CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

FM/2025/10

MEI, 15cBOOKTRADE, Incunabula Working Group
Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland
20-22 October 2025

1. MEI Database

1.1. Statistics

Records creation since 2012:

DATE	EDITIONS	COPIES
25 October 2012	2,454	3,851
10 October 2013	3,633	6,575
21 January 2015	4,596	9,100
9 June 2015	4,954	9,750
24 February 2016	5,325	10,782
14 October 2016	8,732	20,160
13 March 2017	9,010	21,570
4 April 2017	9,068	21,974
13 October 2017	10,630	27,318
7 March 2018	13,685	40,836
7 September 2018	14,091	44,447
28 March 2019	14,222	45,954
30 September 2019	14,449	47,906
23 April 2020	14,851	51,127
13 May 2020 (after move c server, stricter parameters an clean-up)	14,887	51,681
7 October 2020	15,377	56,069
23 April 2021	15,374	57,354

29 November 2021	15,612	59,832
17 Sept. 2022	15,717	61,134
30 Oct. 2023	15,966	64,629
2 Apr. 2024	16,123	65,463
13 Oct. 2024	16,161	66,430
16 Mar. 2025	16,194	67,537
1 Oct. 2025	16,258	68,622

DATE	HOLDING INSTITUTIONS	OWNERS
9 June 2015	159	4,866
24 February 2016	237	4,867
14 October 2016	298	9,826
13 March 2017	331	10,162
4 April 2017	332	10,287
13 October 2017	349	11,552
7 March 2018	362	15,319
7 September 2018	406	17,342
28 March 2019	421	18,193
30 September 2019	442	19,264
23 April 2020	466	20,000
13 May 2020 (after move o server, stricter parameters an clean-up)	424	20,367
7 October 2020	444	21,268
23 April 2021	454	22,816
29 November 2021	493	25,005
17 Sept. 2022	538	25,738

30 Oct. 2023	681	27,828
2 Apr. 2024	681?	28,135
13 Oct. 2024	718?	28,595
16 Mar. 2025	740	29,263
1 Oct. 2025	747	29,769

Holding Institutions
In the MEI pages on the CERL Website, "Libraries in MEI" (https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/libraries) lists 436 libraries: these are libraries which have agreed to survey all their incunables in MEI. In the database itself are listed data about incunables from various other libraries, gathered by scholars or projects during the pursuit of their research. This explains the discrepancy between the two sets of numbers, 747 and 436. **Editors** who have contributed to the database overall: **278**.

1.2. Libraries in MEI (Oct. 2024-)
Libraries which joined MEI since October 2024:

Austria – Stift Klosterneuburg
On 10 Dec. 2024 Anna Gialdini (agialdini@fbk.eu) introduced MEI to Maria Theisen (Maria.Theisen@oeaw.ac.at) and Viviana Elisa Nicoletti (VivianaElisa.Nicoletti@oeaw.ac.at) who are working on Stift Klosterneuburg's library, near Vienna, as part of the ABC - Ancient Book Crafts collaborative project (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften/AK-Bild) taking place there: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/imafo/forschung/schrift-buchwesen/einbandforschung

Czech Republic – Strahov Monastery, Prague
On 1 Oct. 2025 Constanta Burlacu (Vatican Library School) will start a traineeship of 300 hours on the incunabula collection of Strahov Monastery, Prague. There are apparently 1500 incunabula, only 49 of which are currently listed in ISTC. Therefore the first step of the work will be the preparation of a comprehensive list of all editions with ISTC identification, using existing paper catalogues, online records, and book in hand examination. Subsequently the creation of MEI records.

Germany – Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nürnberg
The Director of Nürnberg's GNM, Dr Johannes Pommeranz (j.pommeranz@gnm.de) is sending the new head of rare books, Mrs Clara Lilli Schorcht (c.schorcht@gnm.de), to attend the Multilingual MEI training course in Rome in Dec. 2025, with the objective of including their incunabula in MEI.

Hungary, Budapest National Széchényi Library (=NSZL)
In March 2025 our colleague Judit Gerencsér (gerencser.judit@oszk.hu) facilitated the start of a conversation to include copy specific records of incunabula from Budapest National Széchényi Library (=NSZL) in MEI. In July 2025 an extensive conversation followed: colleagues involved include Dr Bernadett Varga (varga.bernadett@oszk.hu); Dr Gergely Bokodi-Oláh (bokodi-olah.gergely@oszk.hu); Márton Szovák (szovak.marton@oszk.hu); Dr Farkas Gábor Farkas (farkas.gabor@oszk.hu); and Sarolt Bognár (bognar.sarolt@oszk.hu). Dr Varga provided the following update:
The mapping of incunabula in Hungarian public collections was carried out by Géza Sajó and Erzsébet Soltész. The result of their work was a publication entitled *Catalogus incunabulorum quae in bibliothecis publicis Hungariae asservantur* (CIH), which contains descriptions of 7,107 copies and reflects the state of public collections in Hungary in 1970. This catalogue does not contain copy-specific information, but indicates only the completeness of the copies.
Publications containing provenance information have been published about the incunabula of the NSZL, for example:

Soltész Zoltánné, The Incunabula Collection of the National Széchényi Library = *Yearbook of the National Széchényi Library. 1963–1964*. 109–128. = https://epa.oszk.hu/01400/01464/00006/pdf/109-128.pdf
Dalloul Zaynab, Interesting facts from the ownership records of some of the NSZL's incunabula = https://real.mtak.hu/85988/1/OSZK_inc_cikk_2018_DZ.pdf
Since 1970, the incunabula collection of the National Széchényi Library has grown by 42 publications and decreased by 12. The decrease is due to an exchange for the Leuven Codex containing the Old Hungarian Lamentation of Mary in 1982. Today they hold 1,478 editions in 1,739 copies.
These incunabula are listed in the library's digital catalogue. The records refer to the corresponding CIH entry and also contain copy-specific information; an extraction in excel was sent to C. Dondi.
C. Dondi will share the file with DCG; if corresponding ISTC numbers can be found, well; if not, the colleagues in Budapest will do that manually.
Action: share the excel file received from NSZL with DCG.

Hungary, incunabula in other libraries
The NSZL maintains a separate Office of Hungarian Rare Books Registry, which also tracks changes in the incunabula collections of the country's public libraries. The head of the office is Gábor Farkas (farkas.gabor@oszk.hu). CIH, updated in 2008, is available at the following link:
https://mek.oszk.hu/06100/06119/
The main changes between 1970 and 2008 are as follows:
Seventeen incunabula are missing from the Budapest Seminary Library. The shortage was discovered during the 1985 inventorying. The Library of the Episcopal Seminary in Győr now has only 119 of the original 194 copies. The shortage was detected in 1998. There has been a slight increase in the collections of the Székesfehérvár Episcopal Library, the Szabó Ervin Library in Budapest, the Eger Archdiocesan Library, and the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The collection of incunabula in Hungary also changed with the return of books from Russia to the library of the College of Sárospatak (2006).

Italy, Ala, Bibl. Comunale
Four editions described in MEI from printed catalogue by Roberta Ricci in May 2025 during her traineeship at Rome BNCR; see below.

Italy, Arezzo Bibl. Comunale
55 editions described in MEI from printed catalogue by Roberta Ricci in May 2025 during her traineeship at Rome BNCR; see below.

Italy, Castroreale (Messina, Sicily)
Luciano Scarpaci, Direttore della Biblioteca del Conservatorio di Bologna (direzione.biblioteca@consbo.it), will catalogue in MEI the incunabula of Castroreale, Biblioteca comunale (18 eds in ISTC) which is receiving c. 20 more incunabula from the local Archivio and Museum, not yet in ISTC. He will attend the Multilingual Training course at Sapienza University (1-2 Dec. 2025).

Italy, Naples BN – ongoing
Claudia Grieco (claudia.grieco@unicampania.it), a PhD student in History of Illumination (supervisor Prof. Teresa D'urso) at Caserta Università Vanvitelli, got in touch about becoming a MEI editor, to include Neapolitan illuminated incunables at the centre of her research, and more from Naples BN, where she works (Mar. 2025).

Italy – Parma, Bibl. Palatina
Sara Brasca, doctoral student in Heritage Science (Rome Sapienza) is working on the incunabula of Bibl. Palatina of Parma (400 inc.) in MEI; see S. Brasca, 'Alle origini della Biblioteca Palatina: il fondo incunabolistico di Carlo Ludovico di Borbone', *Teca* 14 (Dec. 2024), 29-38 https://teca.unibo.it/article/view/18701/20073

Italy – Piedmont – ongoing

Prof. Alessandra Panzanelli and the students of her course at the University of Turin are cataloguing in MEI a number of libraries: Asti, Biblioteca del Seminario Vescovile (226 editions in ISTC, 133 of which already in MEI); Novara, Bibl. Civica Carlo Negroni (129 editions in ISTC); Pinerolo, Bibl. Diocesana Giulio Bonatto, 4 editions in 5 copies; Susa Biblioteca diocesana, 3 editions (not yet in ISTC) (5 Aug. 2025).

Italy – Pisa, Biblioteca Universitaria
On 22 Jan. 2025 Pisa BU (155 eds in ISTC) joined MEI; two 2 new editors:
dott.ssa Graziana Alagna (graziana.alagna@cultura.gov.it), dott.ssa Emanuela Garibaldi (emanuela.garibaldi@cultura.gov.it).

Italy – Rome, Biblioteca Alessandrina – ongoing
Roberta Ricci, Global Humanities student (Rome, Sapienza Univ.) described in MEI astronomy and astrology incunabula in the Alessandrina collection for her thesis (supervisor C. Dondi), successfully defended in July 2025.

Italy – Trento, Biblioteca Comunale
Vanessa Rossi, former CERL grantee, now librarian at Trento Biblioteca Comunale, will add their 536 incunables in MEI. A number are already in their digital library ('pro bibliotheca erigenda'): https://bdt.bibcom.trento.it/Testi-a-stampa/(form)/testo_stampa?progetto=Pro+bibliotheca+erigenda&_sort_0_sort_by=data&_sort_0_sort_order=asc&_sort_0_limit=10. Ester Peric provided some refresh MEI training in July 2025.

The Netherlands
Dutch libraries continue to add records to MEI: Amsterdam, Deventer, Groningen, Utrecht. They held a meeting about MEI in Utrecht on 12 May 2025 (Marieke van Delft).

South America - Argentina
Tomás de Brito, who works with Ana Mosqueda at Ediciones Ampersand, Buenos Aires, is correcting MEI records created by Roberto Casazza.

United States – Univ. of Southern California Libraries
On 22 Oct. 2024 Marta Fernandez Golbano, Rare Books Cataloger – Librarian, University of Southern California Libraries, enquired about MEI and provenance research.

United States – Wesleyan University
134 editions are listed in ISTC for Wesleyan University; in August 2025 Pax Crowley (they/them), Special Collections Cataloging Librarian (pcrowley01@wesleyan.edu) expressed an interest in cataloguing them in MEI.

1.3. Uploads in Progress – on hold
French Regional Libraries
PhiloBiblon data

1.4. Uploads Proposed – on hold
Copenhagen KB
Historical Copies: RICI
London Senate House
Swiss Libraries (Bern, Lucern, Lausanne)
Bamberg State Library (a sample from INKA was sent by Bettina Wagner)
Budapest NSZL

1.5. MEI and PDA

1.5.1. On 26 July 2025 Prof. Alessandra Panzanelli sent 24GB of provenance images of BL incunabula, taken during her research fellowship with the 15cBOOKTRADE project, to Ethienne Posthumus (PDA developer), to be uploaded onto the PDA.

1.5.2. The PrintRevUS project will collect a large amount of provenance images in its Rome-based server. Officine Informatiche, developers of the server, will make the images exportable with the FTP protocol. **Action: Share this information with Ethienne Posthumus.**

1.6. MEI in Spanish, Portuguese – pending; Polish – done
MEI has been translated into Spanish by the Colon Project (complete, needs uploading) and is being translated into Portuguese by Fabiano Cataldo (not received yet).
Martyna Osuch and Wojtek Kordyzon have prepared a translation into Polish, delivered in Oct. 2024; it was implemented in winter 2024.

1.7. Revision of MEI database
The file with suggestions and requirements to be funded by C. Dondi's new FIS grant (started Nov. 2024) was shared and discussed with DCG in Winter 2024/25; work is taking place during the 2025/26 period.

1.8. For discussion with ISTC
To reconsider applying the subject/keyword/period created by the 15cBOOKTRADE (and already included in MEI) to ISTC, to facilitate the selection of material. On 9 Nov. 2024 C. Dondi sent an updated list to Karen Limper-Herz.

1.9. Other news:
-Leonard Polonsky, of the Polonsky Foundation, died on 15 Mar. 2025; the Secretary sent a note to the family.

-Nathalie Coilly (BnF) reported the sad news of the death of Ursula Baurmeister, author, with Denise Hilard and Nicolas Petit, of CIBN (4 Mar. 2025).

-Fausto Lincio reported the completion of the digitization of 29 incunabula in the collection of the Biblioteca Provinciale Carmelitani Scalzi of Milan, done by Gabriele Lo Piccolo (scanning) and Lisa Longhi (metadata). An excel sheet with the links, already included by Lincio himself in the MEI records, was provided for, and passed on to, ISTC and GW (Mar. 2025).

- On 25 Sept. 2025 Ester Peric (PrintRevUS) trained in MEI Jeanette Croen, Rossitza Atanassova (BL digital curator), and Harry Lloyd. Jeanette is a PhD placement student working under the supervision of R. Atanassova and Alyssa Steiner on extracting data from BMC XI in order to - amongst other things - possibly enrich cataloguing data for the English incunabula in the future and create MEI records.

-Roberta Ricci, a Global Humanities student (Rome, Sapienza Univ.) did a traineeship of 150 hours in Rome, National Central Library (BNCR), supervised by Saveria Rito: she worked on paper catalogues of incunabula in Italian collections, checking and/or adding the copies in ISTC and in MEI.

-Three students of the Global Humanities course (Sapienza Univ. Rome) asked C. Dondi to prepare a thesis in History of the Book: two of them will probably work on the creation of MEI records for Russian collections, including unica (Taisa Baeva and Anna Matveevskaia), Sara Civini, currently in Australia, may consider working on collections in Australia.

2.Incunabula Working Group Meetings and News

2.1. Meetings

On 27 Dec. 2024 C. Dondi circulated the minutes of the 10th IWG remote meeting, which had taken place on 5 Dec. 2024. It was attended by colleagues from Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US.

2.2. TEXT-inc: https://textinc.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/

TEXT-inc was taken offline by the Bodleian, together with several other databases, on a matter of security, on 29 Nov. 2024; it was made available again on a secure server on 13 Feb. 2025. Many thanks to the Bodleian developer, Calvin Butcher, for overseeing a successful migration.

2.3. ISTC Hack & Yack: 21 November 2024, org. Alyssa Steiner

"The ISTC Hack & Yack is an opportunity to learn about the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) dataset and to play around with some digital humanities tools. The ISTC is a catalogue of all books printed with movable type in the 15thcentury and has been compiled and edited at the British Library for the last 45 years. This is a session open to all interested in the uses of bibliographical data, regardless of skill level and background knowledge.

Following a short introduction to the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue at the BL, we will turn to the ISTC dataset download. We will consider some of the bibliographical questions that arise and how we might be able to answer them using digital humanities tools. We will also run through some easy-to-use digital humanities tools and work on a few examples. If you want to use the ISTC dataset for your own tools you are very welcome to do that too."

2.4. ISTC Day: 15 Jan. 2025, org. Alyssa Steiner

Programme: Welcome by Karen Limper-Herz (BL) and Marian Leffert (CERL); Short history of ISTC & the changing Incunabula Online-sphere, by Alyssa Steiner (BL); Perspectives of Current Users by Meg Ford (Christies) and Richard Linenthal: Book trade perspective; ISTC Data Release and Structuring Data from Text by Mia Ridge, Harry Lloyd and Alyssa Steiner (BL); Rossitza Atanassova (BL): Computational reuse of catalogue data: Catalogue of books printed in the 15th century now at the British Museum (BMC); Visualising Data by Sandra Tuppen (British Library): Library catalogue records as a research resource: introducing 'A Big Data History of Music'; Greg Prickman (Folger Library): ISTC data and the Atlas of Early Printing. The vent concluded with a discussion on The Future of ISTC: What type of bibliographical questions do we want to be able to answer? How can we change ISTC accordingly?

3. Projects

3.1. Nicolas Jenson and early printing in Venice - workshop, Venice 28-29 Nov. 2024

The workshop was supported by a grant of $5600 = 5,035.52 euro from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation of New York City, received by CERL in Sept. 2024. The workshop gathered a team of scholars who explored a variety of aspects in the production of the French printer active in Venice in the 1470s. Their research will result in a monograph edited by Riccardo Olocco and C. Dondi, to be published by Ronzani Editore of Vicenza (the other co-funder of the workshop) at the end of 2025. Sabrina Minuzzi: *Jenson "fradelo" della Scuola Grande di San Marco;* Cristina Dondi *Aggiornamento dell'articolo di Scholderer "Printing at Venice to the End of 1481";* Laura Nuvoloni *La produzione di manoscritti a Venezia e nel Veneto negli anni 1450–1480;* Neil Harris *La carta e la tecnologia della stampa;* Riccardo Olocco *I caratteri e la tipografia di Jenson e l'importanza del suo romano;* Alessandra Panzanelli *Nicolas Jenson di fronte alla stampa dei "libri legales";* Tobias Daniels *I soci di Jenson, Rauchfass e Ugelheimer; Jenson e il titolo di conte palatino;* Agostino Contò *Documenti d'archivio relativi a Jenson, con nuove trascrizioni;* Elena Fogolin *La strategia autopromozionale di Jenson, analisi dei paratesti e dei colophon delle sue edizioni;* Oliver Duntze *Una verifica delle edizioni attribuite a Jenson;* Matilde Malaspina *Domande sull'attribuzione di due edizioni di Donatus stampate precocemente;* Ester Camilla Peric *Nicolas Jenson e il commercio di libri a Padova;* Geri Della Rocca de Candal *Jenson e le edizioni di letteratura classica;* Martyna Grzesiak *Il lavoro di Lilian Armstrong su Jenson;* Sabrina Minuzzi *I titoli di medicina di Jenson: una vocazione pratica;* Cristina Dondi *I libri liturgici di Jenson (libri d'ore, messali e breviari);* Piero Scapecchi *Su Nicolas Jenson: metodi e studi di Martin Lowry.*

The papers were all delivered in Italian with powerpoint presentations in English, with the exception of the one by Oliver Duntze. However the final publication with be in English.

The discussion at the end included practical logistics about the publication, which should appear during the second half of 2025. An edition in Italian will follow in 2026.The poster of the seminar, which was circulated to the public also via the CERL network, included the logos of Ronzani Editore, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, CERL, and the Scuola Grande di San Marco.

3.2. FIS Grant to work on US incunabula - ongoing

In August 2023 C. Dondi was awarded a four-year grant by the Italian Ministry of Research to work on incunabula today in the United States. The project, **Printing Revolution and American Collections: the migration of cultural heritage at times of political change** (PrintRevUS), is investigating the consequences, intended and unintended, direct and indirect, of historical policies and events on the European book heritage then migrated to the United States.
In collaboration with American libraries, a team of specialists is examining the books to reconstruct the history of their migration, in large collections such as Yale, Harvard, Princeton, New York, Chicago, Washington, Baltimore and San Marino in California, and in hundreds of smaller collections.
The project officially started on 1 Nov. 2024. A letter about the project was sent to all US libraries member of CERL on 1 Oct. 2024. In Jan. 2025 C. Dondi was in New York City during Bibliography Week and had meetings with the Directors of the main libraries involved to discuss logistics. Five researchers started to work for the project in June 2025: Ester Peric (NYC Morgan), Paolo Sachet (Harvard), Angeline Rais (Huntington), Martyna Grzesiak (Library of Congress), Geri Della Rocca de Candal (Greek editions); Anna Chemisova is liaising with US libraries and managing the server which will host images of provenance received from US libraries. During the course of Summer/Autumn 2025 four consultants are being recruited to take images of provenance in these major collections and share them with the researchers on a Rome-based server. The server will be operational from Oct. 2025. During Autumn 2025 C. Dondi is writing to all US libraries with smaller collections of incunabula, asking them to share images of provenance with the project via the server. DCG has provided lists of editions printed in Italy and today in the US, extracted from ISTC. A webpage of the project (within the Printing Revolution website) went live on 1 Oct. 2025: https://www.printingrevolution.eu/printing-revolution-and-american-collections/.
The team will do a presentation in New York City during Bibliography Week 2026 at the Italian Cultural Institute (22 Jan. 2026).

3.3. Incunabula in Italian monastic libraries - Phase II – on hold

The colleagues of Rome BNC (Andrea Cappa and Saveria Rito), Marina Venier and C. Dondi are in the process of preparing an application to the Polonsky Foundation for Phase II of the project which started with the collection of Subiaco (2018-20). This phase will include the other monastic institutions attached to national monuments of the Latium region: Grottaferrata, Casamari, Trisulti, Farfa.

3.4. New ERC Project

In Sept. 2024 Matilde Malaspina secured a five-year ERC Starting Grant to work on *Hernando Colón's universal library. European culture and intellectual production at the dawn of the global world* (COLIBRI). The project, based at Sapienza University of Rome, started on 1 Oct. 2025. The BOB database (within CERL's digital ecosystem) will continue to grow with the identification of incunabula from Colón's collection (partly in Seville, partly dispersed), as well as 16th-century printed books and occasional manuscripts.
COLIBRI will also be presented in New York City during BibWeek 2026 at the Italian Cultural Institute (22 Jan. 2026).

3.5. Collaboration Univ. of Turin, Regione Piemonte, and Conferenza Episcopale Piemontese

For some years now, and coordinated by Prof. Alessandra Panzanelli of the Univ. of Turin, this collaboration is supporting the cataloguing in MEI of incunabula in the libraries of Piedmont. Outreach events, such as exhibitions and presentations for the general public, are also organised; for example, on

28 Sept. 2025 the five incunabula of Pinerolo's diocesan library are exhibited on the occasion of the European heritage days (27-28 Sept. 2025).

4. Doctoral, Master, and undergraduate research centred on MEI

4.1. Completion of Doctorates

Elena Fogolin successfully obtained her PhD (Univ. of Udine and Mainz) in Dec. 2024: thesis 'German printers active in Rome in the XV century, early printing techniques, and the circulation of early printed books' (supervisors: N. Harris and C. Reske). It examines 351 editions in 449 copies.

Martyna Grzesiak successfully obtained her PhD (Univ. of Oxford) in Jan. 2025: thesis 'A copy census of the first printed editions of the Bible in Italian (1471-1494)' (supervisor: C. Dondi). It examines 11 editions in 203 copies.

4.2.King's College London KURF (= King's Undergraduate Research Fellow) on MEI

A new KURF 2025 project has been proposed, with a focus on data from the *Zornale* of Francesco de Madiis. This is the fourth KURF research project on MEI.

4.3. Erasmus + with CERL on MEI

4.3.1. *Placement in Edinburgh UL*

Francesca Riva, from the University of Turin, catalogued incunabula in MEI from Edinburgh UL (375 eds in ISTC; 66 records created in MEI) under the supervision of Elizabeth Lawrence during an Erasmus + arranged with CERL and which took place during the months June-Sept. 2025. The placement was organised by Alessandra Panzanelli (Univ. of Turin) and C. Dondi, and was agreed with Daryl Green, Elizabeth Lawrence and Rachel Hosker. Francesca is preparing a blog.

4.3.2. Placement in London, Victoria & Albert Museum National Art Library

Debora Sturzo, from the University of Turin, catalogued incunabula in MEI from the V&A (178 eds in ISTC; 69 records created in MEI) under the supervision of Catherine Yvard, during an Erasmus + arranged with CERL and which took place during the months May-July 2025.

Two more applications from Turin students, Hazal Elgun and Gloria Lanzi, were also successful and their destination will be decided in the next months. Lanzi would be happy to work on the Thesaurus and/or the PDA.

4.3.3. Agreement between CERL and University of Turin

In Sept. 2024 the Secretary and Prof. Alessandra Panzanelli (Univ. Turin) prepared the paperwork to include CERL among the official list of internship hosts for the Erasmus + internships offered by the University of Turin.

5.MEI Training Sessions

5.1. Multilingual MEI training, Sapienza Univ. of Rome, 1-2 Dec. 2025

The team of the PrintRevUS project will train potential MEI editors who have been asked to bring images of provenance of 4/5 incunabula of the collections they will be working on.

5.2. *London Rare Books School 2025 'The Book Historian's Digital Tool-Kit', 23-27 June 2025*

Angeline Rais (PrintRevUS) presented MEI on 24 June 2025. She also offered MEI training for a London Senate House new trainee.

5.3. Bologna, Biblioteca Universitaria, Nov-Dec. 2024

A 15-hours MEI Course was organized by the Italian Libraries Association (Associazione italiana biblioteche = AIB), Prof. Paolo Tinti (Univ. of Bologna), and Bologna University Library, on 25 and 29

Nov.; 2, 9 and 13 Dec. 2024. 30 people registered, a combination of Masters and doctoral students and librarians from the libraries of Reggio Emilia, Modena, Bologna, Ravenna, Lucca, Rome, Perugia, Verona. Instructors: Corinna Mezzetti and Fabrizio Fossati
https://www.aib.it/corsi/mei-material-evidence-in-incunabula/

5.4. Uppsala UL, 19 Nov. 2024
On 19 Nov. 2024 C. Dondi run a MEI workshop in Uppsala UL for 13 people from Uppsala, Stockholm NL and Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, Gothenburg UL, and Västerås City Library (Diocesan Library). The workshop was organised by CERL Director Maria Berggren.

6.Teaching the History of the Book and DH (C. Dondi)

6.1. MEI presence in the Masters Course at the University of Cassino, 3 Oct. 2025
The University of Cassino launched a two-year Master on *Libro Antico: Metodi, strumenti, tecnologie per l'analisi, la descrizione e la documentazione del patrimonio manoscritto e stampato antico* [= Heritage Books: methods, resources, technologies for the analysis and description of manuscript and printed heritage]. It includes 2 CUF (12 hours) on MEI: they have been delivered by C. Dondi and Matilde Malaspina.
https://www.unicas.it/media/2ttadhjx/bando-master-biennale-tangari.pdf

6.2. Sapienza University of Rome – BA in Global Humanities, History of the Book, Mar-May 2025
From March to May 2025, Cristina Dondi taught a 63-hours course in the History of the Book for the University of Rome La Sapienza, part of a Global Humanities BA course, in English. The course contextualizes the European printing revolution with sessions on printing in South-East Asia, South and North America, then printing in Greek, Hebrew, Glagolitic, Cyrillic, Armenian, Gee'z and Arabic. Specialists were invited to present non-European topics, either Bodleian curators (Marinita Stiglitz), Cambridge UL curators (Alessandro Bianchi), and former members of the 15cBOOKTRADE (Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Matilde Malaspina) and 15cHEBRAICA Projects (Marco Bertagna); in addition, Dr Manuel Suárez Rivera, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, presented printing and the book trade in the Americas, Dr Marina Garone Gravier, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, presented Colonial typography for indigenous languages; Olga Tkachuk (CERL Grantee 2022) presented printing in Glagolitic and Cyrillic. Digital resources and ongoing research are also presented. Other special lectures were delivered by the new team members of the FIS project *Printing Revolution and American Collections:* Ester Peric, Angeline Rais, Martyna Grzesiak.
The full programme is https://corsidilaurea.uniroma1.it/it/users/cristinadondiuniroma1it.

There were trips to the Tipoteca Italiana, a working Type and Printing Museum, located in Cornuda, 58 km from Venice (with a presentation on type making by Riccardo Olocco), and to look at Eastern and Western books at the Library of the Correr Museum of Venice (M. Viero, G. Paglia). A visit to the Alessandrina Library familiarized the students with the historical collection of La Sapienza (Dir. Daniela Fugaro). Some 100 students are registered for the course, from around the world: Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America. A blog and videos of the trips held in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, created by the students, can be found in the section 'Education' of the Printing R-Evolution website:

https://www.printingrevolution.eu/education/.

7. Papers at conferences / Presentations

1. 22 Jan 2026, **New York City, Italian Cultural Institute**: Launch of the projects PrinRevUS and Colibri during Bibliography Week (C. Dondi, E. Peric, P. Sachet, A. Rais, M. Grzesiak, G. Della Rocca de Candal; M. Malaspina)
2. 3 Nov. 2025, **Padua University**, conference *Fortuna, circolazione e collezionismo del manoscritto miniato nell'Europa del XVIII e XIX secolo*, org. Antonia Delle Fratte. 'Circolazione degli incunaboli tra il XVIII e XIX secolo: eventi ed agenti della dispersione' (C. Dondi).

3. 11 Oct. 2025 **Subiaco, Biblioteca comunale**, conference *Subiaco capitale del libro a stampa*: 'Il progetto Polonski per Subiaco' (C. Dondi and Marina Venier).
4. 1 July 2025, **San Miniato**, ***InkCode: a DH² Summer School for Ancient to Early Modern History:*** 'Tracking the movement of books over time and reconstructing dispersed book collections' (org. Stefania Pastore, Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, Stanford CESTA and UCLA, DH)

5. 8-11 July 2025, **Antwerp**, 'Tracking the distribution and use of European books: provenance research, good technology, and international collaboration – The CERL ecosystem', in *Tudor England and the Antwerp Book Trade: From Tyndale to Plantin* (C. Dondi, keynote)
6. 7 May 2025, Sapienza University of **Rome**, Doctorate in Scienze documentarie, linguistiche e letterarie, coord. Paola Castellucci: 'Strumenti digitali per lo studio della produzione, distribuzione, e uso del primo libro a stampa' [= digital resources for the study of the production, distribution, and use of early printed books] (C. Dondi)
7. 9 Apr. 2025, **The Huntington Library**, San Marino (Cal.), **Zeidberg Lecture**: *Early Books' migration: European Upheaval and American Collections* (C. Dondi)
8. 27-28 Feb. 2025, **University of Catania**, 'Collezioni di incunaboli benedettini in Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI): analisi e considerazioni' [= Benedictine collections in MEI: analysis and considerations], in *In balia del tempo e dello spazio: libri in movimento nella prima età moderna*, the closing conference of the project PRIN [= funded by the Italian Ministry of Research] MeMo: Memory of Montecassino, org. Simona Inserra (C. Dondi).
9. 29-30 Nov. 2024, **Venice, Scuola Grande di San Marco**, Nicolas Jenson, un pioniere della stampa del XV secolo, org. Riccardo Olocco and CERL (see above, 3.1.).

10. 19 Nov. 2024 **Uppsala University Library**, 'The 15th-century printing revolution: European heritage, and global dissemination'.

8.Publications

8.1. CERL Blogs (curated by Vera Andriopoulou and Marian Lefferts)
The following blogs on incunabula were published since CERL's AGM in Oct. 2024:

2025, 4 February
Martina Uvale, *CERL Internships 2024 – Utrecht University Library*
2025, 16 January
Valeria Cesaraccio, *CERL Internships 2024 – University Library of Naples*
2024, 13 November
Alyssa Steiner, *The Incunabula Short Title Catalogue at 45: ISTC Day on 15 January 2025*

8.2. *Other publications*
In the Yearbook of the Dutch Bibliophilic Society two contributions on MEI will be published:

- Marieke van Delft, Wie lazen en gebruikten de vroegst gedrukte boeken? De database *Material Evidence in Incunabula*, in: *Jaarboek van het Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofielen 1924*. Amsterdam 2025, pp. 123-128 (in press).

- Megan Baars, 'Material Evidence in Incunabula. Herkomstonderzoek naar de incunabelen uit de Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica in Amsterdam', in: *Jaarboek van het Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofielen 1924*. Amsterdam 2025, pp. 129-140 (in press).

Marieke van Delft, 'De Material Evidence in Incunabula-database (MEI) en incunabelen gedrukt in de Lage Landen', *De Gulden Passer*, 102:2 (2024), 69-83, it discusses MEI and its possibilities for researching incunabula in the Low Countries.

Cristina Dondi is preparing an introductory essay on the printing revolution in Europe for a paper catalogue of the incunabula of the State Archive of Canton Ticino (Switzerland), edited by Laura Luraschi

and published by "Edizioni dello Stato del Cantone Ticino". This publication comes after the cataloguing in MEI of the collection

(https://data.cerl.org/mei/_search?query=Bellinzona%2C+Archivio+di+Stato+del+Cantone+Ticino&from=0), and the online catalogue with images (2019), available on the Archive' website (https://www4.ti.ch/fileadmin/DECS/DCSU/ASTI/Documenti/Asti_Catalogo_incunaboli.pdf).

9. CERL Grants 2025 and Alumni Network

9.1. CERL Grants 2025

On 7 Jan. 2025 the Secretary circulated the call to host CERL internships in 2025. On 3 Mar. 2025 the following six positions were advertised (deadline for application on 4 Apr. 2025); results were communicated on 3 June 2025. Four out of six grants involved incunabula and MEI:

1. To catalogue incunabula at the **Huntington Library, San Marino California** to **Iván Pérez Marinas (Spain)**, a curator in the Department of Manuscripts, incunabula, and Rare Books of the National Library of Spain, Madrid.

2. To catalogue incunabula at the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, Piraeus, Greece to **Jemima Bennett (UK)**, a PhD student in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent and Bodleian Libraries Oxford (collaborative doctoral partnership).

3. To catalogue incunabula at the Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp first assigned to **Letizia Guzzetti (Italy)**, a student at the Vatican School of Library science, then, upon Letizia's withdrawal due to finding full employment in Milan, to **Laura Semlič (Slovenia)** with an MA from the University of Leiden and some experience in working with special collections at The Hague KB and Leiden UL.

4. To catalogue incunabula at Blickling Hall, Norfolk (National Trust) to **Carmen Oanea (Romania)**, a PhD student at Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania exploring the reading practices and habits of early modern readers based on data obtained from former Jesuit libraries across Europe; and with experience in cataloguing Cluj incunabula in MEI.

We received 20 applications from Belgium (2); Brazil (2); France (1); Greece (1); Ireland (1); Italy (4); Romania (1); Slovenia (1, based in NL); Spain (2); Sweden (1); United Kingdom (3); United States (1). 11 early career scholars or librarianship students. 9 early career librarians/archivists or professionals. 15 female and 5 male applicants.

9.2. CERL Alumni Network

CERL set up a dedicated space for CERL Alumni, where we keep track of the career and projects of our interns and their involvement with CERL, its projects, and digital resources. Updates:

- Marianna Morreale now works at ICCU, Rome, and has joined CERL's EC in 2025.
- Ester Peric was awarded a one-year research grant from the University of Udine to work on their incunabula. From June 2025 she is part of the PrintRevUS project.
- Lucrezia Signorello is now a curator at the Biblioteca Malatestiana, Cesena.
- Vanessa Rossi is now librarian at the Biblioteca comunale of Trento.
- Antonia Delle Fratte is continuing her Doctorate in Padua and spent 6 months in Oxford during 2024 facilitated by CERL; she is now spending another 6 months in Padua UL working for a CERL project.
- Elena Fogolin successfully obtained her PhD (Univ. of Udine and Mainz) in Dec. 2024.
- Martyna Grzesiak successfully obtained her PhD (Univ. of Oxford) in Jan. 2025. From June 2025 she is part of the PrintRevUS project.

10. Reference Letters

On 23 Dec. 2024 C. Dondi wrote a reference letter for Riccardo Olocco to support his application to a Princeton UL Research Grant. Successful.

On 26 Nov. 2024 C. Dondi wrote a reference letter for Ester Peric to support her application to a Bodleian visiting fellowship. Successful.

11. Website Printing R-Evolution https://www.printingrevolution.eu/
The section 'Education' includes blogs and videos created by the students of the Global Humanities course at Rome Sapienza University (see above section 6).

The section 'Work in progress' (live on 1 Oct. 2025) includes a section on the PrintRevUS project. Another section will inform on cataloguing incunabula in MEI. This will allow MEI editors working on large campaigns to report their progress, for example, the work in the libraries of Piedmont region (coord. by Alessandra Panzanelli, Univ. Turin), and of the Friuli region.

12. Book Presentation
On 13 Nov. 2024 Venice, Marciana National Library, Mario Infelise (formerly Univ. Venice) and Paola Molino (Univ. Padua) presented the volume *How the Secularization of Religious Houses Transformed the Libraries of Europe, 16th-19th Centuries*, ed. Cristina Dondi, Dorit Raines, and Richard Sharpe † (Turnhout: Brepols, 2022), which includes an article on the reconstruction of the incunabula collection of the Benedictines of S. Giorgio Maggiore of Venice
https://bibliotecanazionalemarciana.cultura.gov.it/eventi/presentazione-del-volume-how-secularization-religious-houses-transformed-libraries-europe

Cristina Dondi, Secretary, PI 15cBOOKTRADE, Chair of the Incunabula WG, 4 Oct. 2025