

National Background: France 2015

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In France, manuscripts are mainly conserved in the National Library (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris), in many important municipal libraries, and in a limited number of university libraries (such as Sorbonne, Medicine Faculty of Montpellier) and other institutions (e.g. Bibliothèque Mazarine).

Archives often hold manuscripts in their collections. Locally, there are many cooperative projects between libraries and archives, and some of them concern manuscripts.

The Institut Mémoire de l'Édition contemporaine (IMEC), in Caen (Normandy), is a deposit institution for publication companies and sometimes authors. A good list of medieval manuscript collections in France is available on the Menestrel Website.

In the last years France developed many projects in the field of digitisation and online catalogues to offer access to manuscript resources in a comprehensive and integrated way at the national level.