

This presentation will be the occasion to present the aims, the first sprouts and the prospects of my research project on the diachronic study of Sanskrit manuscripts written in Kashmir in the Śāradā script. Most of the Sanskrit manuscripts produced in Kashmir share a series of distinguishing features such as the use of the Śāradā script, the use of birch bark as a writing support and the preference for the bound book format. In spite of the importance of Kashmirian manuscripts, a thorough study of their materiality remains to be done. My ongoing study aims at building a typology of dated manuscripts in order to delineate codicological changes and changes in scribal practice that will eventually help us to date undated manuscripts. The first step consists in the description of a critical population of dated Śāradā manuscripts in a database that could become collaborative in a later stage. To go beyond the description of features that are discernible to the naked eye, a series of analyses should be carried out to get a better grasp of the production methods and to delineate possible diachronic changes in these methods.