

Which records are in MEI?

- Provenance information extracted from published catalogues (in progress). This will allow for an integrated search on all information already available on copy specific of incunabula, currently scattered across hundreds of published catalogues.

- MEI offers a dedicated space to record the material evidence of the vast number of incunabula which today remain described only bibliographically: there are well over 4,000 locations with incunabula registered in ISTC.

- MEI is currently available in an English and Italian interface. Translations into other languages are being prepared.

For further information please contact Dr Cristina Dondi, Secretary of CERL, at c.dondi@cerl.org

Questions MEI can address

- Reconstruction of dispersed collections
- Assessing the survival of our printed heritage
- Economic History: the book-trade in the 15th century, distribution and prices
- History of collecting / history of libraries from the 15th century to the present
- Pattern of acquisitions and of collection formation
- Social history, ownership of books
- History of reading, readership and the use of books
- Philology / dissemination of texts in print
- Intellectual history / circulation of ideas
- Copy-census investigation
- History of censorship

English:
<http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?lang=en>

Italian:
<http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?lang=it>

Other CERL initiatives

Heritage of Printed Book Database (HPB)

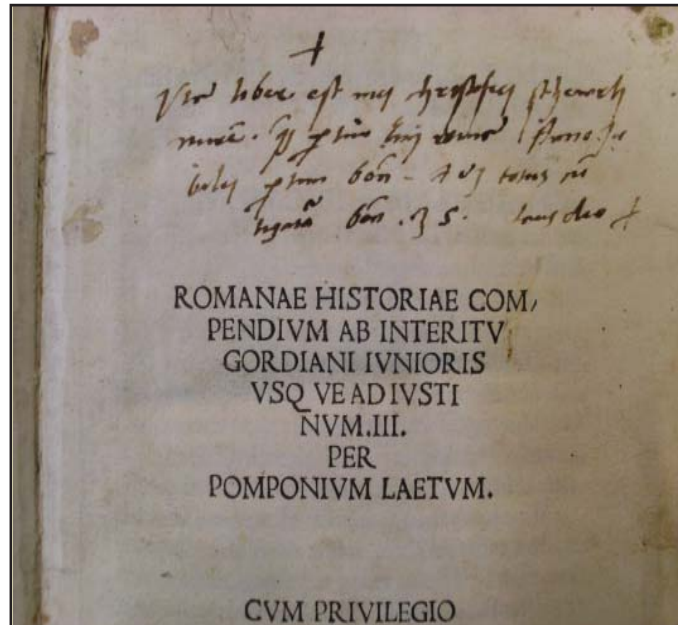
The HPB Database offers scholars in all disciplines convenient and reliable access to over 3 million items of the European printed heritage from c. 1455 to around 1830.

CERL Thesaurus

The CERL Thesaurus contains forms of names for imprint places, persons and corporate bodies, printers and their devices, as well as provenance information.

CERL Portal

The CERL Portal enables scholars to search across the contents of online manuscripts databases, in combination with selected large databases of printed materials, thereby overcoming the historical differentiation of printed books and manuscripts in libraries.



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Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)

<http://incunabula.cerl.org>

Accessing the record of Europe's book heritage

Material Evidence in Incunabula

MEI is a database specifically designed to record and search the material evidence (or copy specific, post-production evidence, provenance information) of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

MEI is linked to the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC), from which it derives the bibliographical records, and it allows the user at last to combine search of bibliographical records (extracted from ISTC) with copy-specific records.

Uniquely, every piece of evidence (a certain style of decoration or binding, the period of a manuscript note, etc.) is treated as a valuable clue for provenance, therefore it can be geographically located and chronologically dated. This enables the tracking of the movement of books across Europe and through the centuries. Explicit ownership notes are further categorised as private or institutional, religious or lay, female or male, and by profession.

Manuscript notes are classified according to their frequency and their type: corrections, completions, supplements, extraction of key words, collation, translation, structuring the text, comments, censorship, reading marks (underlining and pointing hands).

Personal and institutional names of ownership are linked to the Provenance section of the CERL Thesaurus, where further bio-bibliographical information can be found.

Provenance locations are linked to the Place names section of the CERL Thesaurus, which offers geo-coordinates and map locations. MEI is being developed to provide a physical representation of the circulation of books throughout the centuries, from place of production to their present location.

MEI was created by Cristina Dondi, University of Oxford and Secretary of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), and developed by Alexander Jahnke of Data Conversion Group, University of Göttingen, with funds from the British Academy granted to Nigel Palmer and Cristina Dondi. It is hosted by CERL, and freely available on its website.

How to contribute?

Contribution of records is free and welcome. Records are being inserted at the moment by a number of libraries. Once in MEI records can be downloaded in MARC21 or UNIMARC Holdings for integration into local OPACs.

ISTC Record No. iI00023000

Author: Laetus, Pomponius
Title proper: Grammaticae compendium
Imprint: Venice : Baptista de Tortis, 31 Mar. 1484

more...

Copies

Oxford, Bodleian Library [Oxford Bodley]

Shelfmark: Auct. O inf. 1.31(3)
Bound with: Julius Pomponius Laetus: De Romanorum magistratibus. – [Bologna : Benedictus Hectoris, after 1497]
[Copy Id: 02000452](#)
Bound with: Julius Pomponius Laetus: Romanae historiae compendium. – Venice : Bernardinus Venetus, de Vitalibus, 23 Apr. 1499
[Copy Id: 02000451](#)

Copy Id: 02000344

Size of Leaves: 212mm x 149mm

Material: Book: paper Plates: Watermark:

Electronic ed.: <http://bodley30.bodley.ox.ac.uk:8180/luna/servlet/s/cyre4u> [a1r]

Sources: Bod-inc L-018
The recording of this copy's provenance is complete. Last change: 2011-02-09, 16:32:55

Provenance

Place: Bologna ([CERL Thesaurus: cnl00007564](#))
Time Period: 15th cent., last decade to 16th cent., 4th decade
Owner: Christoph Scheurl, 1481-1542 (from Nuremberg) ([CERL Thesaurus: cnp01239813](#)) (male; no characterisation/lay; student)
Former Owner

Type of Prov.: Inscription

Note: On a1r of item 1: Iste liber est mei christoferi schewrlj nure[nbergensis] quod partim emi rome anno iubilei partim bon[onie] et v[alet] totus cum ligatura bon[oninorum] 35. Laus deo.

Method of acquisition: purchase

Binding: The original binding was probably prepared by Benedictus Hectoris of Bologna, binder, printer, and bookseller.

Mss. notes: A few marginal notes in Scheurl's hand.
Frequency of notes: a few
Type of notes: extraction of key words , structuring the text , reading marks (underlining and pointing hands)

Price: 35 Bolognini 35 Bolognini in 1500, for 3 editions and the binding.
Sources: Book in Hand (The recording of this provenance is considered certain)

Provenance

Place: Frankfurt am Main ([CERL Thesaurus: cnl00007606](#))
Time Period: 18th cent., Please choose decade to 19th cent., decade
Owner: Georg Franz Burkhard Kloss, 1787-1854 (Jurist, scholar) ([CERL Thesaurus: cnp01163202](#)) (male; no characterisation/lay; university lecturer)
Former Owner

Type of Prov.: Exlibris

Note: His sale, London, Sotheby & Son, 7 May 1835, lot 2153.

Binding: 19th century half calf over marbled pasteboards, bound for Kloss
Binding Date: 19th century **Binding Type:** Boards **Board Material:** Paper
Cover Material: mixed **Binding Status:** Rebound **Edges:** uncoloured
Writing on Edges: across **Gauferred:** no

Sources: Book in Hand (The recording of this provenance is considered certain)