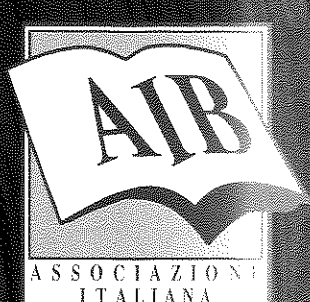


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Italian libraries 2007

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Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to submit this short publication to your kind attention. It concerns Italian library services and activities. The Italian National Committee, together with all libraries and librarians all over our beautiful Italy, is striving to do its best for the forthcoming IFLA 2009 meeting in Milan.

The congress topic for the 2009 edition is:

Libraries create futures: building on the cultural heritage.

Thanks to library activities, people have been gathering and saving their manual scientific, artistic, literary, musical as well as religious production over time.

Libraries preserve either the bases or roots of all human knowledge.


Cultural transmission has been radically changing up to the present: the scope of bibliography has also extended greatly. Therefore library activities will have to necessarily update their role, according to current needs.

Libraries keep the balance with the Past, turning roots into vital elements for the Future. They also pave the way to social development,

as well as contributing to promoting a better quality of life, encouraging relationships between different civilizations and cultures all over the world.

The information in this publication thus wants to act as an initial representation of books, reading and library activities in Italy.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this publication and that the news it contains may help you to choose Italy and Milan as the location for the 75th IFLA Congress.

 15442

Mauro Guerrini
University of Florence
President of the Italian Library Association
President of National Committee IFLA 2009 Milan

Books and reading in Italy

Book sales

In 2005 the total value of book sales (including digital publications) reached a cover price value of 3,621 million euro (with an increase of 0.4% compared to 2004).

Production

The Italian book-trade has published over 53,000 titles (including 4,500 for school requirements and 3,200 for children and young people). 63% of these are new.

Readers

Readers of at least one non-school title in the 12 months before this report are 42.3 % of the population over 6 years of age (with an increase of 0.95% compared to 2004).

A slow recovery in reading is confirmed: there was a growth of 10.4% between 2000 and 2005.

Among readers, almost a half – 47.5% – does not read more than three books in a year. Only 13.5% of readers reads one book per month (approximately 3 million people).

There are also notable geographical differences: we go from 50.4% in the North (with peaks of 60% in some areas) to 30.4% in the South.

Export

Exports of Italian books in 2005 were worth 39.4 million euro. A static and not very dynamic picture that is however characterized by a credit in the commercial balance sheet which was 10,957 million euro in 2005.

(Source: Italian Publishers Association)



Libraries in Italy

Although it is hard to establish a precise number, it is estimated that there are over 16,000 libraries in Italy.

They can be divided into different types:

- constitutional bodies: 15
- state libraries 46
- public libraries: 6642
- academic libraries: 2563
- academies, associations, foundations, institutes (public): 637

There are also:

- school libraries
- libraries of cultural and research bodies
- church libraries
- other private libraries.

State libraries

The 46 state libraries preserve and collect the products of both national and local Italian publishers: they safeguard and develop their historical collections, they purchase products of foreign publishers on the basis of the specificity of their collections and in consideration of their user needs, they document what they already possess, they provide bibliographic information and ensure that documents are circulated.

The two Central National Libraries, of Florence and Rome, have the task of collecting and documenting everything printed in Italy.

The documentation heritage preserved in the state libraries is composed of approximately 40 million items between manuscripts, incunabula, printed editions, periodicals, musical editions and extraordinary collections of geographical maps, incisions and prints.

A priceless treasure that includes the Amiatina Bible, a seventh century manuscript, preserved in the Medicea Laurenziana Library of Florence; the Borso d'Este Bible, a Renaissance masterpiece preserved in the Estense Library of Modena, which also hosts the first geographical map drawn after the discovery of America, known as the Cantino map; the drawings of the Code of the flight of birds and the famous self-portrait of Leonardo, preserved in the Royal Library of Turin. The thousand-year old history of libraries coincides with three great historical nucleuses: it begins with monastic script-writing, it continues with the work of the great humanists at the Renaissance courts and is consolidated during the century of lights and the post-1860 period.

State libraries fall under the regulations of the Decree of the President of the Republic 5th July 1995 n. 417.



Network SBN (National Library Service) and other forms of automation

The Italian panorama of automation software for libraries is strongly influenced by the presence of SBN (National Library Service) developed and managed by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage for the last twenty years.

It has been adopted by all State libraries, and also therefore by the great national libraries. The majority of the Italian regions and many large university consortiums have gradually joined it.

The SBN network is composed of a central Index system and of 63 automation poles, to which 3,106 libraries are linked. In March 2007, as regards modern books, the SBN database contained 2,800,387 authors (personal and collective) and 8,235,753 titles (7,942,167 of which monographs and 293,566 periodicals) corresponding to 35,551,722 localizations.

The database of ancient material (books dating to before 1830) has 591,499 titles corresponding to 1,432,550 localizations.

The musical material (manuscript musical documents, printed musical documents and libretti for music from the 16th century onwards located in over 500 public and private institutions) contains 641,925 bibliographic news items (179,352 manuscript musical documents, 462,573 printed musical documents).

During 2006 users carried out over 20 million researches, visualizing approximately 170 million bibliographic records.

In Italy, the initiative of Metaopac MAI is also important: this is a system that allows cumulative interrogations in the catalogues of the Italian libraries available on Internet. This is an independent and transversal application, extremely useful for the localization of the documents and for inter-library lending services.

<http://www.aib.it/aib/opac/mai2.htm>

Historical heritage

The heritage of historical collections in Italy can be estimated in 4,900,000 manuscripts, 50,000 specimens of incunabula, a million 16th century publications, a few million items printed between 1601 and 1830. As regards cataloguing, reference should be made to the projects of the Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries and for Bibliographic Information (ICCU), which "has established and spreads standards for the bibliographic documentation and cataloguing of manuscripts". To proceed in these tasks it has also created special software, respectively BibMan "for setting up a bibliographic database regarding manuscripts" and MANUS dedicated to cataloguing, creating databases with both.

The BibMan database, which boasts the cooperation of 40 libraries, makes it possible to manage the Bibliography of the manuscripts in the Latin alphabet in the possession of Italian libraries. The relative archive that has been produced so far contains over 11,000 entries with 70,000 quotations regarding a collection of 50,000 manuscripts, the majority of which date to the middle ages or the *ancien régime*.

<http://81.113.131.196/webbibman/>

The MANUS database, which is part of the National Library Service, aims at carrying out a national census of the manuscripts in the possession of Italian libraries and, as well as an exhaustive cataloguing, it also offers the possibility of managing images.

Both databases can be consulted on the Web. <http://manus.iccu.sbn.it/>

As regards Edit16, the census of publications printed in Italy or in the Italian language (1501-1600), which since 2000 has added the electronic version to the original paper one, at the moment there are over 60,000 catalographic records online (perhaps 80% of the total) that localize the publications in over 1200 libraries. Edit16 can also be consulted on Internet. <http://edit16.iccu.sbn.it>

The records in the antique archive of the National Library Service (1455-1830) number to date about 50,000, a number that does not yet however represent a final total number of publications.




Born to read

*A whole village is required to raise a child
(African proverb)*

Nati per leggere (Born to read) is a program to enhance the inclination to read in children from a very early age.

Nati per leggere, born in 2000, is promoted by the professional and cultural organizations of librarians and paediatricians: Associazione Culturale Pediatri (ACP), Associazione Italiana Biblioteche (AIB) and Centro per la Salute del Bambino (CSB).



Nati per leggere is a nationwide program which aims at constantly involving the community in order to give children a better chance to grow, grant them the opportunity to develop from an intellectual and emotional point of view. The cognitive child's development is strongly stimulated by simple activities such as reading aloud and the creation of a familiar relationship with books and reading from a very early age.

Besides, reading children a story is an involving activity for both parents and children, because it ensures exclusive quality time together. Looking at the same pictures, imagining the same situations at the same time, sharing emotions creates pleasant moments of very rewarding empathy for both.

The organization of the project is based on a greater decentralization, on the establishment of a network which aims at becoming ever more widespread in order to reach the greatest possible number of local realities.

The network includes librarians, paediatricians, teachers, associations willing

to put their energies into the project. At a local level a commitment is undertaken to realize the project with the greatest flexibility and adaptation to the different situations.

It is estimated that 15% of the Italian population has had contact with the project, involving about 300 thousand children under six years of age. The majority of the projects are concentrated in the north of the country and involves the active participation of numerous libraries and library systems. It is calculated that they are present in 93% of the projects.

<<http://www.natiperleggere.it>>

npl@aib.it



Online catalogues, open archives, digitizing initiatives

Italian OPAC present in the MAI Metaopac Azalai Italiano database number 924, 258 of which are connected to the research engine Azalai for metasearch reasons. Open archives present in Italy number 28 (21 of which bodies), 22 of which are institutional and 6 disciplinary, for a total of 17,044 works present (in full text), with an average of 775 works per archive.

Digitized collections censused and present in the *Michael platform*: 245

- archive (88)
- library (31)
- museum (27)
- research body (18)
- documentation centre (12)
- mass media (66)
- record library, film library, media library (3)

<http://www.michael-culture.org>

BDI (Italian Digital Library)

Since 2001 the BDI has carried out over 50 digitizing interventions regarding important sectors of the valuable library heritage that documents the country's cultural production. The results can be consulted through the Internet site <http://www.internetculturale.it>

The main lines of intervention followed up to now have regarded musical material (including over 3,000 musical manuscripts of the S. Pietro a Majella Conservatory of Naples, with over a million images); 1500 complete texts

of the Italian literary tradition, digitalized by the “La Sapienza” University of Rome; over 300 ancient and rare documents of the Galileian Digital Collection of the Institute and Museum of the History of Science of Florence; an archive of pre-1860 periodicals composed of 70 titles possessed by various Italian libraries and the digital Newspaper and Periodical Digital Library, an ever-growing archive of 748 titles of Italian historical and cultural interest with more than a million and a half pages owned by the National Braidense Library and other libraries; 200 digitized historical catalogues for a total of approximately 7 million images; the entire series of “Scrittori d’Italia” (Writers of Italy) of Laterza publisher (179 works collected in 287 volumes for a total of over 125,000 pages); the manuscript collections of the Medicea Laurenziana Library of Florence, and also virtual exhibitions, journeys in texts, tourist-cultural routes, 3D routes and more.

The digitizing projects funded by the Regions and local bodies for the most part regard material that documents the history and culture of the territories (periodicals, land registry maps, papers and archives of personalities of 20th century culture).

At university level digital policy has basically regarded access to electronic magazines of a scientific nature, an activity in which the inter-university consortiums CASPUR and CILEA play an essential role, and the creation of open archives, in which many scholars and researchers deposit the results of their scientific activity.



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<http://www.aib.it/aib/ifla2009/ifla2009.htm3>

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**IFLA World Library
and Information Congress 2009 Milan**

Milan has been chosen as the site for the IFLA Congress of 2009. That year will mark the 80th anniversary of the first World Congress of libraries and bibliography that took place in Rome, Florence and Venice in June 1929, and that was the first meeting of the new-born IFLA.

The story of IFLA therefore begins in Italy and our Association is proud to be able to host once more such an important international event within the sphere of libraries. For one week, from 23rd to 27th August, over 4000 librarians from all over the world will take part in this great event.

The Congress is marked by a large number of scientific encounters and technical meetings. It will be accompanied by an important exhibition of services and products for libraries.