The PAThs protocol of codicological description and the book formats of the Achmîm papyri (4th cent.)

Tempo intervento: 20 min. precisi

The codicological database developed within the PAThs project provides a new detailed protocol of description of Coptic manuscripts. It takes into account a lot of characteristics of the manuscript, such as writing material and support, layout, quire collation, dimensions, writing, signs, decoration, etc. The paper will focus on the sections of the codicological databse reguarding the page characteristics (col. / page, lines / col., characters / line) and the dimensions (leaf, writing frame, margins, intercolumnium, proportions height/width and written/unwritten space), which constitutes precise tools to identify book formats. From this perspective, the Achmîm papyri (4th cent.), a group of six Coptic manuscripts found in Panopolis in the 1880's, offer an interesting case study. Three book formats can be identified, which are attested in other manuscripts of unknown provenance. Moreover some parallels can be made with the so-called "Bodmer Papyri" and the "Nag Hammadi Codices".