

namais duame autres cas non prenulletties.

Me dut efter brulle celluy of eft forcer a of eft accufe de mort dautern wur fanthette ou dest bouttre ou come autres cas a sencontre de la for hi dicellur gime il est comuamai.

ellup doit efter boully en huille a en taute à a fait faulce monove.

"Jean Masuyer, scene in court, Stile du droit françois" (manuscript Bibliothèque nationale de France, Français 4367 [ca 1483-1485], folio 55v° Public domain)

Academies' Programme - Excellence in the Humanities

The collective research programme of the academies of sciences – the Academies' Programme – serves to study, preserve and communicate global cultural heritage. It is currently the largest long-term research programme in Germany for foundational research in the humanities and social sciences and is coordinated by the Union of Academies.

ALMA is an interinstitutional project carried out by the Heidelberg and the Bavarian Academies of Sciences and Humanities and the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz.



HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

Knowledge Networks in Medieval Romance Speaking Europe (ALMA)

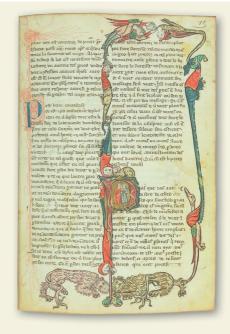








The project investigates the interaction between language, knowledge, and scholarship in medieval Europe. The field of observation is the Romance cultural sphere that sees the emergence of new knowledge networks expressed in vernacular languages in the time between around 1100 and 1500 AC. ALMA traces how the Romance languages are developed into languages of knowledge and scholarship within new functional areas of language that are technically and conceptually complex. These languages are a particularly important part of the intellectual, and cultural heritage of Europe. Additionally, they are major carriers of a cultural exchange in the Middle Ages that starts to establish the European identity as a knowledge society.



The figure shows a folio of the *Codes an romanz* (ca 1270), a French translation of the original Occitan text Codi (probably ca 1160), the oldest technical legal text in a Romance language. The text is part of the so-called *Summa Codicis*, a summary of the *Codex Justiniani*, and thus a landmark of Roman and later, medieval law. Within the framework of ALMA, the French text will be made available in a critical text edition for the first time and its contents will become a major source for our empirical analyses.

Manuscript Bibliothèque nationale de France, Français 1070 [ca 1270], folio 15r°, public domain

Knowledge Networks in Medieval Romance Speaking Europe (ALMA)

me cest divoite dringion et de terminacion des niebres donnet chin corps maremant de corps Immany Carlentencion de torute ceste science a pest deh 1 Et est dute anathomne de and en gree que significe diont en francois. et Homos en quet any firtufficut difficun en fran cois. done cest admedionte de rufion Anathomie est empu pe en dengemanneres prenners var doct medelunes et fafor ce que ceste manuere port pron fitable toute noves elle mest pas profugante pour raconter les cho per any Port Penlemont confuences an pens p come il est estrept on memer home on ship chappine Tet ceft re que difoit anerrois on premier de pon colliget Et 100 1001 abremannes + Cally us antiernant on peut enquerre anathornic par experience des corps an four mors Car no?

Treatise of the *Grande Chirurgie* by Gui de Chauliac, French translation of a Latin text from 1363, manuscript Montpellier, 2nd third 15th century, describing in detail a post-mortem dissection.

(Bibliothèque Universitaire Historique de Médecine - Université de Montpellier, H 184, 2nd third 15th c., folio 15v°b. SCDI Montpellier - Service photographique).

«Donc anatho[15v°b]mie, c'est droite division et determinacion des membres d'ung [...] corps humain [...]. Et est dicte anathomie de 'ana' en grec, qui signifie 'droit' en françois, et 'thomos' en grec, qui signiffient 'division' en françois, donc c'est a dire einsi que 'droite division'. Anathomie est enquise en deux manieres: premiers par doctrine de livres, et ja soit ce que ceste maniere soit proufitable, toutesvoies elle n'est pas soufisante pour raconter les choses qui sont seulemant cogneuez au sens [...]. Mais autremant, on peult enquerre anathomie par experiance des corps qui sont mors.»

«Item, an anatomy is the correct division and determination of the body parts of a human being [...]. And anatomy is composed of 'ana' in Greek, which means 'correct' in French, and 'thomos' in Greek, which means 'division' in French, thus it means 'correct division'. Anatomy is studied in two ways: first, through the teaching of books and although this way is beneficial, it is not sufficient for reporting the things that are recognizable only to the sense [...]. But on the other hand, one can explore the anatomy through the experience with bodies that are dead.»

Between the 12th and the 15th century, significant changes can be observed in the European intellectual life of the Middle Ages. These changes are closely interlinked with processes impacting society such as the increasing textualization of many areas of life and the emergence of new educational institutions. These developments are accompanied by profound changes within the language. People increasingly turn to the vernacular languages as a means for the written communication of knowledge. Therewith, new groups of experts emerge, developing new terminologies (as can be seen, for example, in the French *Grande Chirurgie*) and new ways of generating and transferring knowledge. The shift towards the vernacular languages serves as a stimulus and, at the same time, indicates that the access to knowledge becomes available to new user groups: Knowledge transfer is taking on a different role within society.

The ALMA project investigates specialized vocabulary, linguistic innovations within the vernacular languages, and the interaction between languages and evolving domain knowledge.

The project aims at making the rich textual tradition within Romance languages – concerning the knowledge domains of medicine and law – accessible through digital text editions and multilingual text corpora. A corpus-linguistic analysis of the texts provides the basis for lexical-semantic studies that analyze key concepts of the knowledge networks and the depth of their linguistic representation within the Gallo- and Italoromania. The lexical-semantic studies also discuss both origin and dissemination of lexical innovations together with the new matters denoted.

To achieve interoperability with the Semantic Web, the research results are modeled as Linked Open Data. For language-independent interlinking of the Linked-Open-Data resources, ALMA develops historicised domain ontologies on law and medicine. These ontologies do not depict the modern world but instead, consider the specificity of medieval explanation patterns. Thus, they foster the re-use of the ALMA's research results far beyond the field of Romance linguistics by extending it to all historically working sciences. This reflects the interdisciplinary relevance of the project.



Italian, French, Occitan, Gascon



12th - 15th century



Digital text editions and linguistic corpora



Knowledge domains 'medicine' and 'law'



Methods of philology, corpus linguistics, lexicology, lexicography, history of science and scholarship, Linked Open Data, ontology engineering



Six positions, additional student assistants (Romance linguistics and computational linguistics)



22 years



The Heidelberg research unit focuses on medieval French and IT/software development, the Munich unit on medieval Occitan/Gascon, and the Saarbrücken unit on medieval Italian.





AYERISCHE KADEMIE ER VISSENSCHAFTEN

