# CEDAC : a circus heritage management model

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Dott. Antonio Giarola



#### The Documentation Centre

The circus represents a little-studied aspect of contemporary culture, even if since the end of the 18th century it has profoundly marked the history of entertainment, urban planning, aesthetic tastes, anthropology, art, fashion and design, also in the social and social field.

It is therefore a cultural and popular tradition closely linked to daily life, capable of bringing together apparently different sectors, which, due to its itinerant character and based mainly on oral transmission, has always been considered a subject minor in study and indepth analysis.

CEDAC, since its opening, has worked to produce a continuous update of the information and documentation system relating to the circus and the many spectacular forms linked to it.



#### **Funds**

To date, the CEDAC heritage includes around twenty deposited collections, reaching a total of around forty if we also consider those in digital version, that is to say of which only the digitized documents are preserved.

In recent years, a project has been launched aimed at involving historians, collectors, families, libraries and archives, with which a census activity has been launched and, if possible, the digitization of individual collections, with a view to 'pure conservation aimed at their public utility.

An operation whose objective is to reconcile documentary needs while fully respecting the ownership of rights. The aim is to combine the updating of the circus documentation system with the conservation, protection and recovery of documents which would otherwise remain forgotten in an attic or which, in the worst case, would be thrown away through neglect.

#### Documentary typologies

#### **DOCUMENTARY SECTIONS**

**Library**: composed of Italian and foreign volumes, divided into collections and thematic sections (history, specialties and disciplines, art, music hall and varieties, literature, etc.), catalogued in the SBN. The section also includes more than 3000 theatre programs.

**Newspaper library**: It has around thirty national and international newspapers.

- **Icon library**: includes illustrations from ancient and modern periodicals and posters.
- **Photo gallery**: includes approximately 15,000 photographs and slides. Among these are specimens from the turn of the century in albumen.
- **Media library**: includes a heterogeneous set of audiovisual material, preserved on different media such as VHS and DVD-Video, the latter being catalogued in SBN.

CEDAC also has in its collection: philatelic material, correspondence, stage objects and costumes, as well as some small circus family archive complexes, related to both entrepreneurial activity and the sphere family.



### Acquisition policy

The acquisition policy is based on a constant increase in assets, aimed at expanding all the documentary sections present at CEDAC, in order to guarantee continuous updating of information for academics, researchers, students, etc.

Studies, exhibitions and publications are valuable opportunities for research and acquisition of new historical and informative sources. Among the material recovery methods, we distinguish:

- Direct purchase thanks to specific ministerial funding
- Donations from individuals
- Exchange
- Digitalization of private funds (loaned and returned ex Giancarlo Cavedo and Livio Togni funds)

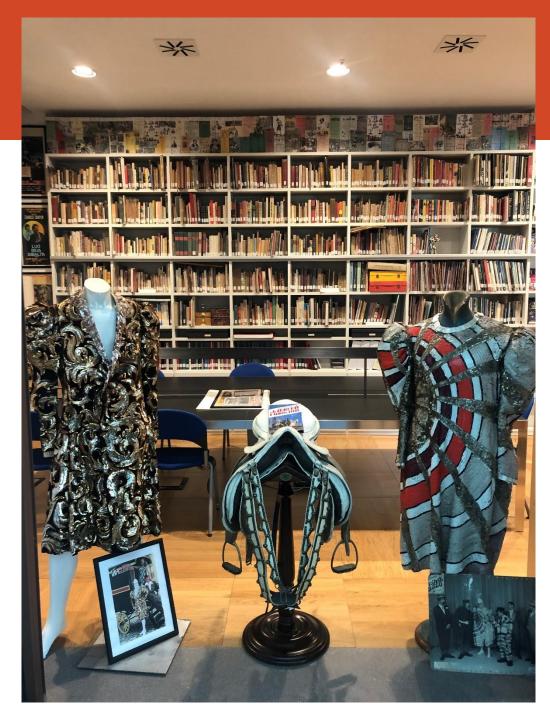


#### Dialogue between different types of documents

The particularity of the documentation centre is given by the relevance that a document assumes based on the information content and not the type of support, in order to create a continuous dissemination of information to adapt it to the needs of increasingly sectors specialized.

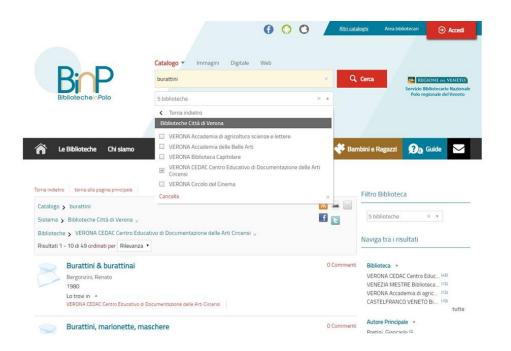
This is achieved through sectoral studies that aim to create the most up-to-date information network. The studies are oriented towards the comparative study of documents present both at CEDAC and in Italian and foreign libraries or archives in order to update the historiography of the circus.

The dissemination activity, in addition to monographic studies, is also strongly oriented towards the creation of thematic exhibitions, conferences and collaborations useful to publicize the multifaceted culture of the track.



#### Research support

The objective of CEDAC is to guide researchers, of all levels, in bibliographic research through some of the main national catalogs: OPAC SBN and the catalog of ACNP periodicals and in the development of study subjects and of concept maps. A network of professionals and collaborators who work in different areas of the sector.





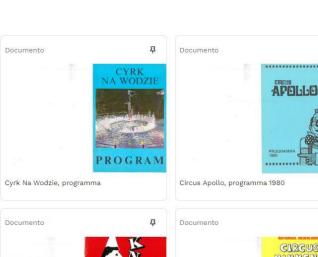
#### ArchiCEDAC





ArchiCEDAC is based on Archiui, historical and cultural heritage management software and a platform for digitizing and describing all types of cultural property.

Documento



PROGRAMMA 1964

National Nederlands Circus Mikkenie,

programma 1979

Knie - Circo Nazionale Svizzero : programma



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CIRCUS

RENZ

PROGRAMMA





Circo di Moira Orfei : programma stagione

1965-66

Documento

## Thank you for your attention!



Via S. Teresa, 12 Verona Tel. 045 8202010

segreteria@articircensi.org