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New Method for the Study of Watermarks and its Application as a Control System for Restoration Processes

From 1736, the study of watermarks, has been gradually gaining recognition among researchers and scholars. In the last few decades, thanks to the new technologies in paper studies applied both for recording watermarks and other physical characteristics of paper and for the archiving and dissemination of the generated data, the interest in the study of watermarks and their fields of application has increased.
The work of the group of researchers presented here provides with a new watermark obtainment, replica and study system based on a USB microscope use.
The use of this system is shown to:

- offer results as valid as other photography systems.
- be faster and more direct than the traditional photography systems, given the fact that it allows in situ watermaks and laid paper measurement
- has a lower cost in comparison to other systems as well as its smaller size.

In the graphic document restoration field, it can be proven, through a wide variety of tests with different papers from different periods (XIV to XX centuries), subjected to various “wet” restoration processes, that the microscope application to watermark study, allows us to analyse the existence or non-existence of dimensional changes after the mentioned restoration processes.

Key words: watermark replica, preservation-restoration.