research to recast developments from the fourteenth to eighteenth century in terms of differentiating repositories. In this view, the treasury-archive was just as much a product of fifteenth-century developments as was registry (Registratur, the management of the records of administrative processes), and both contributed to heterogeneous state archives in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The differentiation of repositories emerged through three interlocking processes: changing scribal use of metadata (concentrated information about other records), new adaptations of codex technologies, and transformed practices of governmentality and administration. These processes' interaction produced great heterogeneity in early modern forms and practices; nevertheless, the shared discourses and assumptions that shaped outcomes from Portugal to Prussia identify early modern European archives as diverse exemplars of a single socio-cultural system.

Andrea Desolei (Padua), 'The origins and evolution of the "Protocollo/Titolario" system (Registry/Filing plan system) in Napoleonic Italy: the case of Padua'. The Napoleonic period in Italy is often considered only a brief interlude between the fall of the Ancien régime and the Restoration. The complex military, political and social events of those years marked instead the transition from the early modern into the modern age: like a real "laboratory of history" where the foundations of current legal, institutional and administrative system of Italy were established. These events also caused important modifications in the archives, in particular in the system for organizing the current records, introducing the "Protocollo/Titolario" system (Registry/Filing plan system) - whose origin dates back to the German system of "Registratur" (XVI century) - and eliminating the chanceries and the related registers of medieval origin, in use in most of Italy until the end of the eighteenth century. Taking as example the case of Padua (1797-1813) - important political, economic and cultural center of the Veneto, universitary ancient seat of international level-, this paper aims to describe the birth and the evolution of the "Protocollo/Titolario" system in Northern Italy, its differences with the systems of the past and with the German "Registratur" and the consequences for the archives, not least the creation of the so-called "peroniani" archives in Milan.were the backbone of the whole public documentation. This documentary production had to be managed, in order to make.

Konrad Hirschler (SOAS), 'Archival Practices in the Arabic Eastern Mediterranean'. Egypt and Syria witnessed during the late medieval period (13th to 15th century) the development of educational, institutional and family-centered archival practices. In addition, the Mamluk Empire that ruled Egypt and Syria during this period had a highly sophisticated administrative apparatus. Narrative and normative sources bear witness to the multitude of often highly-specialised documents that were produced, especially in the administrative center in Cairo. However, there are no archival 'state' collections that have come down to us: While documents have survived these tend to be found in the recipients' archives or were preserved by chance. This paper gives an overview over the archival mechanisms in the administration that can be studied on the basis of surviving documents. It considers the various archival practices of offices and individual secretaries in Cairo, but draws also attention to the existence of local archival practices.

Markus Friedrich (Hamburg). 'The Spatial dimension of archival orders of knowledge in early modern Europe'. This paper will investigate a frequently underestimated aspect of archival organization: its spatial dimension. It will argue that producing order entails two steps, a first, epistemic structuring of the content of documents, and a second, spatial arrangement of documents as physical objects. Both are connected yet different. In order to store documents in a room, archivists used a wide variety of tools, including furniture. It makes a difference whether archives were equipped with boxes, shelves, or armoires. This aspect is of fundamental importance for using archives and thus for the history of archives in general, yet it has hitherto been left understudied. The examples will include early modern French, German, and Spanish archives.

AR.C.H.I.ves
The Comparative History of Archives in Late Medieval and Early Modern Italy

THE ORGANIZATION OF ARCHIVES
A one-day conference

Friday 13 December 2013, Birkbeck, University of London, 9.30am-5.45pm
Room 152, Torrington Square, WC1E7HX

About the Conference

The history of archives reveals the evolving priorities of the institutions that assembled them; their shifting organization reflects changes in wider worldviews; and the conditions of their use point to developments not just in political but also in social and cultural history. This conference will be devoted to the pre-modern organization of archives. How were the documents divided and what precautions were taken for their retrieval? How did chancery methods for the organization and retrieval of documents evolve over the centuries? How did they compare to the finding tools of libraries and in printed books? And how far did they reflect changing political conceptions or ideas about knowledge itself? As in previous occasions, we will compare different Italian case studies both with one another and with other countries.

A limited amount of bursaries to cover travel expenses are available for PhD students; please apply by 29 November describing your research and the reasons of your interest (no more than 300 words).

Places are limited. There is no fee. A light buffet lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. If you would like to participate, please write to italianarchives@bbk.ac.uk

Programme

9.30
Registration and Coffee

10.00
Filippo de Vivo, Andrea Guidi and Alessandro Silvestri (Birkbeck), Welcome and introduction; Presentation of the team's work so far

10.30-12.30
Archival organization in different institutional settings
Chair: Michael Riordan (Oxford)
- Guido Castelnuovo (Avignon), 'The Prince, the Archivist and their Choices: toward a Documentary History of Late Medieval Savoy'
- Vanessa Harding (Birkbeck), 'A Tudor Revolution in the Archives?'

1.30-3.30
From registry to protocol
Chair: David Laven (Nottingham)
- Randolph Head (UC Riverside), 'Differentiating Repositories in Europe: Chancellery Practices, Media Technologies, and Governmental Processes in the Evolution of the Treasury-Archive, Registry and State Archive, 1400-1700'
- Andrea Desolei (Padua), 'The Origins and Evolution of the Protocollo/Titolario System in Napoleonic Italy: the Case of Padua'

4.00-6.00
Shifting our point of view
Chair: Marc-André Grebe (Bielefeld)
- Konrad Hirschler (SOAS), 'Archival Practices in the Arabic Eastern Mediterranean'
- Markus Friedrich (Hamburg) 'The Spatial Dimension of Archival Orders of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe'.

Abstracts

Guido Castelnuovo (University of Avignon), The Prince, the Archivist and their Choices: toward a Documentary History of the Late Medieval Principality of Savoy. This paper aim to outline the evolution of the documentary production and the archival storage in the principality of Savoy during the XIVth and the XVth Centuries. In more than some ways, another purpose of this analysis is to build a case for a documentary history of a typical late medieval principality in the making. What kind of documents were archived, and how? Who were the first archivists of the counts (since 1416, the dukes) of Savoy and why did they choose, from the beginning of the XVth Century onwards, to make inventories of only a part of the written material thus collected? In this context, which was the privileged way to organise and order the princely archive? Through some case studies of archival content, it is the actual role and capability of those mighty princes between France and Italy that will be eventually investigated.

Vanessa Harding (Birkbeck), 'A Tudor revolution in the archives?' Professor Geoffrey Elton characterised the administrative reforms instituted by Henry VIII's Secretary, Thomas Cromwell, in the 1530s as a 'Tudor revolution in government'. Royal revenues were transformed in that decade by the Dissolution of the English and Welsh monasteries and the confiscation by the Crown of the greater part of their lands and assets. In turn, the accession of the monasteries' vast administrative archives, and the need to value, survey, document and exploit these estates, transformed the Crown's record-keeping, necessitating the creation of new offices and practices and an expanded bureaucracy. My paper seeks to trace the response of the bureaucrats to the new challenges to record-management resulting from the Dissolution, but this task is complicated by the activities of nineteenth-century archivists, who reordered the archive of the Court of Augmentations and invented new record classes and categories – 'Special Collections', 'Ancient Deeds', etc. – for modern convenience.

Randolph Head (UC Riverside), 'Differentiating repositories in Europe: Chancellery practices, media technologies, and governmental processes in the evolution of the treasury-archive, registry and state archive in Europe, 1400-1700'. As documents' role in pre-modern European relations of power, possession and representation changed, so too did the ways they circulated and the ways that specialists organized and stored them in repositories. This paper draws on comparative