

## **5. B5 FLOOR**

**The fifth floor of the library hosts the reading room dedicated to the Ancient and Special Collections of the Library. As a matter of fact, the Berio library boasts manuscripts, rare and valuable editions, precious illuminated manuscripts, documents on parchment, atlases, manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, and ancient printed books on several historical, literary or scientific subjects. This material is kept in a special library storage area with pre-set temperature and humidity parameters that are kept constant to protect the manuscripts. A vault room houses the most prestigious pieces of the Berio collection, such as the 11th-century Atlantic Bible or the Durazzo Book of Hours, a precious illuminated manuscript from the 16th century.**

**On the open and freely accessible shelves, there are interesting volumes for anyone who wants to deepen their knowledge on the history of the book, manuscripts, miniature, printing and engraving techniques, as well as facsimiles of ancient books, catalogues of collections of other libraries and bibliographic exhibitions. New acquisitions are displayed in the showcase along the entrance corridor, which is also used for small exhibitions. Exhibitions are also hosted in special cubic furniture, designed specifically for the display of large format volumes.**

**Unlike the rest of the Library, here the books on open shelves are not arranged in alphabetical order by author or by the Dewey Decimal Classification, but by subject, each identified by a Roman numeral and an alphabet letter: manuscripts, printed books, history and organization of libraries, etc. This is followed by the abbreviation "m.r.", which stands for "Manuscripts and Rare books", echoing the ancient name of the Conservation Section.**

**At the entrance desk of the fifth floor, it is possible to borrow and return books, ask for information, digital reproductions, and photocopies. It is also possible to book books: a procedure that can also be carried out through the dedicated email or online catalogue. As the most valuable books of the library are consulted in this room, specific entry rules apply: visitors must fill in a form with their details, and personal effects, such as stationery (except for a pencil),**