THE VIATIMAGES DATABASE

VIATIMAGES is a database specialized in the field of published travel illustration. Set up within the context of an international programme entitled VIATICA the database is the property of Lausanne University that is also responsible for the hosting and maintenance of the database.

VIATIMAGES constitute an extraordinary documentary collection on the history of the representation of the Alps and of the discovery of mountains.

The VIATIMAGES database is a valuable teaching tool at every level and is already employed in the courses offered by the Centre for Historical and Cultural Sciences in the Faculty of Arts at Lausanne University.

VIATICALPES
http://www.unil.ch/viatricalpes

VIATIMAGES
http://www.unil.ch/viatimages

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THE VIATICALPES PROJECT

Travel writing constitutes a fascinating documentary resource for the humanities and the social sciences. Cultural historians of course rely on it, but also historians of the sciences, of the arts, of publishing and illustration, not to mention geographers and literary scholars. All can extract a wealth of precious knowledge. The available resource takes the form of both written texts and images, which together amount to a treasure as yet under-exploited in current public and academic libraries.

With the support of Lausanne University and the Swiss National Research Fund, the VIATICALPES project has undertaken the task of bringing together and studying all the iconographic material produced within the Alpine region from the middle of the sixteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth.

Images are to be digitalized, described, indexed and made publicly accessible via the Internet by placing them on the VIATIMAGES database. Further, users will be able to situate the objects on an interactive map.

Images are cross-referenced to the written texts with which they are associated in the books in which they were published, both by means of accompanying extracts and of hyperlinks to the complete texts once these have been made available online. Biographical information concerning the authors and illustrators concerned are also provided in accompaniment to images.

Six Swiss libraries (Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire de Lausanne, Bibliothèque de Genève, Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire de Neuchâtel, Swiss National Library, Burgerbibliothek Bern, Médiathèque Valais) are collaborating on the digitalization of images and texts, thus opening the heritage of rare and precious books to the general public.