

There is no instrumental research without a proper methodological background. The endeavours of ELGI tend to realize this principle. This is the reason why, in editing this Annual Report, it has been decided to connect the instrumental themes to their methodological supports, for a better understanding of their interdependence. In order to give a clearer view of the structure of the chapters concerned, methodological themes are distinguished from their instrumental kins, by being printed in *italics*. So, where minuscule and *italics* are interwoven, also instrumental and methodological research go, commendably enough, hand in hand, together.

