The SQPR-ND project started because of student desire to access the rare and antique architectural publications from our Ryan Rare Book Room that include plans, sections, and elevations of important buildings and monuments in the historic city center of Rome while studying in Rome during their third year and grew into a new model to study historic structures.

The Architecture Library’s rare book collection houses many important publications that document the historic center of Rome and the Roman Forum. Displayed are some of the volumes used in the SPQR-ND app, including Andrea Palladio’s *I Quattro Libri dell’Architettura* (1570), Antoine Hébrard Desgodetz’s *Les Édifices Antiques de Rome* (1682), Domenico de’Rossi’s *Studia d’Architettvra Civile* (1702-1721), Piranesi’s *Varie Vedute di Roma* (1748) and Taylor and Cresy’s *The Architectural Antiquities of Rome* (1874). These texts, among others, were digitized and made available in full-text searchable PDF format on the Architecture Library’s website under “Digitized Rare Books.” While this solved the problem of providing access to these rare volumes to our students abroad, we were interested in combining historic methods of documenting and representing the built environment found in these texts with mapping and mobile applications as a way to bring the library into the field. Our goal was to provide students, scholars, and the general public with the opportunity to study the monuments of the Roman Forum through this important collection of early architectural publications and create a unique way to visualize the development of Rome.

SPQR-ND provides the fully digitized publications virtually broken apart in order to study different interpretations of monuments in the Forum side-by-side. The app is designed to allow access to historic documentation of the monuments through either a map view or with a browsable list. Each monument entry contains a historic drawing and current photograph, which the viewer can fade between, demonstrating the transition over time and showing the current state of the monument. Each of the historic plates is searchable and each monument features multiple representations. Bibliographic information on each plate is given allowing the viewer to find the plate within the context of the original volume, either in-person or digitally from the Architecture Library’s website.

Each monument in the SPQR-ND app is geolocated, which enables the user to understand not just their design but also their physical placement in the Forum through visualizing them on a map. The app also includes layers of historic maps of Rome. These maps, Giambattista Nolli’s 1748 map, Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s 1776 maps, Taylor-Cresy’s 1874 maps, a 2013 satellite map, and a hand drawn map of the Roman Forum by architecture student Michi Aman (seen in the case), are presented together as layers, which the viewer can fade through to see changes over time as represented by cartographers. The user is able to compare visually the different historic conceptions of the layout of Rome.

**iPad & iPhone Statistics:**

**SPQR-ND for iPad**

- (available since August 15, 2014)
- 2015: 237 downloads
- 2016: 227 downloads
- 2017: 87 downloads

**SPQR-ND for iPhone**

- (available since March 5, 2015)
- 2015: 87 downloads
- 2016: 41 downloads
- 2017: 41 downloads

**Total:** 324 downloads to date

**Total:** 41 downloads to date

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