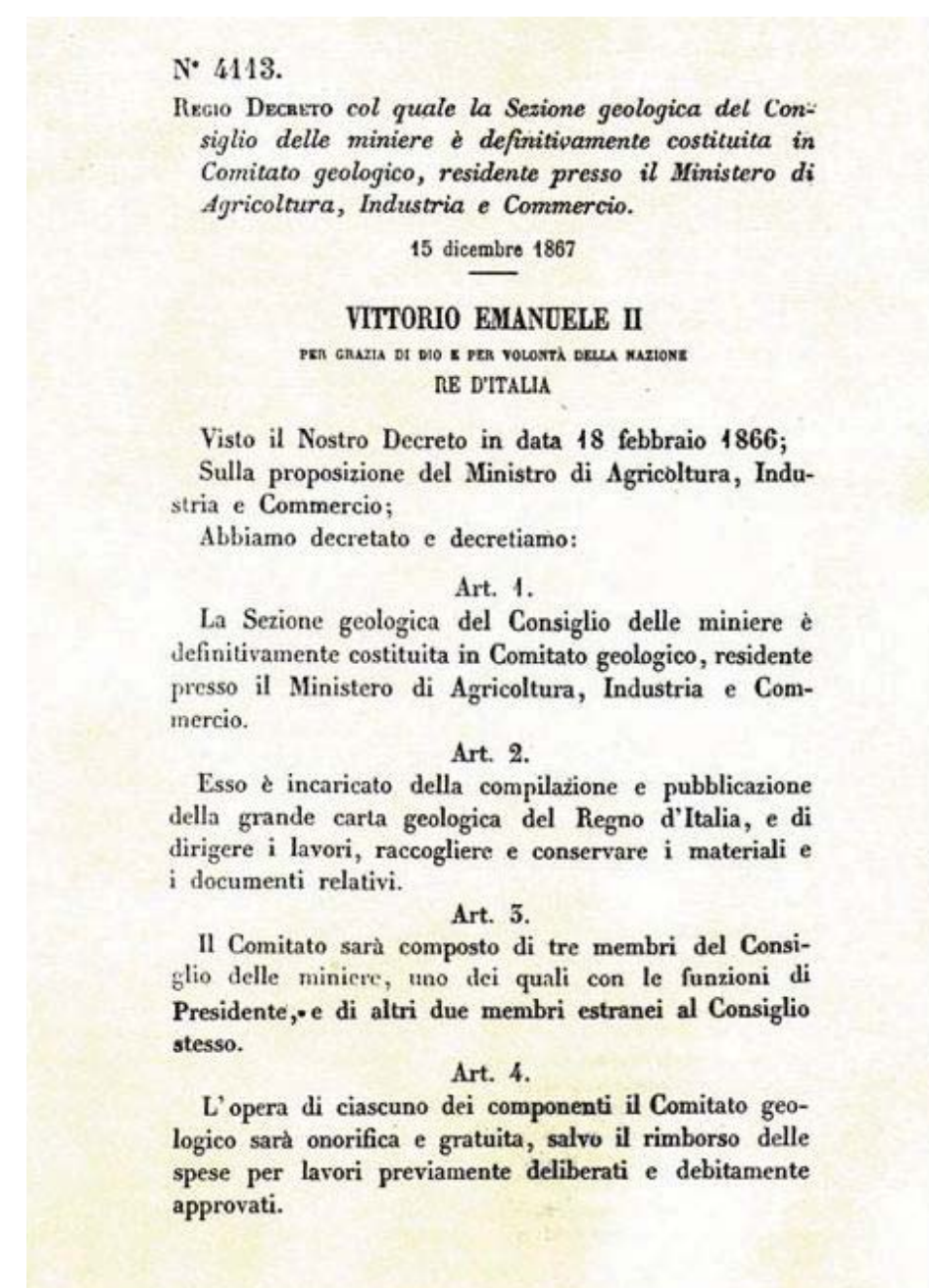


Geological maps of the ISPRA Library: a route from OPAC to social networks

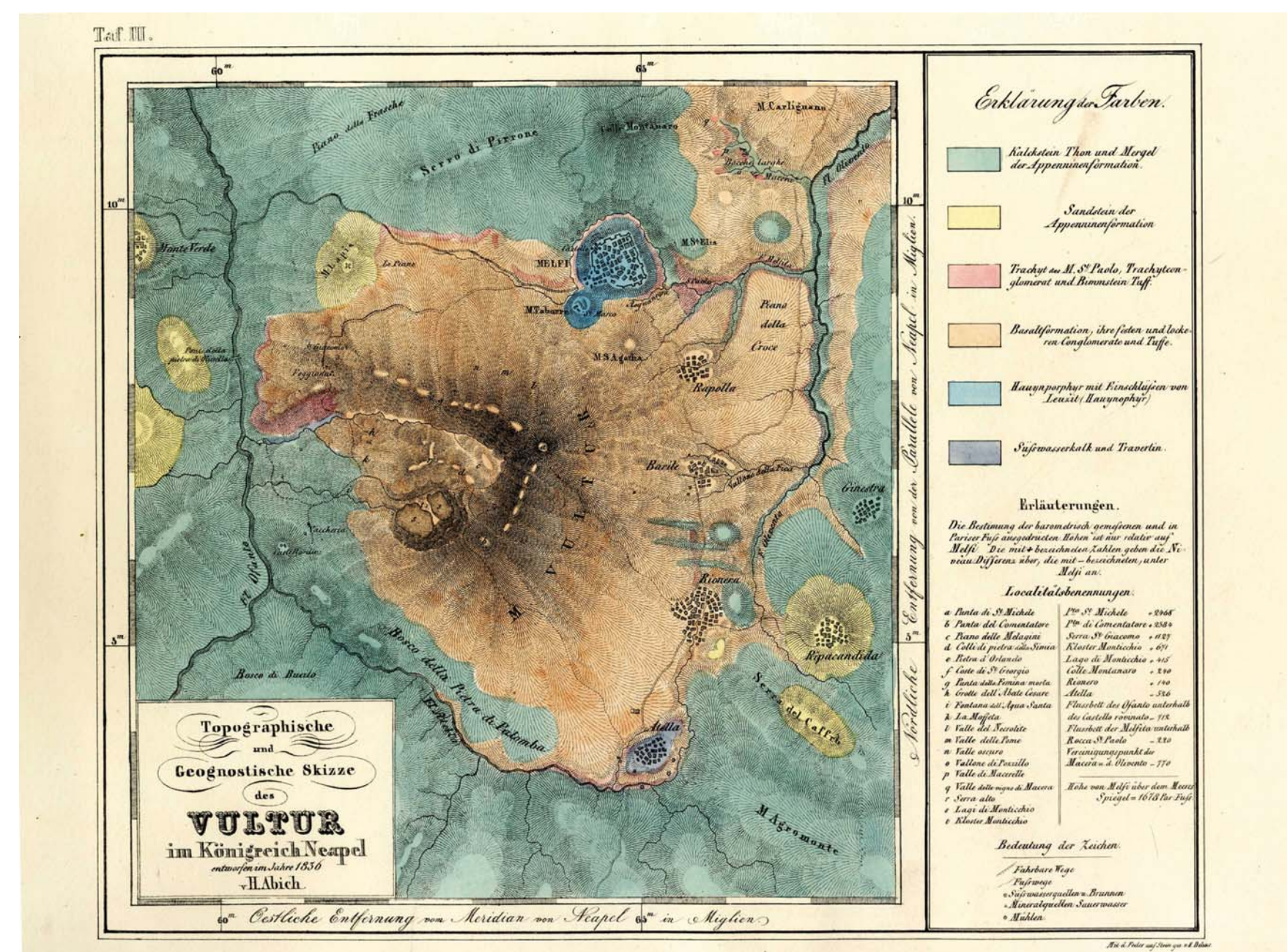
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biblioteca@isprambiente.it



The core of the bibliographic and cartographic asset of the ISPRA Library originated with the RD n. 4113/1867 which also founded the Royal Geological Committee and gave the chance to create a library able to support geologists involved in the geological cartography of the Italian Reign.

The cartographic heritage, primarily coming from the Geological Survey of Italy (SGI), consists of over 50,000 geological, geothematic and topographic maps with a coverage which includes approximately 170 countries and that represents an invaluable historical and cultural heritage. Almost 15,000 descriptive maps of Italian territory are available, a thousand of which are sketches or original cartographic watercolor.

The geological mapping manuscript of famous scientists of the late XIX century is the emblem of a science which, at that time, was arising in Italy.

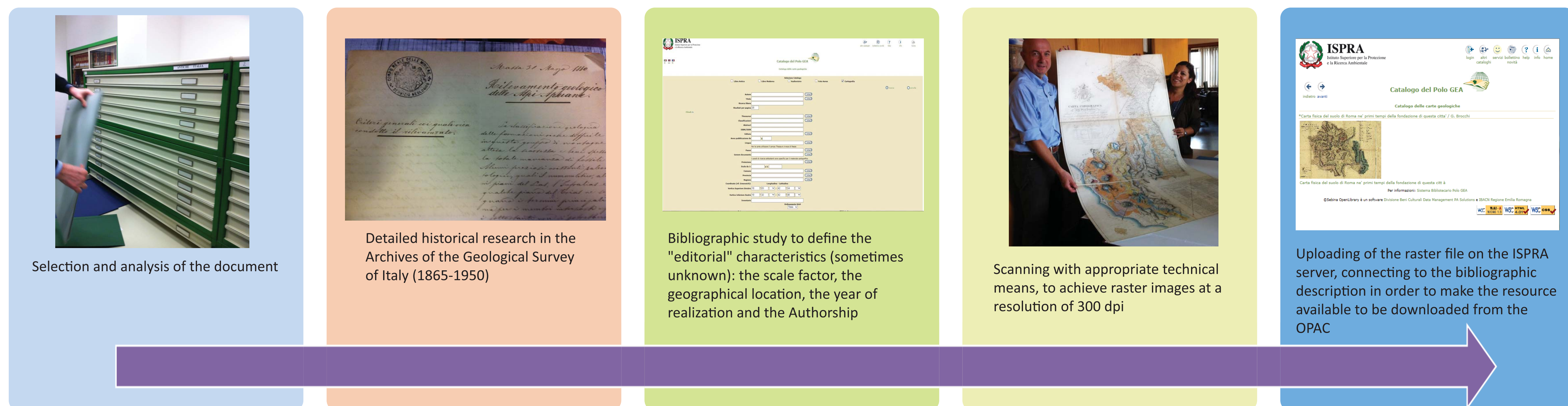


Since the '90s, the maps has been catalogued with ISBD (CM), indexed with the Thesaurus of Earth Sciences, with exhaustive and very detailed descriptions, so to create an appropriate query form for OPAC search.

(opac.isprambiente.it)



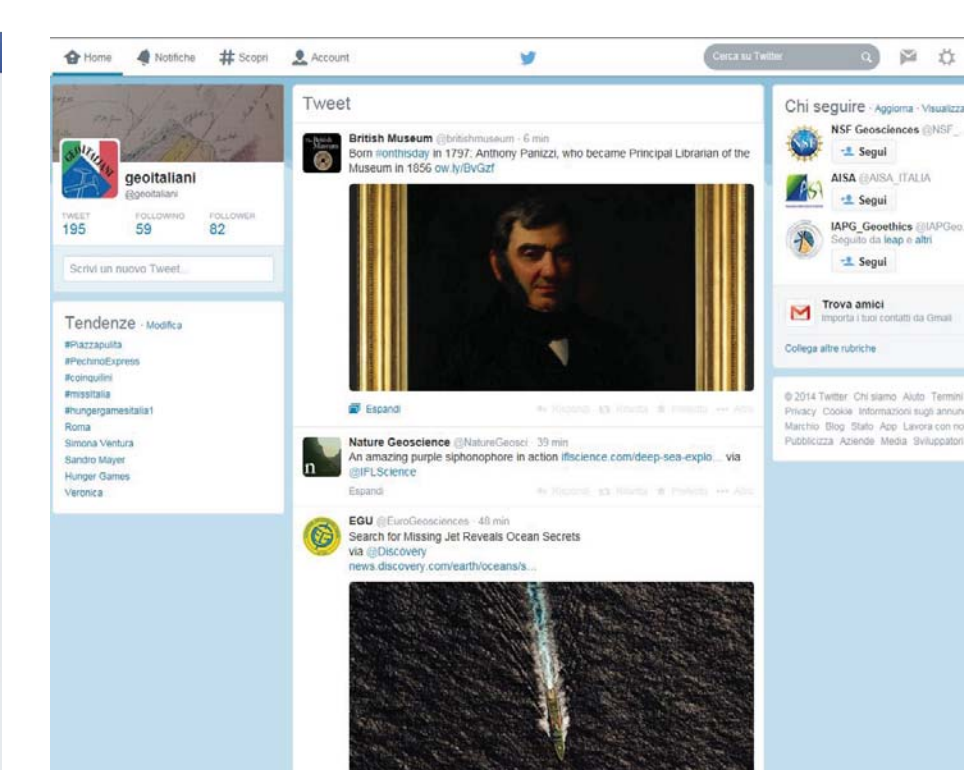
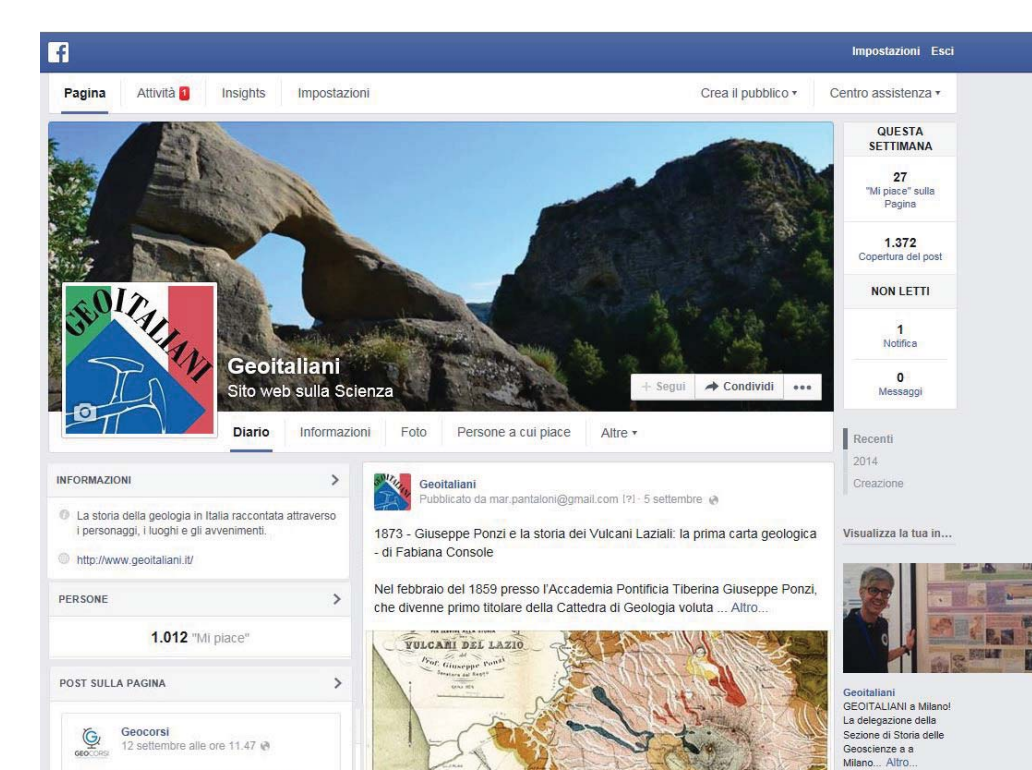
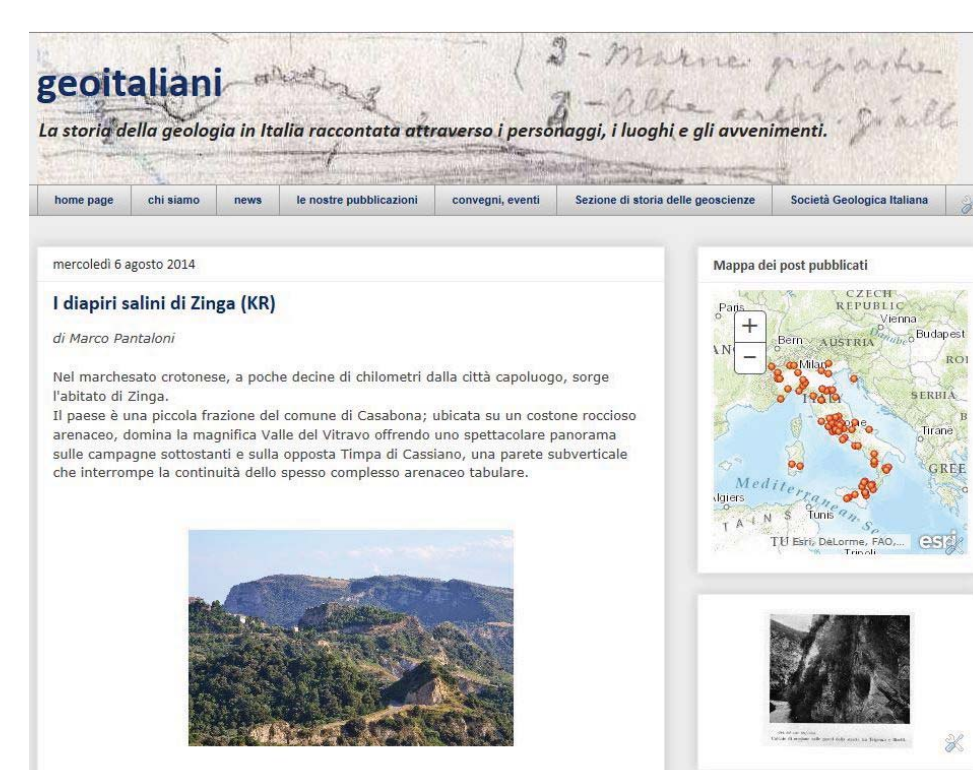
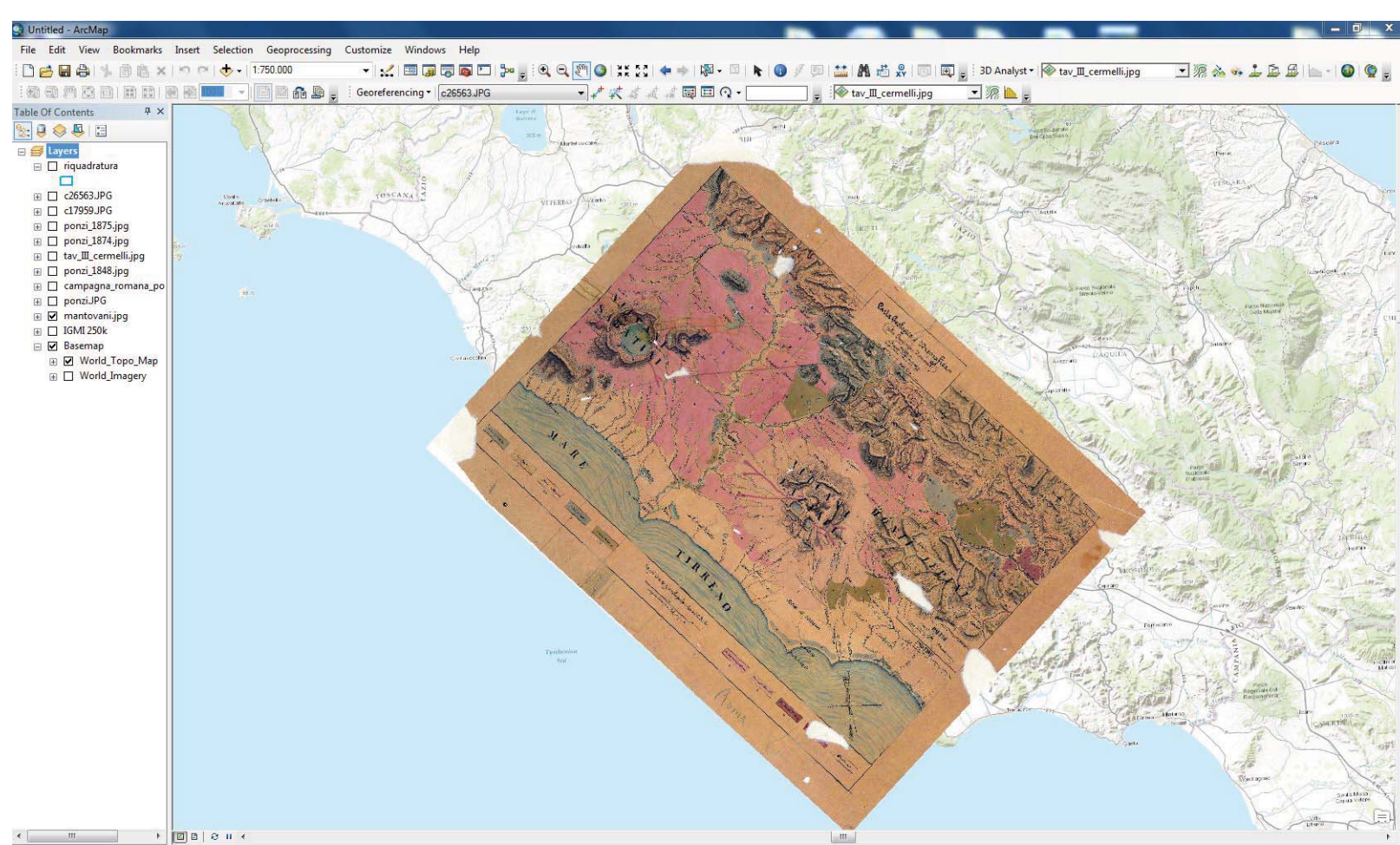
Unavoidable conservation and protection needs on one hand, and diffusion on the other, have led to the reproduction of old maps in digital format. The procedure is the following:



A further stage, still experimental, includes the creation of geo-referenced map files to make them available on different geographical visualization software and tools, such as ArcGIS® or Google Earth®.



"History of Geosciences Section" took place from the collaboration between the Italian Geological Society, SGI and ISPRA; the main aim of the Section is to create a (virtual) place in which "reconstruct and remember people, places and events that have marked the history of geology in Italy", even through the use of the ancient cartography. A blog, a Facebook page and a Twitter account have been created to place posts and images. The high number of visitors of these published pages showed that the use of "social" tools can have a significant educational and informative impact.



The value of this cartographic heritage is now increasingly acknowledged thanks to the widening interest towards this sector, beyond a small circle of scholars and collectors, by an audience of somehow interested users. The study of the historical evolution of the territory, may it be for geological, urban planning, environmental or archaeological purposes, cannot be separated from the study of ancient cartography: the huge amount of "drawings", maps, topographic and geological maps, cadastral maps, is an inexhaustible source of information and news and other useful data.