



# Case study Vatican City, Dicastery for Communication

"PFU's RICOH and ScanSnap document scanners are more than devices. They are part of our operational infrastructure. They support preservation, verification, and communication — everything we do"

Dicastery for Communication, Vatican City

## The customer

Vatican City, Dicastery  
for Communication

## The products

ScanSnap SV600  
& RICOH fi-7900

## The challenge

To scan and digitise large,  
archival collections of rare  
books, manuscripts, documents  
and images to a high-resolution

## The solution

Using a combination of  
the ScanSnap SV600 and  
RICOH fi-7900 scanners,  
the Vatican could deploy  
non-contact scanning  
to digitise these fragile and  
bound documents in high  
definition, processing large  
volumes of documents  
efficiently and reliably

## The benefit

Transforming their paper-  
centered storage to a digital,  
data-enabled operation, the  
dicastery is now able to draw  
upon a searchable, high-quality  
digital archive, enabling them  
to more efficiently verify  
historical documents and  
deliver official materials to  
global media, all with a reduced  
risk of misinformation





### The customer

The mission of the Dicastery for Communication is clear: to deliver the Pope's messages and official positions to the world, accurately and faithfully. At the foundation of that mission lies the integrity of primary source materials. The Dicastery safeguards centuries of historical documents and photographs, rare bound volumes, ageing manuscripts, and one-of-a-kind archival images.

These materials form the backbone of accurate reporting, but preserving them, without damage, posed a critical challenge. The Vatican also needed to provide the documents, efficiently, to media organisations around the world, so it was essential to ensure the documents were both preserved and made accessible, without compromise.



### The challenge

What the Dicastery required was not simply scanning capability. They needed a reliable, long-term operational foundation. Their requirements were clear:

1. Non-contact scanning that protects rare and fragile bound volumes, ageing manuscripts, and one-of-a-kind archival images
2. High-resolution image reproduction
3. Processing power for large volumes of documents
4. Stability for extended operation
5. Secure, dependable performance in a protected environment



### The solution

The solution that comprehensively met these demands was PFU's document scanners: ScanSnap SV600 and the RICOH fi-7900.

The ScanSnap SV600 digitises bound materials without risk of damage or disbinding, capturing delicate historical documents in high definition with no physical stress. Meanwhile, the RICOH fi-7900 processes large volumes of documents quickly and reliably, maintaining operational speed while ensuring archival-quality output.

Together, they created an operational infrastructure that enables the Dicastery to preserve the past while communicating in the present, enabling preservation and productivity, simultaneously.



### The benefit

The Dicastery transitioned from paper-centred storage to a digitally structured archive, transforming into a data-enabled operation.

The results:

1. A searchable, high-quality digital archive
2. Faster delivery of official materials to global media
3. Accelerated verification of historical statements
4. Reduced risk of misinformation
5. Cross-functional utilisation of photographic archives

Several years after implementation, the ScanSnap SV600 and RICOH fi-7900 continue to operate reliably.

At the same time, a comprehensive digitisation project covering the entire library is underway, including several thousand photographs to be scanned. In the future, a selection of these images will be made available on the website, enabling broader access to materials that are not currently accessible to the public.

Specifically, by leveraging the ELO ECM Suite, an enterprise document management and content management platform, integrated with Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technology, the Vatican plans to scan photographs at 600 dpi to support more advanced archiving, AI-powered search and information retrieval.



### Conclusion

Ultimately, what matters is not short-term efficiency, but long-term reliability. This is not a challenge unique to one institution. National libraries, public archives, museums, universities, and government agencies around the world face the same reality: managing historical materials while delivering accurate information quickly.

It is not preservation or access. It is preservation and access. PFU delivers proven document solutions that make both possible, and will continue to support this meaningful project in more impactful ways.



### More information

To find out more about our extensive document scanner range, visit [www.pfu-emea.ricoh.com/](https://www.pfu-emea.ricoh.com/)

We would also like to welcome you to our partner portal, The Imaging Channel Program, where you'll discover valuable sales and marketing support and product information. Please register at: <https://partner.imaging-channel-program.com/>

Please don't hesitate to check out the ELO ECM Suite solution from our partners ELO Digital Office, who supported the delivery of this fantastic project: [www.elo.com/en-de.html](https://www.elo.com/en-de.html)

### Case study example to share?

If you have a case study using one of our scanners that you'd like to share with us, please do get in touch – we always like to hear from our partner community. Email the marketing team at [scannersales@pfu-emea.ricoh.com](mailto:scannersales@pfu-emea.ricoh.com)

