

## Background Information: Vatican City 2015

### Ambrogio M. Piazzoni (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)

Content: Vatican Library

#### Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

<https://www.vatlib.it/home.php?ling=eng>

The Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana or Vatican Library (established in 1451) is located in the State of the Vatican City (established in 1929). Its territory consists of a walled enclave within the city of Rome.

The Vatican Library preserves one of the largest collections of manuscripts in the world.

#### Major holdings:

- about 80,000 manuscripts, in large part from the medieval and humanistic eras, with a few significant pieces from late antiquity and a number of others from the modern period.
- The Latin codices, as they are called, those written in the Latin alphabet (and in many languages: Latin, Italian, French, English, Spanish, German, Provençal, etc.), number about 62,000, those written in the Greek alphabet about 5,000, in Hebrew about 920, in other Eastern alphabets about 9,000, among which are Arabic, Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Ethiopic, and about 2,000 rare works from the Far East in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.
- prints, drawings, coins, medals, modern printed volumes
- Collections: Vaticanani, Palatini (1622), Urbinati (1657), Reginensi (1689), Ottoboniani (1748)
- 18 Vaticanani collections, subdivided into Latin (more than 15,300 manuscripts), Greek, (more than 2,600), Arabic (more than 2,000), Musical (more than 670), Syriac (more than 650), Hebrew (more than 720), Turkish (more than 400), Ethiopic (more than 300), to which can be added the more than 700 Vaticanani Persian, Coptic, Far Eastern, Indian, Slavic, Armenian, Romanian, Samaritan, Iberian, and Mandaean manuscripts