

Introduction to the appendices

These two appendices present some of the earthquake events contained in the attached CD-ROM in Italian, here translated into English. Our aim is to facilitate understanding of the Catalogue and how the basic information is organised and also to highlight the special problems of historical research: language, place-names, definition of levels of effects, etc.

The reader can access the appendices sequentially whereas the database is in hypertext format. We have taken a number of measures to facilitate understanding of the computer links which allow different information fields to be opened in the CD-ROM:

In **bold**: the titles of the Catalogue information sections; the titles of general comments are in SMALL CAPITALS;

underlined words indicate names of authors or works (in the case of medieval sources) and give an immediate link to the relative classified bibliography. This allows an assessment of the historical-critical value of the information analysed while reading the summarised comments.

The list of georeferences placed, with relative degrees of intensity of effects can be used in the CD-ROM to draw a map of the earthquake area referred to: the appendix provides examples of such maps (see fig. 1 Appendix A and figs. 1, 2 Appendix B). Lastly, the sources used can be consulted in the original language and in English translation.

Appendix A concerns the earthquake of 30th April 1279 in the Umbria-Marche Apennines (Central Italy): it is a typical example of a medieval earthquake documented by sources from cognitive and cultural settings very remote from ours. To be able to use such texts scientifically, we sometimes need to resort to other disciplinary approaches (in this case a geological reading of the area).

Appendix B concerns two earthquakes in March and June 1638 in Calabria (Southern Italy), which hit two different areas, partly overlapping around Cosenza. These two violent earthquakes had a devastating economic and social impact on the region and were experienced by contemporaries as a single major emergency. For this reason, historical research has had to analyse the general administrative, and cultural situation. This case, among many, is a good example of the difficulties commonly encountered by historically seismology in dating, locating and classifying earthquakes of the past and establishing their effects. All seven general comments are translated, whereas the single effects in the over 215 villages affected by the 27th March quake and the 41 villages hit by the 8th June event are described in the CD-ROM.