

# Digital Humanities and the Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Center of Manuscripts

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**Abstract:** The recognition of Digital Humanities as a scientific discipline emerged at the K. Kekelidze Institute of Manuscripts by the late 20th century. In the early 1990s, a first project in the field of Digital Humanities was initiated – the development of an automated database of Georgian historical documents. The database was designed to facilitate access to these invaluable resources for both Georgian and international scholars while contributing to the broader mission of promoting Georgia’s cultural heritage. In addition to cataloguing and preserving historical documents, the project had a broader, strategic goal, namely, to illustrate the transformative impact of emerging technologies on Humanities research. It aimed to foster a paradigm shift by encouraging scholars to adopt digital tools as integral part of modern research methodologies. Since then, the Institute – later renamed the Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Center of Manuscripts – has continued to lead numerous digitally-based projects supported by the Rustaveli Scientific Foundation and in collaboration with various academic institutions. Some of these initiatives are outlined in the present paper.

**Keywords:** Digital Humanities, Manuscripts, Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Center of Manuscripts

## Introduction

The significance of Digital Humanities as a scientific discipline was recognized at the K. Kekelidze Institute of Manuscripts by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 1990s, the introduction of the first computers at the Institute, under the guidance of Elene Metreveli, led to the creation of the Department of Scientific Information and Informatics, which embarked on pioneering Digital Humanities projects. The initial project aimed to develop an automated database of Georgian historical documents, with a preliminary description published in 1991 in the Institute’s periodical *Mravaltavi*.<sup>1</sup> This database was designed not only to provide easier access to these invaluable materials for both Georgian and international scholars but also to play a crucial role in the broader effort to popularise Georgia’s cultural heritage.

Beyond the immediate objective of cataloguing and preserving historical documents, the project had another, more strategic aim: to demonstrate the transformative potential of new technologies in the Humanities. It sought to advocate for a paradigm shift in research methodologies, encouraging scholars to embrace digital tools as essential components of modern Humanities research. Since then, the Institute, later renamed as the Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Center of Manuscripts, has undertaken numerous projects with the support of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia and in collaboration with various academic institutions. Some of these projects are presented below.

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<sup>1</sup> Abashidze & Surguladze 1991.

## **1. Georgian Script and Paleographic Album (2012–2014)**

Project leaders: Zaza Aleksidze, Buba Kudava

Project group: Zaza Aleksidze, Ketevan Asatiani, Buba Kudava, Elene Machavariani, Thamar Otkhmezuri, Teimuraz Jojua, Dali Chitunashvili

The *Georgian Script and Paleographic Album* project (2012–2014) aimed to address the challenge of dating undated Georgian manuscripts by creating a paleographic album and providing scholars with a systematic tool for manuscript dating. Key features and achievements include:

- Focus on dating Georgian manuscripts: Since only a small portion of Georgian manuscripts contain explicit dates, the project aimed to develop methodologies for dating undated manuscripts through paleographic analysis, which involves studying the style and evolution of handwritten scripts.
- Global search for dated manuscripts: The research team conducted a comprehensive search of repositories worldwide to identify and analyse Georgian manuscripts with known dates. These manuscripts provided the necessary data to create a robust, reliable paleographic database.
- Development of a paleographic database: The project resulted in the creation of a paleographic database which systematically catalogues the scripts of dated Georgian manuscripts. This database is an invaluable resource for paleographers, historians, and manuscript scholars, providing a structured way to analyse the evolution of Georgian script and draw comparisons between dated and undated texts.
- Publication of results: The findings of the project were published in a paleographic album based on Georgian manuscripts with known dates.<sup>2</sup> The album provides detailed insights into the methodology and results of the paleographic study. This book, with the paleographic album contained in it, forms a foundational resource for further research in Georgian manuscript studies.
- Advancing Georgian paleography: The project made a significant contribution to the field of Georgian paleography by offering a scientific tool that enhances the ability to date undated manuscripts, which is critical for establishing their historical context and provenance.

Through these efforts, the project has enriched the study of Georgian manuscripts, providing essential resources for future scholarship.

## **2. Georgian, Persian and Ottoman Illuminated Documents from the Depositories of Georgia (Database, Website, Album) (2007–2011)**

Project leader: Darejan Kldiashvili

Project Group: Darejan Kldiashvili, Tamar Abuladze, Tsisana Abuladze, Irina Koshoridze (Georgian National Museum), Zaza Skhirtladze (Tbilisi State University)

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<sup>2</sup> Aleksidze et al. 2015.

The project *Georgian, Persian, and Ottoman Illuminated Documents from the Depositories of Georgia* (2007–2011) aimed to digitise and study illuminated documents preserved in Georgia, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Conducted by the National Center of Manuscripts, the project focused on examining the artistic, historical, and cultural significance of these documents, written in Georgian and other languages. Below are the key features and achievements of the project:

- Scope of research: The project studied and digitised over 200 illuminated documents, including royal court documents, firmans, dowry books, and legal records from both Georgian and Persian sources. These documents span from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, providing a comprehensive look at the artistic and cultural heritage of Georgia and its interaction with neighbouring regions.
- Chronological mapping of illuminations: The project traced the artistic development of Georgian illuminated documents. Early Georgian documents (11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> centuries) focused on material, form, and calligraphy, and it was only in the 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries that miniatures began to appear, often featuring portraits of historical and royal figures. This evolution highlighted the growing artistic sophistication over time.
- Artistic influence and independence: Georgian illuminated documents retained a unique artistic identity, even as the country became more integrated into the Islamic world after the fall of Byzantium. Despite political and cultural changes, these documents reflected an independent tradition, combining Georgian, Byzantine, and Islamic decorative influences.
- Multicultural focus: In addition to Georgian documents, the project extensively examined Persian and Ottoman documents. These materials, such as firmans and dowry books, were issued by Christian and Muslim rulers of Georgia, as well as the semi-independent khanates of Yerevan and Dagestan. This provided insight into the multicultural political landscape and the artistic blend of Christian and Islamic traditions.
- Digital archiving: The project successfully digitised the illuminated documents, making them accessible through a publicly available online database ([illuminateddocument.ge](http://illuminateddocument.ge)). This digital resource provides high-quality images and detailed descriptions of the manuscripts, allowing for wider access and further research.
- Publication of findings: The results of the project were published in a book which includes 250 black-and-white and 27 colour photographs of the documents, along with scholarly commentaries contributing to the academic study of illuminated manuscripts.<sup>3</sup>
- Interdisciplinary analysis: The documents were studied from multiple perspectives – codicological, historical, and artistic –, thus offering a well-rounded understanding of their significance. The project shed light on the region's illuminated manuscript tradition and its connections with the neighbouring cultural and artistic traditions from Byzantium to Persia.

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<sup>3</sup> Kldiashvili 2011.

- Preservation of heritage: By documenting and analysing these manuscripts, the project helped preserve Georgia's illuminated document tradition, highlighting the region's contributions to the wider field of art history and manuscript studies.

This project has deepened our understanding of the cultural and artistic exchanges between Georgia, Persia, Byzantium, and the Ottoman Empire, preserving valuable heritage for future generations.

### **3. Astronomical Manuscripts in Georgia (2012–2015)**

Project leader: Irakli Samsonia (Ilia State University)

Project group: Irakli Samsonia (Ilia State University), Tamar Abuladze, Liana Samkurashvili, Nestan Chkhikvadze

The *Astronomical Manuscripts in Georgia* project (2012–2015), led by the National Center of Manuscripts in collaboration with Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia), aimed to research, catalogue, and systematise astronomical manuscripts preserved in Georgia. This scholarly initiative focused on manuscripts written in Georgian, Persian, and Arabic, dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Here are the key features and achievements:

- Comprehensive study of 360 manuscripts: The project involved the examination of 360 manuscripts, shedding light on Georgia's rich astronomical tradition, as well as its connections to Persian and Arabic scientific cultures.
- Creation of an electronic database: A key outcome was the development of a comprehensive online database and webpage, providing detailed information about each manuscript. The database includes annotations and visual materials sourced from Georgian and international collections (Mount Athos, Mount Sinai, St. Petersburg). This resource also features a dictionary of astronomical terms, significantly aiding researchers in the history of science.
- Manuscript classification: The project categorised Georgian manuscripts into four main groups:
  - a) Purely astronomical research and descriptions.
  - b) Notes on the use of specific methods, instruments, and results.
  - c) Textbooks and instructional materials.
  - d) General educational texts. Many of these manuscripts were translations from Greek, Persian, Arabic and other sources, reflecting Georgia's engagement with neighbouring scientific knowledge.
- Unstudied astronomical content: The scientific content of the Georgian manuscripts was closely linked to ancient cosmological ideas, calendar-chronological systems, and spherical astronomy. The study revealed previously unexamined material, offering fresh insights into the cultural and scientific exchanges between Georgia, Byzantium, and Persia. These findings contribute to the understanding of Georgia's role in the broader narrative of intellectual history in the region.

- In-depth analysis of Persian and Arabic manuscripts: In addition to Georgian texts, the project included a detailed analysis of Persian and Arabic manuscripts housed at the National Center of Manuscripts. This collection included copies of classical works by oriental astronomers and mathematicians, along with lesser-known manuscripts covering cosmology, spherical astronomy, planetary and stellar descriptions, calendar systems, and star catalogues.
- Fostering cross-cultural understanding: The project emphasised the intricate connections between Georgian, Byzantine, Persian, and Arabic scientific traditions. By cataloguing and digitising these manuscripts, the project enhanced the accessibility of these documents for future research in the fields of the history of science, astronomy, and manuscript studies.

Overall, the *Astronomical Manuscripts in Georgia* project made important contributions by preserving and opening access to a rich body of astronomical knowledge. It highlighted Georgia's active role in the scientific exchanges between different cultures and provided invaluable resources for scholars exploring the history of astronomy.

#### **4. Digitalization and Database of Historical Documents (2012–2014)**

Project leader: Tea Kartvelishvili

Project group: Tea Kartvelishvili, Nikoloz Zhghenti, Tamaz Gogoladze, Irakli Gelashvili, Maia Shaorshadze, Nestan Bagauri, Otar Zhizhiashvili

The *Digitalization and Database of Historical Documents* project, carried out between 2012 and 2014 by the National Center of Manuscripts, was an important initiative aimed at preserving and providing access to Georgia's vast collection of historical documents. The Center safeguards over 40,000 historical documents, which span nearly every aspect of Georgian life during the Middle Ages, from royal decrees to personal letters and records of household relations. Given the originality and reliability of these documents, their preservation and accessibility are of paramount importance to scholars and researchers. The project addressed these needs by undertaking the following key tasks:

- Selection and digitisation: A total of 5,000 historical documents were selected for digitisation. The selection criteria included the age of the documents, the extent of physical damage, and the significance of their content. These documents, representing a broad cross-section of Georgian history, were digitised to ensure their preservation and to make them more easily accessible to researchers.
- Creation of a database: The digitised documents were uploaded to a specially designed database. This database is more than just a digital repository; it also includes detailed archeographic descriptions of each document. These descriptions provide essential information, such as:
  - the type of the document (e.g., decree, letter, legal record)
  - a brief summary of the content
  - the exact or approximate date of the document
  - the place of creation

- historical figures mentioned in the document
- geographical locations referenced
- details about seals and signatures present.

This comprehensive metadata allows researchers to search for information across various criteria, such as by date, historical figures, or geographical area. Even within the scope of 5,000 selected documents, this search functionality provides a rich and detailed picture of specific historical events, relationships, and contexts. By digitising and systematically cataloguing these documents, the project has ensured that they can be studied in greater depth and with greater ease, helping to foster a deeper understanding of Georgia's historical and cultural legacy.

## **5. Georgian Manuscripts Preserved in the Regions of Georgia: Unified Electronic Database (in Georgian and English Languages) (2013–2015)**

Project leader: Shalva Gloveli

Project group: Nestan Chkhikvadze, Grigol Gagnidze (Georgian National Museum), Shalva Gloveli, Darejan Gogashvili, Maia Karanadze, Tamar Otkhmezuri

The project *Georgian Manuscripts Preserved in the Regions of Georgia: Unified Electronic Database (in Georgian and English Languages)*, carried out between 2013 and 2015 in collaboration with the Georgian National Museum, was an important initiative aimed at cataloguing and making accessible the Georgian manuscripts dispersed throughout the country. The primary goal of the project was to create a unified, bilingual (Georgian-English) electronic catalogue and database of these manuscripts, while also revising and updating unpublished catalogues of regional manuscripts that were originally compiled in the 1960s and 1970s.

The project involved an extensive survey and documentation process, covering a wide range of institutions and private collections across Georgia, including regional museums, house museums, libraries, archives, churches, monasteries, mosques, synagogues, and family collections. The database created through this project includes detailed information on all types of manuscripts, from complete works to those with missing parts and fragments. The manuscripts documented in the regions are diverse in content, encompassing religious texts, literary works, historical chronicles, medical treatises, astrological writings, philosophical texts, legal documents, and more. The key features and achievements of the project are as follows:

- Unified catalogue and bilingual database: The project compiled a comprehensive, bilingual (Georgian-English) electronic catalogue and database that provides essential information about Georgian manuscripts preserved in various regions. This resource is invaluable for scholars and researchers, facilitating access to previously inaccessible or little-known materials.
- Publication of findings: The results of the project were published in a bilingual catalogue which includes information on 1,305 Georgian manuscripts kept in the regions of the country.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Gagnidze et al. 2015.

- Consultations and corrections: During the project, significant consultations were conducted with regional museums and other institutions. These consultations led to the correction of catalogue entries, manuscript titles, and the dating of manuscript covers, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the database.
- Discovery and documentation: One of the major outcomes of the project was the identification and documentation of a large number of manuscripts that had not been previously known to the scholarly community. By bringing these manuscripts to light, the project has greatly expanded the corpus of Georgian manuscript heritage available for study.
- Inclusion of archival materials and early printed books: In addition to manuscripts, the project also gathered information on related archival materials, historical documents, and early printed books found in the regions. While these materials are not yet fully integrated into the database, they are currently being prepared for inclusion, which will further enhance the resource.

By creating a centralised bilingual database, the project has provided scholars both within Georgia and internationally with a powerful tool for research, helping to ensure that these important cultural artifacts are recognised and studied in greater detail. Moreover, the project has strengthened the connection between regional institutions and the broader academic community, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of Georgia's rich manuscript tradition.

## **6. Database of Miniatures Involved in the Decoration of Georgian Illustrated Manuscripts (9<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries) (2014–2016)**

Project leader: Ketevan Tatishvili

Project group: Ketevan Tatishvili, Elene Machavariani, Nino Tsitsishvili

The project *Database of Miniatures Involved in the Decoration of Georgian Illustrated Manuscripts (9<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> cc.)*, conducted between 2014 and 2016, was an extensive initiative aimed at cataloguing and providing comprehensive access to the rich tradition of Georgian manuscript illumination. The primary objective was to create a bilingual database that would serve as a detailed iconographic index of Georgian illustrated manuscripts from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, offering scholars and researchers a valuable resource for studying the artistic and contextual aspects of these manuscripts. The key features and achievements of the project are as follows:

- Creation of a bilingual database: A central outcome of the project was the development of a bilingual (Georgian-English) database that allows users to search for specific material and illustrations using defined classifiers. This database is a significant scholarly tool, offering detailed information about both the manuscripts and the individual miniatures they contain.
- Comprehensive manuscript information: The database includes extensive details about each manuscript, such as the content, date, and place of copying, as well as the dimensions, number of pages, ink, writing material, text distribution, and information

about the artist, copyist, engraver, and cover maker. Additionally, the database provides descriptions of the artistic decoration, colophons (notes), and relevant bibliographic references, making it a thorough resource for manuscript studies.

- Detailed miniature descriptions: Each miniature within the database is meticulously described with information including its name, page location, size, placement within the manuscript, and the characters, objects, flora, and fauna depicted. The database also notes any other characteristic details of the decoration. This level of detail allows for a deep understanding of the iconography and artistic conventions of Georgian manuscript illumination.
- Focus on illumination principles: One of the unique merits of the database is its focus on the illumination principles of Georgian manuscripts as indivisible codices. The project emphasises the unity of contextual and artistic-decorative aspects by linking miniatures to relevant textual captions from the codices in which they are found. This approach ensures that the miniatures are understood not just as isolated artworks but as integral parts of the manuscripts' overall design and meaning.
- Inclusion of manuscripts from various depositories: While the project primarily focuses on illustrated manuscripts preserved at the National Center of Manuscripts, it also includes artistically decorated manuscripts from other depositories across Georgia. This inclusion broadens the scope of the database, making it a more comprehensive resource for the study of Georgian manuscript illumination.

By providing a unified platform for the study of these miniatures, the project has created a critical resource for understanding the interplay between text and image in Georgian manuscripts, ensuring that this important aspect of Georgian heritage is preserved and studied in depth.

## **7. Natural Disasters in the South Caucasus: Historical Earthquakes and Associated Natural Events from Ancient Times to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (2016–2020)**

Project leader: Darejan Kldiashvili

Project group: Giorgi Bagrationi, Maia Diasamidze, Manuchar Guntsadze, Mikheil Elashvili (Ilia State University), Giorgi Kirkitadze (Ilia State University), Darejan Kldiashvili

The project with the title *Natural Disasters in the South Caucasus: Historical Earthquakes and Associated Natural Events from Ancient Times to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, conducted between 2016 and 2020, focused on the seismic history of a highly active region encompassing present-day Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, parts of North Iran, and Eastern Turkey. This region lies within the seismically active Mediterranean zone, where historical earthquakes have had profound impacts, including ecological catastrophes, significant loss of life, political and economic turmoil, and shifts in demographic patterns due to mass migrations.

Georgian historical records, along with archaeological and architectural evidence, offer invaluable insights into past seismic events. The interdisciplinary nature of this project aimed to uncover, document, and analyse these historical earthquakes, combining written sources and material culture to establish detailed information about these events. The project's primary goal



was to contribute to the understanding of seismic hazards in the South Caucasus and its surrounding areas by collecting and analysing historical data on earthquakes from ancient times up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here are the key research directions and achievements of the project:

- Collection of seismic data from written sources: The project gathered seismic data from historical written sources in various languages, identifying specific earthquake events described in these texts. This involved careful examination and interpretation of historical documents, chronicles, and other literary sources to extract reliable seismic information.
- Source analysis, dating, and systematisation: The collected reports were analysed to ensure accurate dating and systematisation of seismic events. This process was crucial in creating a coherent historical timeline of earthquakes in the region, enabling researchers to track the frequency and severity of seismic activity over centuries.
- Identification of seismic risk sites and damaged cultural heritage: Using the collected material, the project identified locations with historical seismic risk and cultural heritage monuments that had been damaged by earthquakes. This aspect of the research highlighted the intersection between natural disasters and the preservation of cultural heritage, emphasising the need for protective measures in vulnerable areas.
- Geographical and seismological analysis: The project aimed to precisely determine the dates, coordinates, and affected areas of historical earthquakes. This included creating macroseismic effect distribution maps, which visually represented the impact zones of significant seismic events. The maps also helped in estimating the epicentres and magnitudes of the historical earthquakes.
- Bilingual geo-information documented database: A comprehensive bilingual (Georgian-English) database was developed, documenting the geo-information related to historical earthquakes in the South Caucasus region. This database serves as a critical resource for researchers and policymakers involved in seismic risk assessment and disaster preparedness.
- Publication of the findings: A detailed monograph was published which compiles the research findings and offers an in-depth analysis of the seismic history of the region. This work contributes to the scholarly understanding of how ancient societies in Georgia and the broader South Caucasus region responded to and were shaped by natural disasters.<sup>5</sup>

This project has made important strides in enhancing the understanding of the seismic history of the South Caucasus, contributing valuable data for seismic hazard assessment and the preservation of cultural heritage. By integrating historical, archaeological, and seismological research, it provides a model for interdisciplinary studies aimed at mitigating the risks associated with natural disasters in regions with rich historical legacies.

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<sup>5</sup> Kldiashvili 2023.

## **8. Medical and Veterinary Manuscripts in the Depositories of Georgia and Abroad (2017–2022)**

Project Leader: Liana Samkurashvili

Project group: Tamar Abuladze, Luiza Gabunia (Medical University), Irina Gogonaia, Maia Kereselidze (European University), Natia Khizanishvili, Liana Samkurashvili, Lela Shatirishvili.

The project *Medical and Veterinary Manuscripts in the Depositories of Georgia and Abroad*, carried out from 2017 to 2022 in collaboration with Tbilisi State Medical University (Georgia) and European University (Tbilisi, Georgia), sought to systematically catalogue and study the rich body of medical and veterinary knowledge preserved in Georgian manuscripts and collections abroad. This initiative recognised medical knowledge as a fundamental component of cultural history, historically intertwined with philosophy, and reflected across various disciplines including theology, natural sciences, and law. The project represents the first systematic effort to catalogue and create a database of these manuscripts, providing accessible and unified information for specialists in the field. This resource is invaluable for researchers seeking to explore the rich medical tradition preserved in Georgian manuscripts.

The manuscripts explored in this project encompass a wide array of materials, including religious and secular texts, general medical and pharmacological treatises, veterinary works, *karabadins* (pharmacopoeias), educational and family medical books, encyclopedias, references, formulas, and specialised dictionaries. These works are widely represented in Georgian manuscripts and mixed collections, offering a comprehensive view of the evolution of medical knowledge in Georgia. Georgian manuscripts, along with historical documents and legal monuments, thus provide insights into the long history of medical knowledge in the region. They reflect the intellectual and cultural developments of Georgian society, the integration of folk medicine with professional medical practices, and the influence of external cultural and historical trends. Despite the richness of this material, most manuscripts of medical and veterinary content had not been thoroughly studied in the context of the history of medicine prior to this project. The key features and achievements of the project are as follows:

- **Creation of a database and a catalogue:** The project resulted in the first systematic and unified database and catalogue of medical and veterinary manuscripts in Georgia and abroad. This resource is accessible to specialists in the field, providing a comprehensive overview of the manuscripts, their contents, and their historical significance.
- **Historical and cultural contextualisation:** The project placed these manuscripts within the broader context of Georgian intellectual history, highlighting the relationship between medical knowledge and other cultural domains such as philosophy, theology, and law. This approach underscored the interconnectedness of medical practices with the cultural and historical evolution of Georgian society.
- **Publication of the findings:** The results of the project were published in book form.<sup>6</sup>

This project not only brought significant attention to the medical and veterinary manuscripts preserved in Georgian depositories but also advanced the broader field of Digital Humanities

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<sup>6</sup> Abuladze et al. 2022.

by integrating ancient texts into modern, accessible formats. Through these efforts, the project has made substantial contributions to the preservation and study of Georgia's medical heritage and its cultural legacy.

## 9. Contributions of early-career researchers

An integral aspect of the Digital Humanities work at the National Center of Manuscripts is the involvement of younger members of the Center in the digital publication of ancient texts, particularly focusing on biblical texts like the Bible.

Natia Dundua is a recognised Georgian scholar specialising in Digital Humanities and biblical studies. One of her notable contributions is her work on creating a parallel electronic edition of the Georgian versions of *Ecclesiastes*. This project was part of a broader EU-funded initiative aimed at integrating ancient Georgian biblical texts into digital formats, making them more accessible for scholarly research. In this project, each word in the Georgian versions of *Ecclesiastes* was annotated grammatically, and an English translation was provided, offering a comprehensive tool for researchers studying the text. The platform developed for this purpose was designed to be user-friendly, with a graphical interface that allowed for detailed annotations and automated updates to the database.

Natia Mirotadze is particularly known for her work on ancient Georgian translations of biblical texts. One of her key contributions is her involvement in the *Biblical Synopsis Online* project, which focuses on aligning corresponding segments of different textual traditions of the Bible. In this project, she is responsible for preparing editions of the ancient Georgian translations of the *Book of Esther* and the *First Book of Kings*. Her work in this area is notable for its deep exploration of the textual variations and the historical context of these translations, which often combine elements from different Greek versions of the biblical texts.

Above, we have highlighted several key projects and initiatives in Digital Humanities undertaken by the National Center of Manuscripts. All of the aforementioned digital databases are accessible via the Center's website. However, the website is currently undergoing reconstruction. Once the technical updates are completed, these databases will be freely available to the public.

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დიგიტალური ჰუმანიტარია და კ. კეკელიძის სახელობის  
საქართველოს ხელნაწერთა ეროვნული ცენტრი  
მაია მაჭავარიანი

(კ. კეკელიძის სახელობის საქართველოს ხელნაწერთა ეროვნული ცენტრი)

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სტატიაში წარმოდგენილია კ. კეკელიძის სახელობის ხელნაწერთა ინსტიტუტში, შემდგომში – კ. კეკელიძის სახელობის ხელნაწერთა ეროვნულ ცენტრში განხორციელებული, ციფრულ ჰუმანიტარიასთან დაკავშირებული რამდენიმე პროექტი.

**1. ქართული დამწერლობა და პალეოგრაფიული ალბომი (2012–2014 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელები: ზაზა ალექსიძე, ბუბა კუდავა

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: ზაზა ალექსიძე, ქეთევან ასათიანი, ბუბა კუდავა, ელენე მაჭავარიანი, თამარ ოთხმეზური, თეიმურაზ ჯოჯუა, დალი ჩიტუნაშვილი

პროექტი მიზნად ისახავდა ქართული თარიღიანი ხელნაწერების პალეოგრაფიული ანალიზის საფუძველზე უთარილო ნუსხების დათარიღების მეთოდოლოგიების შემუშავებას. საქართველოსა და სხვა ქვეყნების სიძველეთსაცავებში მოძიებული მასალა განთავსდა ქართულ ხელნაწერთა პალეოგრაფიულ მონაცემთა ბაზაში, რის შედეგადაც წარმოჩნდა ქართული დამწერლობის განვითარების სხვადასხვა ეტაპი. პროექტის შედეგები ასევე წარმოდგენილია ალბომში – „თარიღიანი ქართული ხელნაწერები“.

**2. ქართული, სპარსული და ოსმალური მოხატული დოკუმენტები საქართველოს სიძველეთსაცავებიდან (მონაცემთა ბაზა, ვებ-გვერდი, ალბომი) (2007–2011 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: დარეჯან კლდიაშვილი

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: დარეჯან კლდიაშვილი, თამარ აბულაძე, ცისანა აბულაძე, ირინა კოშორიძე (საქართველოს ეროვნული მუზეუმი), ზაზა სხირტლაძე (თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი)

პროექტი მიზნად ისახავდა საქართველოს სიძველეთსაცავებში დაცული XI-XIX საუკუნეების მოხატული ქართული და სხვაენოვანი დოკუმენტების ისტორიული და კულტურული მნიშვნელობის შესწავლას, მათი მხატვრული განვითარების ქრონოლოგიური ეტაპების და ტიპოლოგიის დადგენას და ამ დოკუმენტების დიგიტალური ბაზის შექმნას. ბაზაში განთავსდა ინფორმაცია 200-ზე მეტი მოხატული დოკუმენტის შესახებ, მომზადდა ამ დოკუმენტების ციფრული ასლებიც. პროექტის შედეგები ასევე გამოქვეყნდა წიგნში „მოხატული ისტორიული დოკუმენტები საქართველოს სიძველეთსაცავებიდან“.

### **3. ასტრონომიული ხელნაწერები საქართველოში (მონაცემთა ბაზა) (2012–2015 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: ირაკლი სამსონია (ილიას სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი)

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: ირაკლი სამსონია (ილიას სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი), თამარ აბულაძე, ლიანა სამყურაშვილი, ნესტან ჩხიკვაძე

ხელნაწერთა ეროვნული ცენტრისა და ილიას სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტის ერთობლივი პროექტი გულისხმობდა საქართველოს სიძველეთსაცავებში დაცული ქართული, სპარსული და არაბული ასტრონომიული ხელნაწერების კვლევას, სისტემატიზაციასა და კატალოგიზაციას, ვებ-გვერდისა და ინტერაქტიური მონაცემთა ბაზის შექმნას. პროექტის ფარგლებში შესწავლილ იქნა 360 ხელნაწერი, ვებ-გვერდზე, ხელნაწერთა ანოტაციებისა და ვიზუალური მასალის გარდა, ასევე განთავსდა ასტრონომიული ტერმინების ლექსიკონი.

### **4. ისტორიული საბუთების დედნების დიגיტიზაცია და მონაცემთა ბაზა (2012–2014 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: თეა ქართველიშვილი

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: თეა ქართველიშვილი, ნიკოლოზ ჟღენტი, თამაზ გოგოლაძე, ირაკი გელაშვილი, მათა შაორშაძე, ნესტან ბაგაური, ოთარ ჟიჟიაშვილი

პროექტი მიზნად ისახავდა ხელნაწერთა ეროვნულ ცენტრში დაცული ისტორიული საბუთების ანალიზს და ხელმისაწვდომობის უზრუნველყოფას. პროექტის ფარგლებში დამუშავდა და გაციფრულდა 5000 ისტორიული დოკუმენტი. შეიქმნა მონაცემთა ბაზა, სადაც შეტანილია თითოეული დოკუმენტის დაწვრილებითი არქეოგრაფიული აღწერა და შესაძლებელია მონაცემთა მოძიება სხვადასხვა კრიტერიუმის მიხედვით (თარიღი, გეოგრაფიული არეალი და სხვა).

### **5. საქართველოს რეგიონებში დაცული ქართული ხელნაწერები: მონაცემთა ერთიანი ელექტრონული ბაზა (ქართულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე) (2013–2015 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: შალვა გლოველი

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: ნესტან ჩხიკვაძე, გრიგოლ გაგნიძე (საქართველოს ეროვნული მუზეუმი), შალვა გლოველი, დარეჯან გოგაშვილი, მათა კარანაძე, თამარ ოთხმეხური

საქართველოს ეროვნულ მუზეუმთან თანამშრომლობით განხორციელებული ეს პროექტი მიზნად ისახავდა საქართველოს სხვადასხვა რეგიონის სიძველეთსაცავებში დაცული ხელნაწერების ერთიანი, ორენოვანი (ქართულ-ინგლისური) ელექტრონული კატალოგის და მონაცემთა ბაზის შექმნას, ასევე რეგიონალური ხელნაწერების გასული საუკუნის 60-70-იან წლებში შექმნილი გამოუქვეყნებელი აღწერილობების გადახედვასა და განახლებას. პროექტის შედეგები გამოქვეყნდა ორენოვან კატალოგში, სადაც წარმოდგენილია ინფორმაცია ქვეყნის რეგიონებში დაცული 1305 ქართული ხელნაწერის შესახებ.

**6. ქართული ილუსტრირებული ხელნაწერების გაფორმებაში ჩართული მინიატურების მონაცემთა ბაზა (XI–XIX სს.) (2014–2016 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: ქეთევან ტატიშვილი.

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: ქეთევან ტატიშვილი, ელენე მაჭავარიანი, ნინო ციციშვილი.

პროექტი გულისხმობდა მოხატული ქართული ხელნაწერების სხვადასხვა მონაცემის კატალოგიზაციასა და ამ ხელნაწერების ხელმისაწვდომობის უზრუნველყოფას. პროექტის ფარგლებში შეიქმნა ორენოვანი (ქართულ-ინგლისური) მონაცემთა ბაზა, რომელიც მეცნიერებს სთავაზობს დაწვრილებით ინფორმაციას როგორც ხელნაწერების, ასევე მათში შემავალი ცალკეული მინიატურების შესახებ. ბაზაში შეტანილია ინფორმაცია როგორც ხელნაწერთა ეროვნული ცენტრში, ასევე საქართველოს სხვა სიძველეთსაცავებში დაცული ხელნაწერების შესახებ.

**7. ბუნებრივი კატასტროფები სამხრეთ კავკასიაში: ისტორიული მიწისძვრები და თანმდევი ბუნებრივი მოვლენები უძველესი დროიდან XIX საუკუნემდე (2016–2020 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: დარეჯან კლდიაშვილი

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: დარეჯან კლდიაშვილი, მაია დიასამიძე, მანუჩარ გუნცაძე, მისეილ ელაშვილი (ილიას სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი), გიორგი კირკიტაძე (ილიას სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი), გიორგი ბაგრატიონი

პროექტის მიზანი იყო სამხრეთ კავკასიასა და მის მიმდებარე რეგიონებში ისტორიული მიწისძვრების (უძველესი დროიდან XVIII საუკუნის ჩათვლით) შესახებ ინფორმაციის მოძიება – წერილობითი და მატერიალური კვალის ამსახველი მასალის გამოვლენა, თავმოყრა და გაანალიზება. მოპოვებული დამუშავებული მასალა განთავსდა ისტორიული მიწისძვრების მონაცემთა ელექტრონულ ბაზაში, ასევე მომზადდა სამხრეთ კავკასიის რეგიონის ისტორიული მიწისძვრების ერთიანი კატალოგი.

**8. სამედიცინო და ვეტერინარული ხელნაწერები საქართველოსა და საზღვარგარეთის საცავებში (2017–2022 წწ.)**

ხელმძღვანელი: ლიანა სამყურაშვილი.

სამუშაო ჯგუფი: თამარ აბულაძე, ლუიზა გაბუნია (სამედიცინო უნივერსიტეტი), ირინა გოგონაია, მაია კერესელიძე (ევროპის უნივერსიტეტი), ნათია ხიზანიშვილი, ლიანა სამყურაშვილი, ლელა შათირიშვილი

პროექტი, რომელიც განხორციელდა თბილისის სახელმწიფო სამედიცინო უნივერსიტეტსა და ევროპის უნივერსიტეტთან თანამშრომლობით, მიზნად ისახავდა ქართულ ხელნაწერებში დაცული მდიდარი სამედიცინო და ვეტერინარული ცოდნის კატალოგიზაციასა და მონაცემთა ბაზის შექმნას, რომლის საშუალებითაც ეს ინფორმაცია ხელმისაწვდომი იქნებოდა დარგის სპეციალისტებისათვის. პროექტის შედეგები ასევე გამოქვეყნდა ორენოვან გამოცემაში „სამედიცინო და ვეტერინარული ხელნაწერები საქართველოსა და უცხოეთის სიძველეთსაცავებში“.

## 9. ხელნაწერთა ეროვნულ ცენტრის ახალგაზრდა მეცნიერები

ხელნაწერთა ეროვნულ ცენტრის ახალგაზრდა თანამშრომლები ნათია დუნდუა და ნათია მიროტაძე, ასევე ჩართული არიან უძველესი ტექსტების ციფრული გამოცემის საერთაშორისო პროექტებში, მათ შორის ყველაზე მნიშვნელოვანია ბიბლიური ტექსტების ციფრული გამოცემა.

სტატიაში წარმოდგენილია ხელნაწერთა ეროვნული ცენტრის მიერ განხორციელებული მხოლოდ რამდენიმე ძირითადი პროექტი. ყველა ზემოაღნიშნული ციფრულ მონაცემთა ბაზა ხელმისაწვდომია ცენტრის ვებსაიტზე. თუმცა, ვებსაიტი ამჟამად რეკონსტრუქციას გადის. ტექნიკური განახლებების დასრულების შემდეგ, ეს მონაცემთა ბაზები კვლავ იქნება ხელმისაწვდომი ფართო საზოგადოებისთვის.