Since its foundation, Klosterneuburg Abbey has held manuscripts and incunabula with medieval bindings that have never been systematically described. Materials, binding techniques and decorations are decisive for determining the period of origin of the bindings. Archival sources provide additional information about economic and historical developments in the abbey's book production. At the same time, we are investigating the potential of infrared spectroscopy for the non-destructive dating of leather and parchment. Using the External Reflectance (ER) module of the Bruker Alpha II Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) instrument and multivariate statistical analysis, a calibration set of well-dated manuscripts is being developed. We are developing statistical methods to explain and explore the molecular decay rate.

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ABC Austria is a joint FWF project of AK-Bild and ÖAW, which is dedicated to the analysis of medieval leather bindings from a historical-codicological and chemical point of view.

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