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FIR System

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Abstract

FIR (Fototeca digitale dell'Iconografia Rupestre della regione Puglia - Digital Photographic Library of Rupestrian Iconography in Apulia) is an integrated System of archives, multimedia geo-referenced information and three-dimensional reconstructions, created by SIBA of the University of Salento (http://siba2.unile.it/info_siba_eng.htm) by means of 2D, 3D and GIS digital technologies. By accessing the System, available at <http://siba-gis.unile.it/fir>, the user can visualise the spatial distribution of rupestrian settlements in the provinces of Lecce and Taranto, such as several rupestrian churches and Byzantine crypts of remarkable historical and artistic value. The user can also be linked to brief outlines provided with images, plans and other bibliographical and documentary resources. The System provides further electronic resources, three-dimensional models and virtual reconstructions. FIR System is integrated with the products and results of the 3D Database project (<http://siba3.unile.it/3ddb/index.htm>), implemented by SIBA for 3D acquisition and processing, as well as virtual representation of archaeological finds, settings and architectural structures.

FIR (Fototeca digitale dell'Iconografia Rupestre della regione Puglia - Digital Photographic Library of Rupestrian Iconography in Apulia) is an integrated System of archives, multimedia geo-referenced information and three-dimensional reconstructions concerning rupestrian settlements in Apulia.

The System, created by SIBA of the University of Salento (http://siba2.unile.it/info_siba_eng.htm) by means of 2D, 3D and GIS digital technologies, is available at <http://siba-gis.unile.it/fir> (fig. 1).

It allows the user to visualise the spatial distribution of rupestrian settlements in the provinces of Lecce and Taranto, such as several rupestrian churches and Byzantine crypts of remarkable historical and artistic value, and to access to relating information provided with images, plans and other bibliographical and documentary resources.

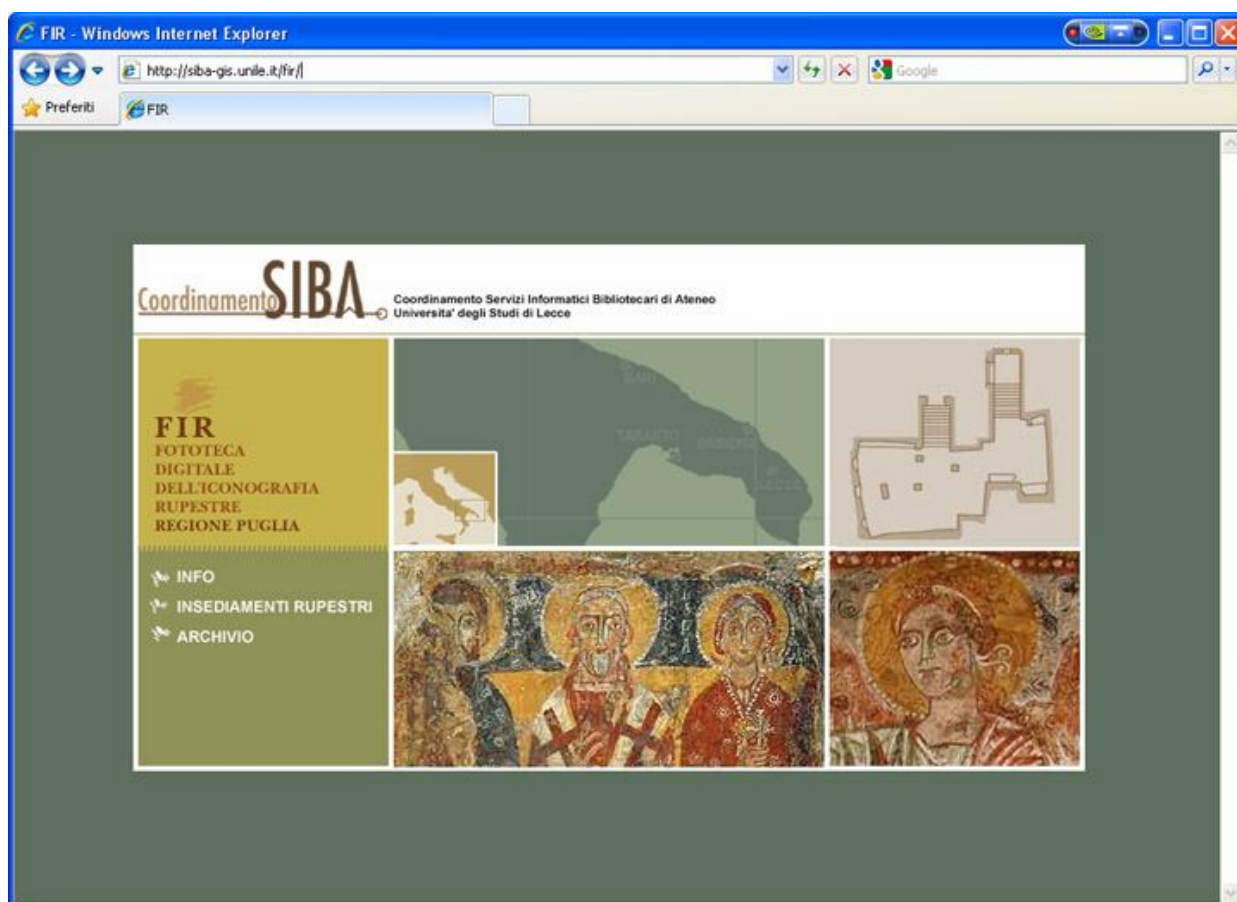


fig. 1

The System gives access to further electronic resources, three-dimensional models and virtual reconstructions. FIR System is integrated with the products and results of 3D Database project (<http://siba3.unile.it/3ddb/index.htm>), implemented by SIBA for 3D acquisition and processing, as well as virtual representation of archaeological finds, settings and architectural structures (fig. 2).

The FIR project originated from the will to make available to a wide audience the photographic library of rupestrian iconography in Apulia - created in the end of 70's by the Historical studies Department of the University of Salento - and to deepen the understanding of the rupestrian settlements in Salento.

Furthermore, the project aims to provide by means of innovative technology and computer systems further elements to better appreciate this historical period which involved numerous southern Italian populations.

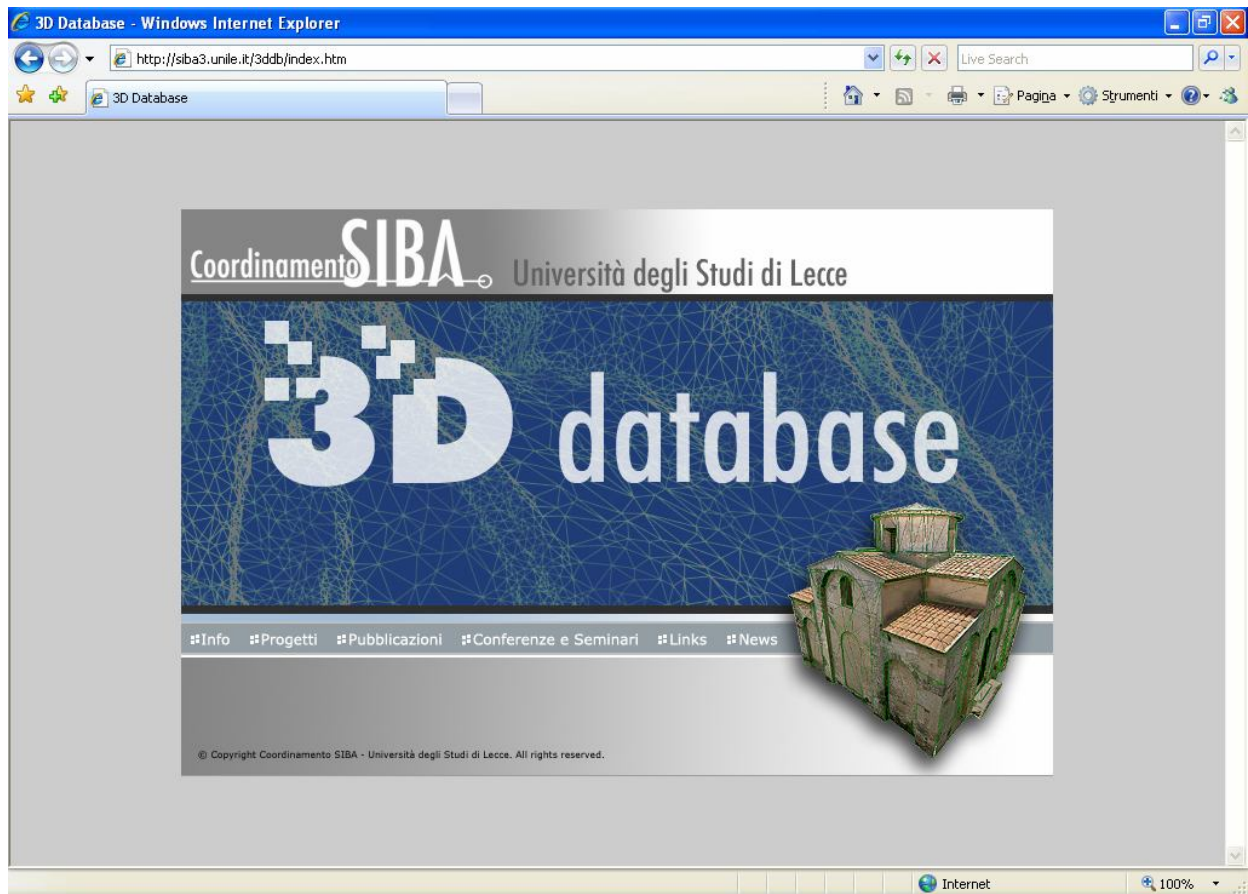


fig. 2

The electronic Archive of the FIR System, implemented by SIBA, contains the digital images of the slides and plans, with brief descriptions, of this photographic library. Besides, it gathers numerous images of many other crypts, outlines on the rupestrian settlements, links to bibliographical, documentary and multimedia resources, three dimensional models and virtual reconstructions created by SIBA for 3D Database project. The Archive, available at <http://siba2.unile.it/fir/index.php> (fig. 3), is based on standard and open technology, standard format for the access and distribution of the documents and standard communication protocols.

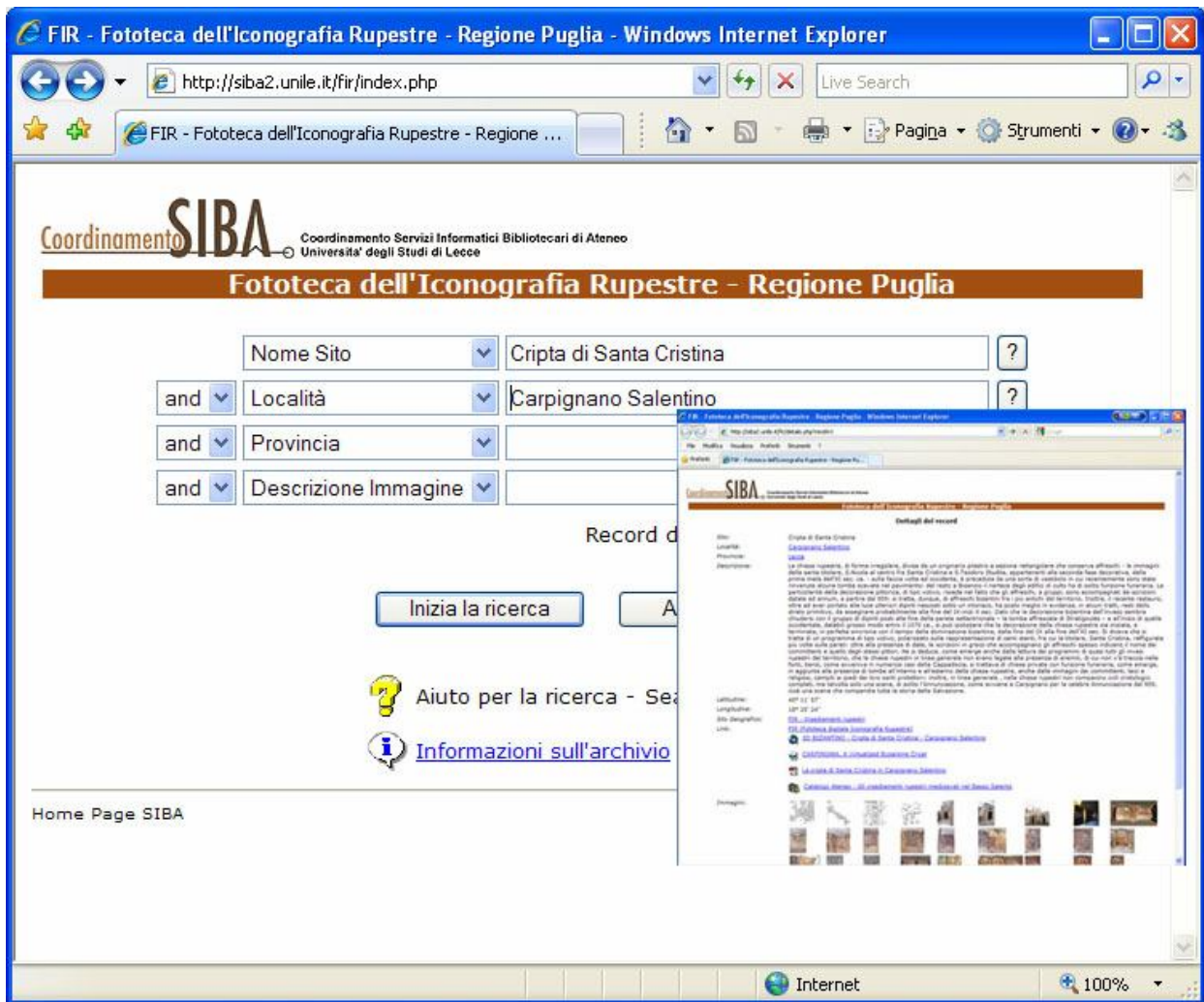


fig. 3

By accessing the Archive from a Web browser any where in the world, each user can look for a specific image of the rupestrian iconography and/or a settlement, in a specific location and/or province in Apulia. Moreover the user can visualise the documentary resources, images, plans, other related multimedia resources, three dimensional models and virtual reconstructions. The electronic Archive is integrated with the Geographical Archive of the rupestrian settlements.

By accessing the Geographical Archive of the FIR System, available at <http://siba-gis.unile.it/fir/insediamenti.htm> (fig. 4), the user can visualise the rupestrian settlements available in the electronic Archive.

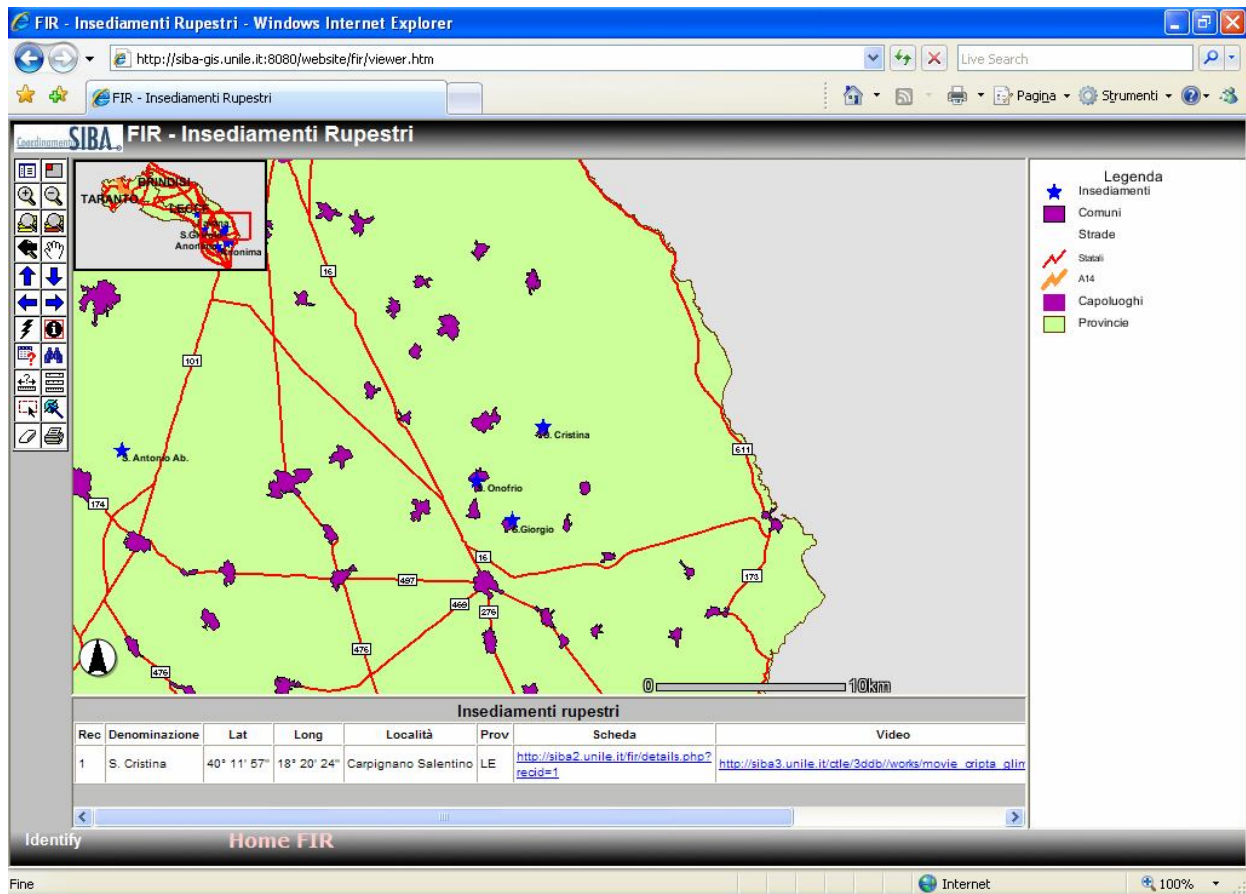


fig. 4

By using standard query tools, the user can select the rupestrian settlements highlighted in the geographical map and directly access to the related documentary outlines and multimedia resources available in the electronic Archive or to the tables of the related features (site name, geo-referencing information, location, province, outline, video and database).

The user can switch from a specific research of a rupestrian settlement in the electronic Archive to the visualisation of the spatial distribution of the settlements and vice versa from the geo-referenced information visualised through the GIS system to the documentary outlines and multimedia resources available in the electronic Archive or in some products available in the 3D Database (fig. 5).



fig. 5

FIR is an integrated multi-target information system, allowing the fruition, even from a remote access, of the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of Apulia, though a reinterpretation of the same with the use of advanced technologies. It is tailored to satisfy different kinds of users (e.g., researchers, students, tourists, etc). The FIR System, started in 2001, is continuously being improved.

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