RICOH
imagine. change.



Streamlining scanning and archiving of historical documents at the Vatican

PFU
A RICOH Company

- Creates a searchable digital archive of historical documents and images
- Reduces risk of misinformation, with quick verification of references
- Enables faster delivery of materials to global media organisations

COMPANY & CHALLENGE

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The Dicastery safeguards centuries of historical documents and photographs, rare bound volumes, ageing manuscripts, and unique archival images. These materials form the backbone of accurate reporting. However, the Dicastery faced a critical challenge. They needed to preserve these invaluable materials while also making them available quickly to media organisations around the world. In short, they had to achieve both preservation and accessibility, without compromise.

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

- Non-contact scanning to protect rare and fragile books



- High-resolution image reproduction
- Processing capacity for large volumes of documents
- Stability for extended operation
- Secure, dependable performance in a controlled environment

The solution that met these requirements was PFU's document scanners: the ScanSnap SV600 and the fi Series.

SOLUTION

Simultaneous preservation and productivity

The ScanSnap SV600 digitises bound materials without the need for disbanding. It captures delicate historical documents in high definition without physical stress on the originals. At the same time, the fi Series processes large volumes of documents quickly and reliably, maintaining consistent throughput while delivering archival-quality output. Together, these devices form an operational infrastructure that enables the Dicastery to preserve the past while communicating in the present.

> PFU's 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

BENEFITS

Embedded as core infrastructure

The Dicastery transitioned from paper-centred storage to a digitally structured archive, enabling a more data-driven mode of operation.

The results include:

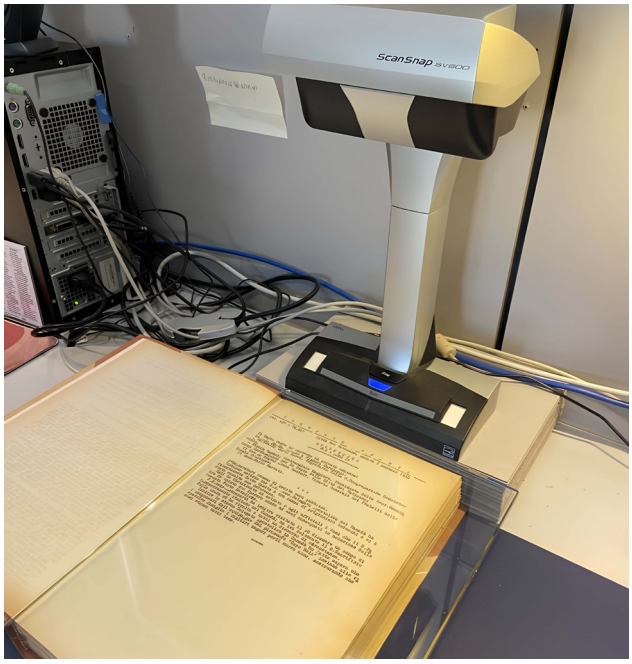
- A searchable, high-quality digital archive
- Faster delivery of official materials to global media organisations
- Quicker verification of historical references
- Reduced risk of misinformation
- Broader internal use of photographic archives

Several years after implementation, the ScanSnap SV600 and fi Series continue to operate reliably. In parallel, a comprehensive digitisation initiative covering the entire library is under way, including the scanning of several thousand photographs. In the future, a selection of these images will be made available on the website, providing wider access to materials that are not currently open to the public.

Specifically, by using the ELO document management application (an enterprise document management system) in combination with Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technology, the Vatican plans to scan photographs at 600 dpi to support more advanced archiving and information retrieval.

"PFU's 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

What matters is not short-term efficiency. It is long-term reliability. This challenge is not 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 established document solutions that support both.



ABOUT RICOH

Ricoh is a global integrator in workplace transformation, operating in approximately 200 countries and regions and headquartered in Tokyo. Supporting customers' value creation, Ricoh offers workplace services and solutions that empower organizations to work smarter through advanced technologies—including AI—together with long-standing expertise rooted in printing. Ricoh also operates commercial and industrial printing businesses and delivers new solutions leveraging inkjet technology. In the financial year ended March 2026, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,608 billion yen (approx. 16.4 billion USD). For 90 years since our founding, Ricoh has upheld its mission and vision of empowering individuals to find Fulfillment through Work—and that commitment continues today. By understanding and transforming how people work, we unleash their potential and creativity to realize a sustainable future. For further information, please visit www.ricoh.com

RICOH
imagine. change.

www.ricoh-europe.com

The facts and figures shown in this brochure relate to specific business cases. Individual circumstances may produce different results. All company, brand, product and service names are the property of and are registered trademarks of their respective owners. Copyright © 2026 Ricoh Europe PLC. All rights reserved. This brochure, its contents and/or layout may not be modified and/or adapted, copied in part or in whole and/or incorporated into other works without the prior written permission of Ricoh Europe PLC.