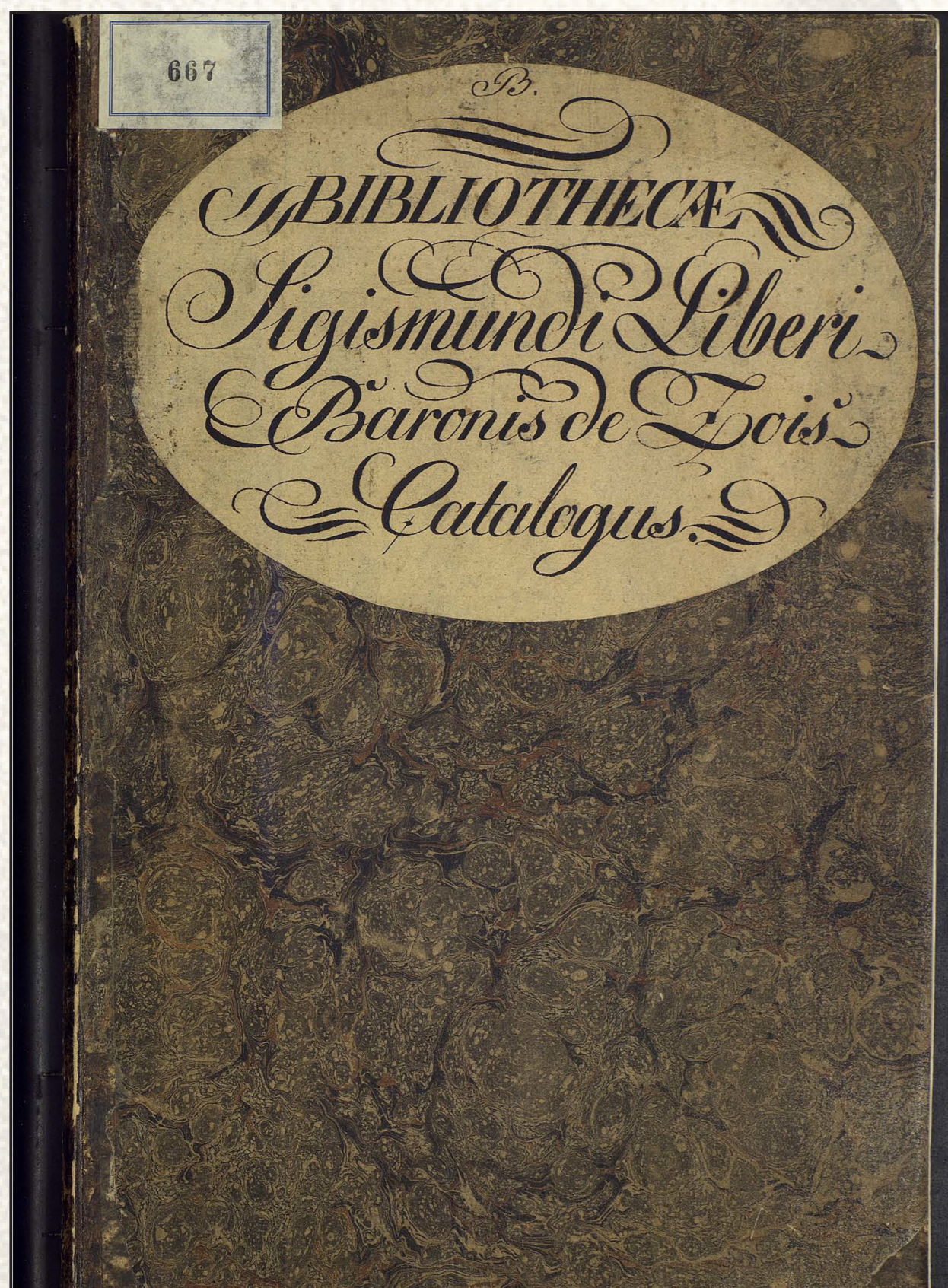
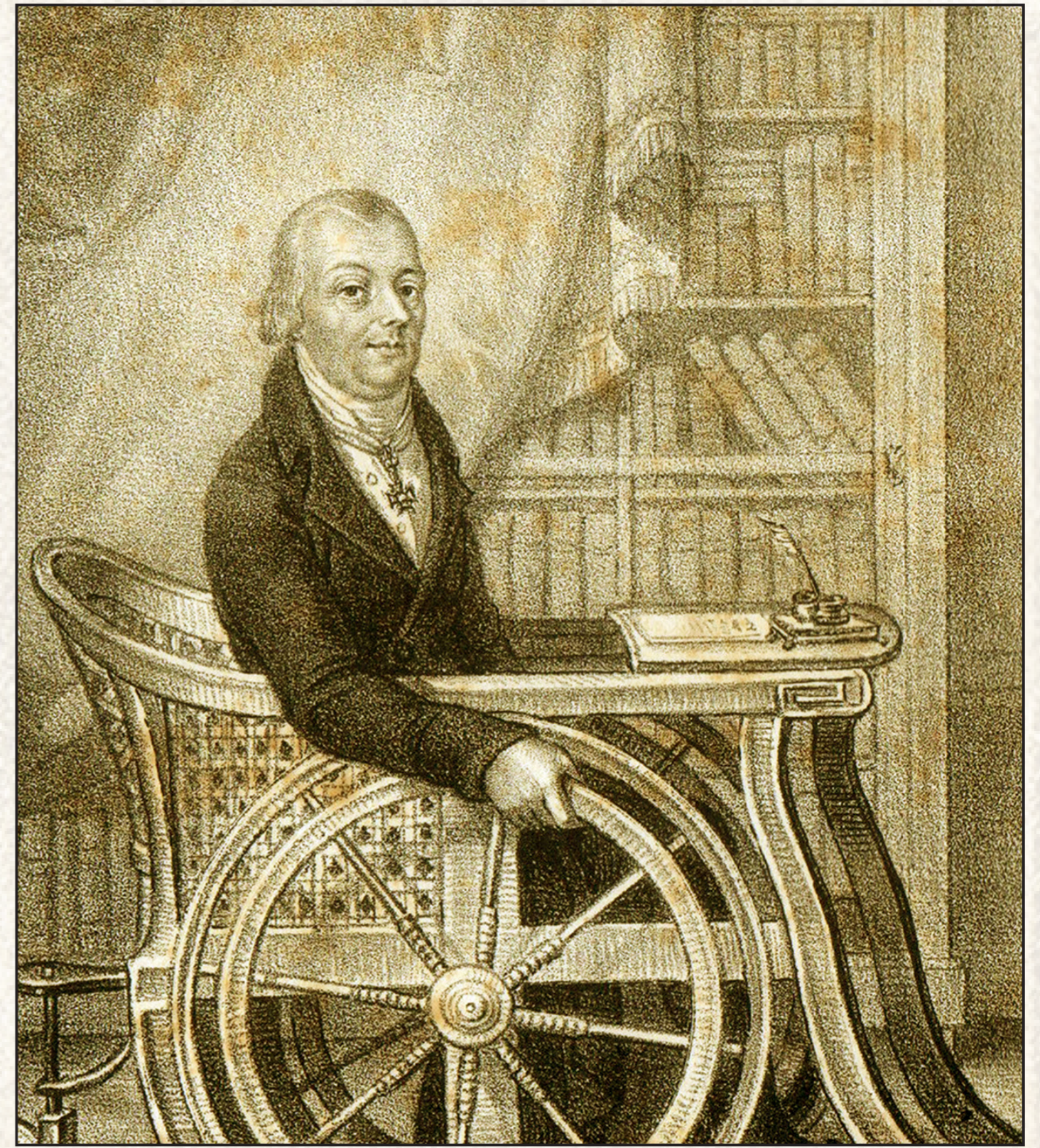


Reconstruction of Sigismund Zois's (1747–1819) Library

Sources and Methodology ❖ Challenges ❖ Perspectives

Sources and Methodology

- Ca. 2300 titles in ca. 4500 volumes.
- Ca. 60% contemporary natural and applied sciences. Languages: German, Latin, French, English, Slovenian, Italian, various Slavic languages, Swedish, Danish, Dutch ...
- Goal: virtual and physical reconstruction of the collection.
- Sources: 1823 catalogue, list of donations (1808, 1825), 1801 catalogue supplement, visual identification (bindings and other distinctive features).
- Checking and crosschecking the data against the current library holdings, the old catalogues and the bibliographical records in the online catalogue.
- Editing of the bibliographical records with the books in hand.
- Bibliographical metadata enhancement (provenance, other distinctive features).



Challenges

- Incorrect data entries in the historical sources (author attributions, titles, dating etc.).
- Abbreviated/simplified/provisional titles (especially for ephemera).
- German titles for works in non-German languages or bilingual works.
- Different transliteration of titles in scripts such as Cyrillic and Glagolitic in historical sources and in current library catalogues.
- Inaccurate or missing metadata in the online catalogue due to numerous errors made during the old card catalogue automatic conversion in the 1990s.
- Doubles or multiple copies - uncertain provenance.
- Missing copies - sold-off or exchanged in the past without any record.

Overall: 97% success rate.

Perspectives

- Further enhancement of bibliographical records.
- Acquisition methods reconstruction with a special emphasis on search/browse/research tools and functionalities.
- Reconstruction of Zois's library original classification.
- Virtual and physical reconstruction of the whole collection as a corpus separatum.
- Application of methodology to other similar projects (starting with 10 major personal and institutional collections scattered in NUL's stacks)
- Promotion of the National and University Library's archival documents and sources which are often neglected in provenance research.

