

Abstract

This research is about the study of the “Catalogue” as primary source of information and study of palaeontology. A certain number of different kind of catalogues has been examined: papery, on –line and on cd. This has been the confirmation that the “catalogue” represents a very effective way of study and divulgation, used by various museums and Research Institutes. Other than points out the numerous aspects of the catalogue, it has been ascertained as each single product have the own structure and methodology, enabling to analyze the catalogue under each aspect. Thanks to the structure of a synthetic schedule and to its use, it has been possible to analyze in detail the structure of each catalogue, bringing to light their characteristics; furthermore, the objective of the schedule has been to make easier, functional and immediate a possible research on the typology of the catalogues itself. Furthermore the location of the museums which own the Catalogues has made possible to update the mailing list already made up on the web site DSTM and web site intranet APAT by F. Angelelli.

The APAT (Agency for the protection of environment and technical services) Palaeontological Museum Collections represent a substantial scientific, historical and cultural heritage, as they are composed of about 100.000 fossils coming from well known deposits of the Italian peninsula (but also collection coming from abroad), which are the evidence of marine and continental life evolution in the space of 570 million of years. The Collections are provided of a recent papery catalogue of “Types” (Angelelli F., Rossi R. 2004) and of a web site to present the collections themselves.

This research has specially pointed out how is important, if not essential, for the Museum to be able to create an interactive catalogue , further to the virtual museum under construction, that allows to the various levels of users to spread the fossil resources kept in this museum.