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## Census and Analysis of Slovene Medieval Codices

### Abstract

Medieval manuscript codices are important historical documents, which are also often important art monuments. If they have not been rebound they represent a foundation for the understanding of book structures and as such represent a very important source in the conservation of medieval and later books.

The decision to perform a census and analysis of the binding structures of medieval manuscripts in Slovenian archives and libraries was reached primarily because the field was completely untouched in Slovenia but also because knowledge of the construction and historical development of structures and materials of early books is one of the basic prerequisites for study towards successful conservation work.

Research was limited to stiff-board bound medieval manuscript collections in Slovenian public archives and libraries. The research specifically presents the particular structures, binding techniques and materials of medieval manuscripts bound or rebound before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The basis of the research is a census of extant medieval bookbindings, important documents, and includes all obtainable data, sketches, pencil rubbings, and photographs. The paper aims to present the working methodology used in this research as well as the process of formulating a descriptive form related to bookbinding structures sensitive to many conservation principles. The paper closes with observations and conclusions drawn from the analysis of the Slovenian collection of medieval codices.