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www.arhivamedievala.ro

A database comprising more than 55,000 documents
from the years 1001 to 1600

The digitization of the medieval documents
from the National Archives of Romania

A project implemented by
THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

in partnership with
The National Archives of Romania
"Babeş-Bolyai" University
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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF NORWAY

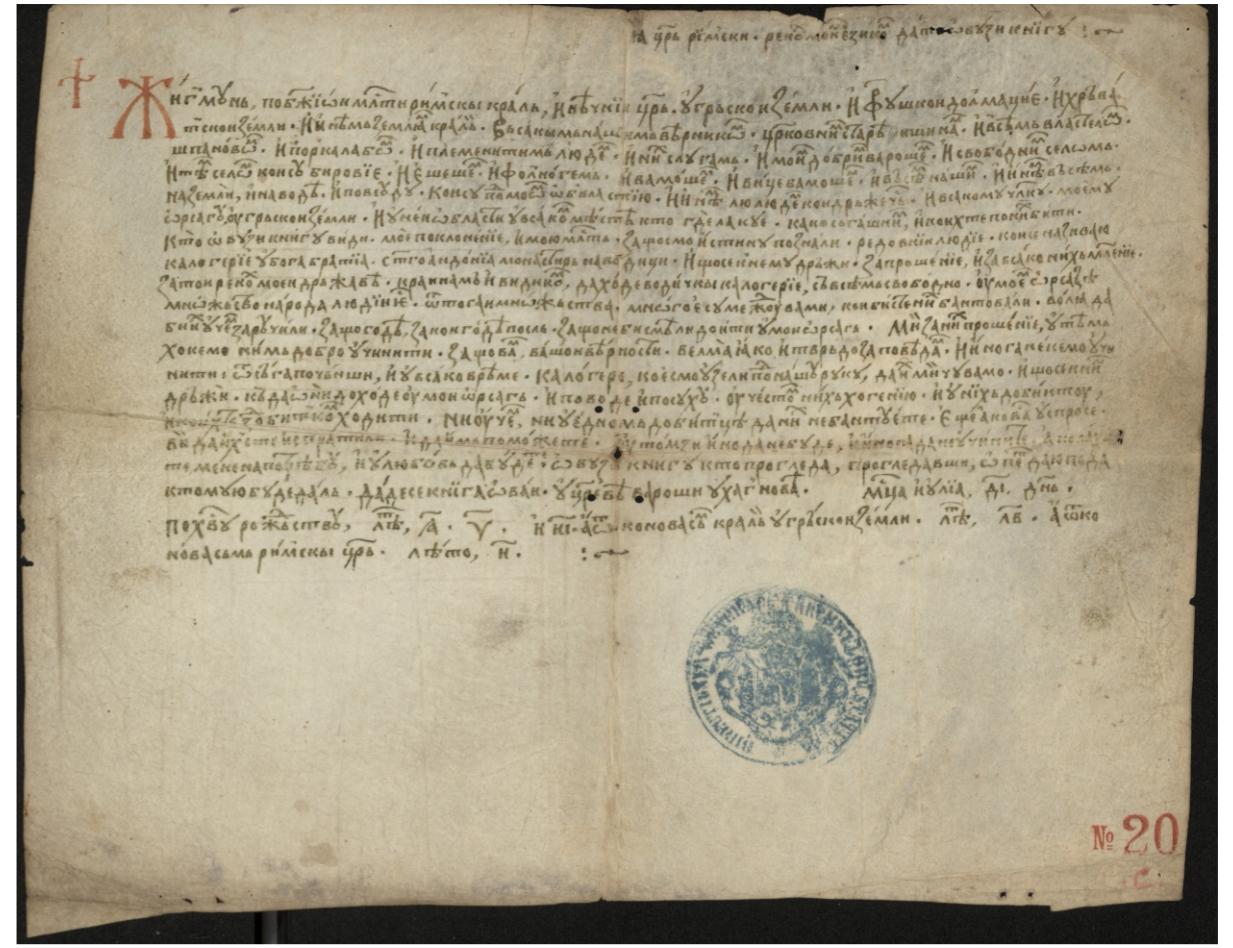
www.arhivamedieva.ro is a database that resulted from the implementation of the project "The Digitization of the Medieval Documents in the National Archives of Romania". It comprises more than 55,000 documents from the years 1001 to 1600 preserved in the archives of Romania. The majority of the documents are written in Latin (about 80%), another 10% are in Slavonic and Romanian with Cyrillic script, 5% are in Hungarian, 3% in German, and the remaining in Italian, Slovak, Polish, Croat, Turkish, Greek, French etc. Most of these documents concern the history of Transylvania and the medieval Kingdom of Hungary (approximately 85%), as they originate from the archives of the Saxon towns (Sibiu, Bistrița, Brașov etc.) and other urban settlements (Cluj, Dej, Baia Mare etc.), of the Hungarian nobility (Banffy, Wesselényi, Kornis etc.) or the Romanian nobility (Mara, Rednic, Mihalyi etc.). The history of the nobility and settlements in Slovakia is covered by a few thousand documents from the archives of the noble families Sennyei, Vecsey etc. The largest part of these documents have never been published. Some 10% of the documents regard the history of Wallachia and Moldavia, most of them having already been published. The rest of the documents (about 5%) refer to the history of Poland, Austria, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, France etc.

There are a number of search tools, from doing a simple search, for a person or place name, to an advanced search that combines various criteria, such as date, time interval, issuer, keywords, names, places, words appearing in the abstract, survival form, reference code, mode of sealing, language etc. Search attributes may be individual or combined.

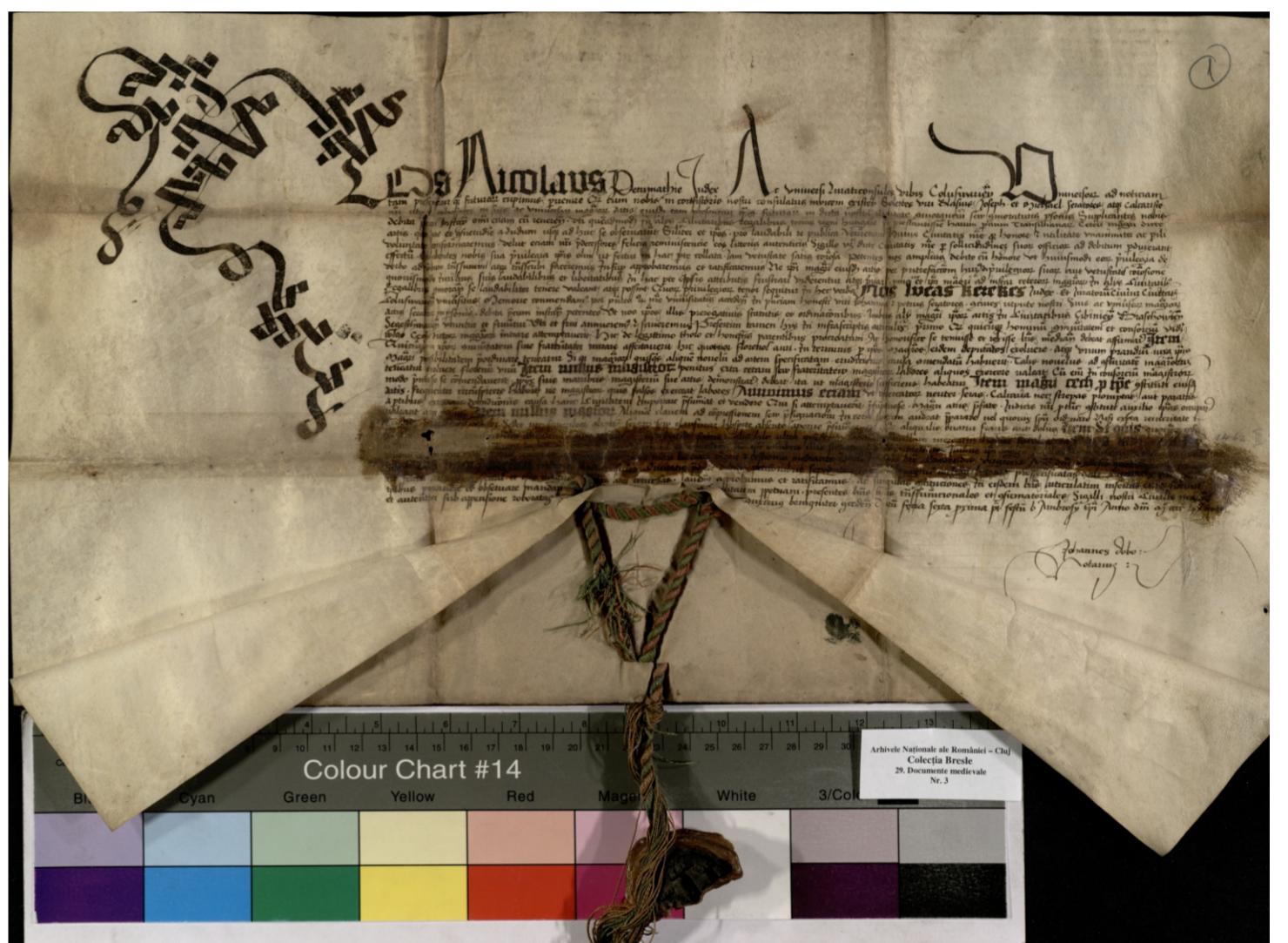
The resulting list is by default chronologically arranged and comprises the date, title and fragment of metadata that contains the attribute asked for in your search. The tool for refining the results allows the selection of the documents according to the archival provenance, issuer, century, keywords, person and place names, as well as language.

Each entry contains information about the issuer, date, abstract, keywords, names, places, reference code, document description (survival form, carrier, record structure, mode of sealing, language), previous publications (where applicable), and any available notes. The images of each document, front and back, together with those of the pending seal (where applicable) are available at a resolution of 300 dpi. The abstract summarizes the main idea of the document to support the researcher, without giving full details, for which a full reading of the digitized document is necessary.

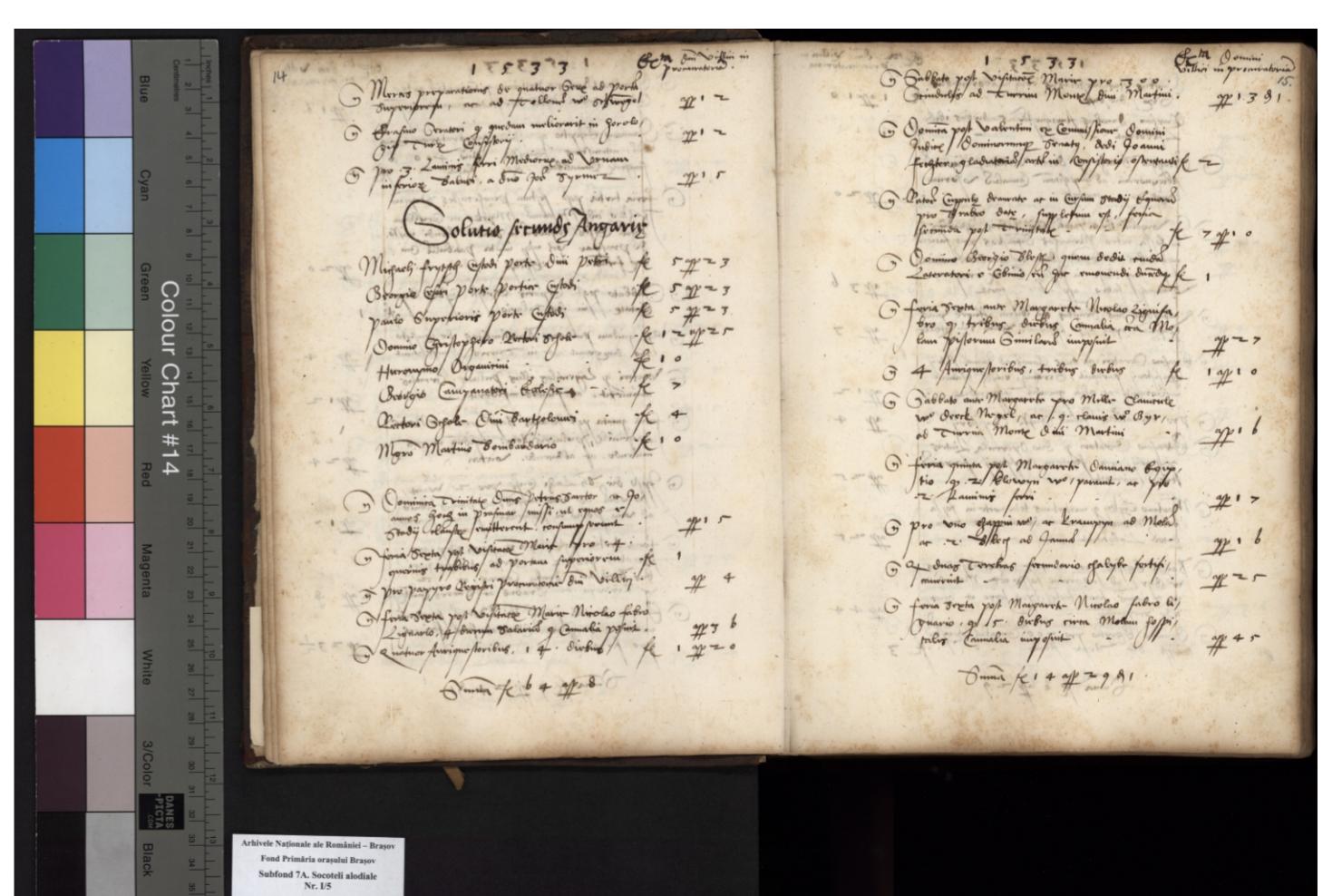
The image may be enlarged and/or rotated in order for the user to enjoy the best condition for its reading.



The database makes available for the researchers rich information on the political, social, economic and religious history of the Middle Ages, along with a multitude of data that can aid the historian to uncover the everyday life in those centuries. For instance, the documents for the division of inheritance or the trial records from the Saxon towns of Bistrița, Sibiu, and Brașov introduce us to the daily life in the Transylvanian cities and to the mentalities of the era. The economic registers, for revenues and expenses, tolls and tariffs show us the economic dimension of the medieval history. Most of the documents in the archives of the noble families comprise property documents, last wills, books for the evidence of the villeins' plots of land and trial records that introduce the researcher into the fascinating history of nobility and serfdom.



The database will allow a better knowledge of the history of Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Roma etc. Its users will have many more pleasant surprises when doing research through the digitized documents of the database www.arhivamedieva.ro.



To facilitate the access for foreign researchers, the interface is available both in Romanian, as well as in English, Hungarian, and German, languages that may be chosen from the main menu. There is also available a translation function based on computer translation tools, which offers an approximate translation of the abstract and other text in the metadata, enough to convince the user to read the digitized document.

The database www.arhivamedieva.ro is freely available. Good luck with your researches!

