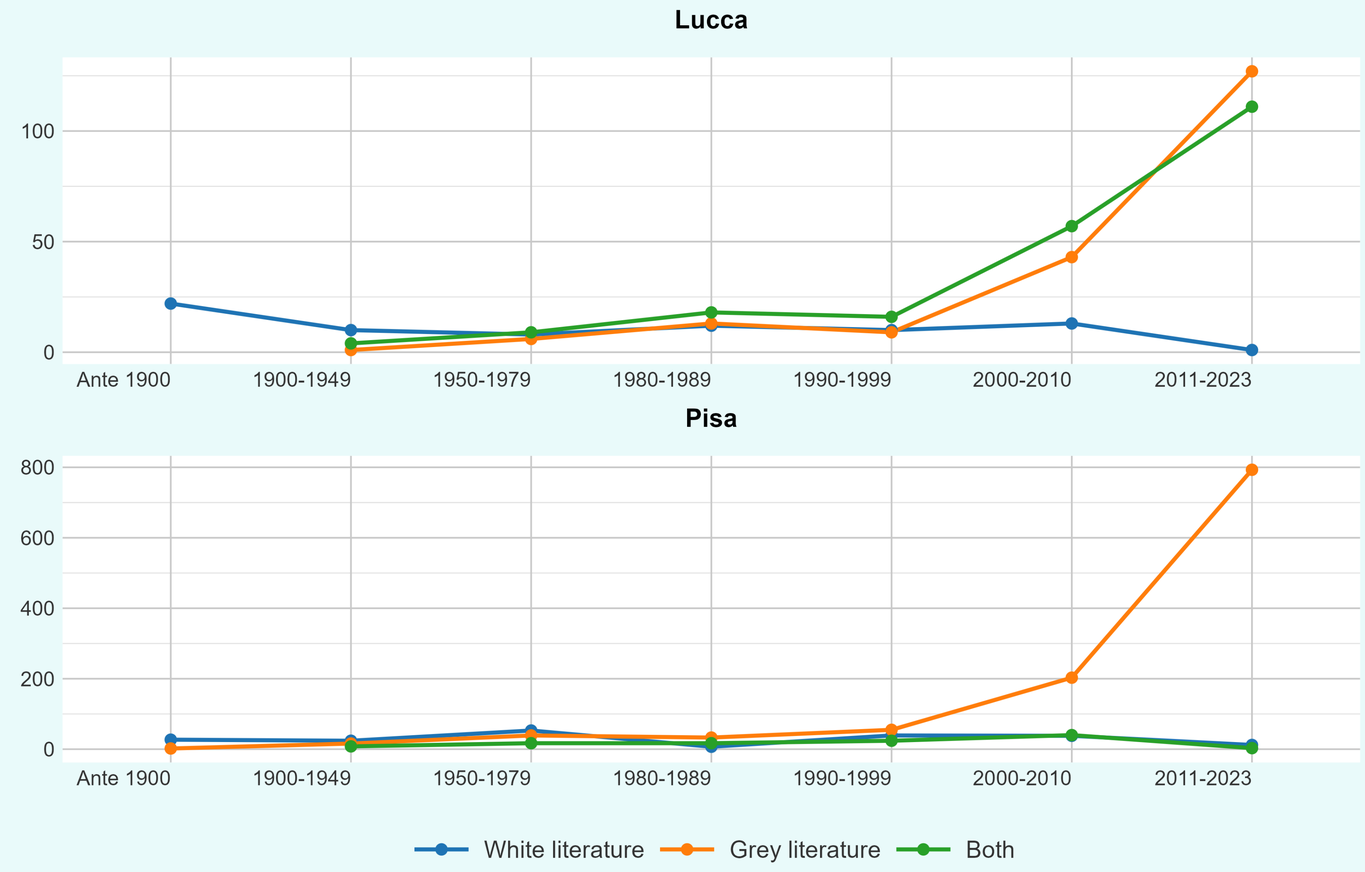

Figure 4. Relationship Between Grey and White Literature

Grey and White literature

Although most of the records in the database are based exclusively on grey literature, in cities such as **Lucca** and **Pisa**, the dataset has been enriched by additional research projects and academic theses, allowing for an analysis of the relationship between grey and white literature (**Fig. 4**). These two case studies underscore the importance of initiatives like MAGOH in enhancing the accessibility and usability of grey literature. The comparison also highlights the significant publication activity carried out by archaeologists working in the historic centre of Lucca since the 1980s, whereas most of the archaeological excavations conducted in Pisa are documented almost exclusively through archival sources, reflecting the broader trend observed in the MAGOH dataset.

References

ANICHINI F., GATTIGLIA G., SAPONARA A. R. 2023, MAGOH: un nuovo strumento per la gestione e la consultazione dei dati archeologici del Nord della Toscana, «Archeologia e Calcolatori», 34.2, 277-296 (https://doi.org/10.19282/ac.34.2.2023.15)

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