NATIONAL PROVENANCE RESOURCES

A curated directory of national and regional online resources for provenance research.

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AUSTRIA

- Salzburg – Universitätsbibliothek Salzburg
Online alphabetical lists of former owners of manuscripts, incunabula, early printed books, and rarities including normalised names, dates, notes, shelfmarks: https://www.ubs.sbg.ac.at/sosa/webseite/vorbesitzer.htm. There is also a useful set of pages giving the history of the collections within the Library.

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BELGIUM

- Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)
The Section of Old and Rare Books ('Réserve précieuse/Kostbare Werken') has been cataloguing the provenances of old and rare books since the beginning of the 1990s. Areas covered include incunables (see also below under Incunables) and post-incunables but also the 17th and 18th century books printed in Brussels (about 20.000 items) and for quite a number of old and rare imprints which are recent acquisitions or have been retrospectively catalogued.

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BRAZIL

- The Eloquence of Books: Provenance
The "Webinar Conference Provenance and Printing Culture" took place in October 2020 and was organized by the Research Project "The Eloquence of Books: provenance", until 2020 coordinated by Professor Fabiano Cataldo de Azevedo at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and later at the Federal University of Bahia. Several Brazilian and foreign institutions joined up together in a collaborative effort to make the event possible. Information about the event as well as presentations and recordings are gathered on the website.

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FRANCE

- Bibliopat - Association des bibliothécaires patrimoniaux / French Association of Heritage and Special Collections Librarians
Collaborative initiative uniting French libraries to standardize and federate provenance data with a focus on interoperability with catalogues, authority files, and CERL resources. The group has created pages of resources as a first step, in order to help librarians who wish to start cataloguing provenance.

- Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon: Base Provenance des livres anciens
The Provenance database features marks encountered in the Rare Book and Manuscript collections of the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, marks of ownership as well as marks of censorship, reading, prices, etc. Each record includes images, detailed information on names, marks, dates, etc., and links to the library's catalogue.

- Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, Paris: Reliures estampées à froid
The Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, Paris, has launched a valuable web-based database of its blind-stamped bindings found on manuscripts and printed books from the 12th to the 18th centuries. In addition to digitised images of rubbings showing the binding tools used, and notes on the origins of the bindings, the database has an index of provenances for the books in question.

- Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris: Reliures
The Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, has launched a web-based database of bindings which can be accessed by workshop, owners, type technique material etc., date, and date of acquisition by BnF.

- Fondation Custodia, Paris: Les Marques de collections de dessins & d'estampes
In 2010, the Fondation Custodia, together with the Musée du Louvre and the Dutch **RKD** published an online version of the publication *Les marques de collections de dessins & d'estampes*, prepared by Frits Lugt in 1921 and supplemented by him in 1956. Around 10,000 marks have been gathered, of which 6,400 have been put online and around 5,000 have been identified.

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GERMANY

- Berlin, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin: Einbanddatenbank
A database of stamps and rolls used on bookbindings.

- Buxheim Charterhouse and its library
The library once present at the Carthusian monastery of Buxheim, Germany, was one of the largest of its kind. The manuscripts now reside in over fifty libraries across Europe and North America, and some remain in private hands. Many remain unlocated or unidentified since their sale and dispersion at auction in 1883. You may view the **manuscript catalogues** of c. 1450, 1693 and 1755 and there is a **page** with ink stamps, book plates, shelf numbers, and inscriptions.

- Dresden, Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek: Deutsche Fotothek
In two provenance projects (2009-2013), the SLUB collected 15,000 images. Many of them have been made available through the Deutsche Fotothek.

- Freiburg, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Universitätsbibliothek: Provenienzdatenbank
This Provenance database records the monastic libraries held at the University Library Freiburg.

- **HeBIS-Arbeitsgruppe Historische Bestände**
Starting with an Ad-hoc Group on Provenance in 2007, the **HeBIS network** eventually established a broader *HeBIS Working Group on Old Collections*. The group is running a **provenance mailing list** (postings in German as well as English language) with many international subscribers from museums, archives and libraries actively discussing questions of provenance research. New subscribers are welcome.

Provenance information in Hessen is added to the **HeBIS-Verbundkatalog** and can be searched by selecting the index *"Provenienzen/Exemplarspezifika(PRV)"*. HeBIS-Provenances can also be retrieved in the CERL Thesaurus as can be seen in this **example**.

- Mainz, Wissenschaftliche Stadtbibliothek
The **Wissenschaftliche Stadtbibliothek Mainz** is adding provenance names (for persons and institutions) to the records in its **OPAC**. Select the search field PRO (Provenienz) and search, for example, for "Karmeliterkloster Mainz". The library is a member of the **HeBIS Network**.

- Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: Early modern monastic bookplates
About 600 bookplates from Bavarian monasteries can be searched alphabetically, with hyperlinks to the *Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte* which provides information on the history of each monastery.

Descriptions of the incunabula owned by a particular institution or person can be retrieved in the **BSB's online catalogue of incunabula** by entering the name in the field "Provenienz". Please make sure to put names consisting of more than one word in inverted commas, e.g. "Abensberg, Karmelitenkloster" or "Abenperger, Hans".

- **Regensburg, Staatliche Bibliothek**
The library has an **online list of former owners** (personal and institutional) in its collections up to the year 1830 (with a few later collections). There are digitised images of bookplates, binding stamps, etc. and an index of Regensburg institutions to which personal owners can be associated.

- **Stuttgart, Württembergische Landesbibliothek: Provenienzen**
Overview of pages on former owners of early printed books in the WLB collection that list the most important institutions and individuals.

- T-PRO – Thesaurus der Provenienzbegriffe
The T-PRO | Thesaurus der Provenienzbegriffe was developed by the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek Weimar and edited in cooperation with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz. The thesaurus draws on the information from *Provenance Evidence - Thesaurus for Use in Rare Book and Special Collections Cataloguing (Chicago: American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, 1988)* and the work of the Bibliothèque municipale, Lyon. Terms are offered in German, English and French.

- Weimar, Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek
Since 1997, the library has been adding provenance names (for persons and institutions) and provenance terms (using the **T-PRO | Thesaurus der Provenienzbegriffe**) to the records in its **catalogue**. Select the search field "Provenienz". There is also **information** on Nazi looted art ("NS-Raubgut") related to the collections of the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek.

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ITALY

- Bologna, Archiginnasio: Provenance Database: Archivio dei Possessori
Illustrated database of former ownership marks (inscriptions, stamps, superlibros, ex-libris, ex-dono, shelfmarks), with a separate list of unidentified marks. Suggestions for the indentification can be sent to the Head of the project, Dott. Laura Tita Farinella, Laura.Titafarinella@comune.bologna.it.

- Fondazione Fedrigoni Fabriano: Watermarks Database: Corpus Chartarum Fabriano (CCF)
The Corpus Chartarum Fabriano (CCF) is a catalogue containing records of watermarked and non-watermarked western paper manufactured over the past eight centuries in Fabriano: since the end of the 18th century to the present day. The project includes the identification, the cataloguing as well as the digitalisation of all watermarked papers conserved by Fondazione Fedrigoni Fabriano. The website includes a useful user guide.

- Montevergine, Biblioteca Statale: Archivio dei possessori
Illustrated database of former ownership marks (ex-libris, stamps, manuscript annotations, bindings, etc.) from the rare books collection of the Library, spec. 16th-century.

- Naples, National Library: Archivio dei possessori
Illustrated database of former ownership marks (ex-libris, stamps, manuscript annotations, bindings, etc.) from the rare books collection of the Library.

- Padua, Biblioteca Universitaria, La Biblioteca dell'architetto del Rinascimento: Virtual exhibition

Virtual Exhibition with an illustrated section on notes of provenance and bindings.

- Florence, Archivio di Stato: Coat of Arms Database
The Ceramelli Papiani Collection, amassed by Enrico Ceramelli Papiani (1896–1976) and now housed in the State Archives of Florence, contains nearly 8,000 files on historic Tuscan families. Each file includes genealogical and heraldic information sourced from Florentine and other Tuscan archival and library records.

- Florence, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Max-Planck-Institut: Stemmario

Stemmario is a database with over 2,800 coats of arms of Florentine families, churches, hospitals, and confraternities. More information about the project **here**.

- Rome, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana: Coats of Arms Database: Araldica Vaticana
Arms of Popes, Cardinals, and Religious Orders.

- Rome, Biblioteca Casanatense: Coat of arms Database
The library's coat of arms database contains some 1,000 arms of owners and dedicatees found in manuscripts and incunabula in the Casanatense library. The database is particularly helpful for the identification of anonymous arms, thanks to the "Termini" search option.

Further information from Dott.ssa Laura Giallombardo, Responsabile del Fondo Araldico, Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome.

- Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale: Marina Venier: The Libraries of the suppressed Religious Houses, Rome, 1876 (*updated February 2016*)
Following the suppression of the religious houses in Rome (1873) as a consequence of the creation of the new Kingdom of Italy with Rome as its capital, the libraries of the suppressed religious houses were confiscated for the benefit of the newly created National Central Library (1876).

In her article 'The computerised archive of owners in the older publications database of SBN: the experience of the National Central Library of Rome', *CERL Papers V*, 2005, pp. 43-53 (see above), Marina Venier (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome) describes the process of confiscation and the attempts of the religious to avoid the loss of their books. The Appendix to her article is reproduced here, listing the 78 libraries confiscated, their size and religious affiliation, reference to surviving catalogues of the original collections, and reproduction of ownership stamps and labels from many of the collections.

- Turin, Archivio Ebraico Terracini
Owners of early printed books (Possessori libri antichi a stampa) and Censorship notes (Note di censura).

- Turin, Archivio di Stato: Jewish Books at Court (Libri ebraici a Corte)
The database collects useful sources for reconstructing the history of the formation of the Jewish book collections of the Ducal Library of Turin, later the Royal Library and Royal University Library.

- Turin and Piedmont: Coat of arms Database

- Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana: Provenance Database: Archivio dei possessori
Illustrated database of former ownership marks (ex-libris, stamps, manuscript annotations, bindings, etc.) from the rare books and manuscripts collection of the Library - ongoing.

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MEXICO

- Puebla, Fire Marks Collective Catalogue (Marcas de fuego)
'Fire marks' are a form of provenance evidence which was frequently burnt into the fore edges of the books and also in the front cover or the endsheets. This type of brand was used in the Colonial period, in New Spain, by various religious orders and institutions such as colleges or seminaries, and also by private individuals. This Website presents a collective catalogue, with digital images belonging to different institutions.

NETHERLANDS

- The Hague, KB, nationale bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands): Index to Pennink's Catalogue of non-Dutch postincunables 1500-1540 held in the KB The Hague

It is not possible to click through to the bibliographic records, but its is a finding aid for identifying relevant materials held in the KB The Hague.

POLAND

- Ossolineum Library, Wrocław, Poland

Printed publication: *Książka dawna I jej właściciele* (Early Printed Books and Their Owners), ed. Doroty Sidorowicz-Mulak and Agnieszki Franczyk-Cegly. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Ossolineum, 2017. Two, richly illustrated, volumes with 39 papers on provenance marks. Many papers painstakingly identify provenance marks in use at religious, administrative and educational institutions in Poland.

SCOTLAND

- Advocates Library (Edinburgh, Scotland): Older printed catalogues of the Advocates Library, from 1692 to 1912

An overview of their shelfmarks, stamps and inscriptions, dating from the 1692 to the 1920s.

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SPAIN

- Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona

The Universitat de Barcelona has created a database catalogue of *Former Owners*. The records have digitised images of signatures and other provenance marks.

Former owners can also be searched for in the online catalogue of the University of Barcelona (in Catalan and in English).

Information about the Rare Books and Manuscript CRAI Library of the University of Barcelona can be found here.

Papers decorats del CRAI Biblioteca de Reserva: Marbled and other decorated paper database.

- Madrid, Royal Library (Real Biblioteca)

As part of its work on the history of the Royal Library, the Real Biblioteca has developed two databases of interest for provenance research.

- *Encuadernaciones de la Real Biblioteca*: a database of bookbindings with digitised images
- *Base de datos de Ex libris de la Real Biblioteca*: a database of armorial bindings, stamps, bookplates and inscriptions of former owners of items in its collections, with digitised images. On the search page, the pull-down menu labelled 'Identificación' gives an alphabetical list of the persons indexed in the database, who are mainly members of the royal family, aristocrats or scholars. The data range from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

- Madrid, Universidad Complutense, Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla

Illustrated Database of former owners of the Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla, in progress https://biblioteca.ucm.es/historica/procedencias-1.

Previous owners can be searched for through the Rare Books on-line catalogue, by selecting the author field in the drop-down menu and typing the name with the addition of 'ant. pos.' (former owner).

E.g. to search for books which belonged to the Colegio Mayor San Ildefonso at Alcalá de Henares, enter the words 'Colegio Mayor San Ildefonso ant. pos.'. View the results of this search.

The following article can also be consulted:
Ana Santos Aramburo and Marta Torres Santo Domingo, 'La Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense: una primera aproximación a la historia de sus procedencias',

In *La Memoria de los libros: Estudios sobre la historia del escrito y de la lectura en Europa y América*, Salamanca, Instituto de Historia del Libro y de la Lectura, [2004], Tomo II, pp. 265-286.

- Salamanca, Universidad de Salamanca, Biblioteca General Histórica

Illustrated database of former owners: http://bibliotecageneralhistorica.usal.es/

A complete listing of provenance names is currently being compiled for the Biblioteca General Histórica of the Universidad de Salamanca. Each entry offers as much information as possible including biographical dates and activities, ownership marks and notes, as well as bookplates and bindings, all with digitized images and bibliographies.

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SWITZERLAND

- Zurich, Zentralbibliothek

The Benefactors' Book (1629–1772) of the former Zurich Public Library Zentralbibliothek Zürich, Arch St 22. Digital reproduction and electronic edition on e-manuscripta.

This striking manuscript, with numerous illustrations of coat of arms, lists more than 900 donors and about 3300 donations. Scholars, politicians, merchants, refugees as well as ambassadors donated books and objects such as portraits or coins to the Zurich Public Library. In return, the donors were immortalised with an entry in the Benefactors' Book. In addition to the donors identified, the electronic edition contains the bibliographical information of the donated titles. In many cases, the exact copies are also identified, which are part of the Zentralbibliothek Zürich's vast collection today. The names, titles and shelfmarks of the copies of the Zentralbibliothek are searchable in full-text (via the search field at the top right). The second volume of the Benefactors' Book (1774-1860) is available as digital reproduction and electronic edition. Benefactors' books as the ones in Zurich can also be found in other libraries, for example in the Bodleian or in the Pembroke College Library.

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UNITED KINGDOM

- **Book Owners Online**
The project, led by David Pearson, is a collaboration between the Bibliographical Society and the Centre for Editing Lives & Letters at University College London, with support from the the Bodleian Library, Oxford. It currently covers 17th-century English book owners – people who died between 1610 and 1715 – but it is designed to be scalable and they hope to expand it chronologically and geographically.

- British Armorial Bindings
A comprehensive catalogue of all the coats of arms, crests, and other heraldic devices that have been stamped by British owners on the outer covers of their books, together with the bibliographical sources of the stamps. By John Morris, continued and edited by Philip Oldfield, under the sponsorship of the Bibliographical Society of London in conjunction with the University of Toronto Library.

- Alan Nelson, Index to former owners of various printed books
Professor Emeritus Nelson's private web site is no longer hosted at Berkeley, but can be viewed **here**. It has two online provenance indexes for early English books:

– Books owned by Humphrey Dyson (1582–1633) listed by library and by STC-number
– Provenance Index to UMI-STC microfilms (1475–1640).

- Margaret Lane Ford, Early Book Owners in Britain
The British History of books, which started in the early Middles Ages and continues to date, comprises not only the establishment of printed books in Great Britain, but also the import and buying of them. The private ownership of printed books is up to now a barely investigated question. Margaret Lane Ford addresses herself to this task in respect of the private ownership of printed books in the late 15th and early 16th century. For a contribution to The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain she has gathered evidences of provenances for the time period in question from over 4300 printed works in the past, books in private ownership had a high practical value and were of importance for the professionalism. Classical and theological texts were indispensable for the university-educated and the students, while technical works were needed by merchants and handcrafters.

- William M. Hamlin, Alphabetical List of Private Book-Owners and Institutional Collections
Professor Hamlin's **site** at Washington State University has been archived and lists former

owners (c. 1500–1700) as part of his project on *Early Modern English Library Catalogues: A Working Bibliography.*

- Private Libraries - Articles in *The Library* selected by David Pearson
A selection of articles published in *The Library*, the journal of the Bibliographical Society, during the period 1892-2015, prepared by David Pearson in order to compile the 2015 virtual issue of the journal on the topic of private libraries, with a brief summary of their contents. **Download PDF here**.

- Corpus Christi College, Cambridge: Bookplates in the Parker Library
The page lists bookplates found inside books in the Parker Library, with Franks numbers where found. It is hoped to add more illustrations at a future date.

- Cambridge University Libraries: Rare Books Department: Rare Books provenance
Information on provenance information put together by the Rare Books Department of the Cambridge University Libraries with many helpful links.

- **Canterbury Cathedral Library**
The Canterbury Cathedral library online catalogue is currently available as part of the **online catalogue of the University of Kent**; the **advanced search page** is the most useful.
There are plans to launch a new online catalogue combining the Cathedral's printed and archive catalogues. Questions about access to the books should be sent to **library@canterbury-cathedral.org**.

• David Shaw's Wiki of Canterbury Cathedral provenances
At **https://cclprovenance.djshaw.co.uk/** which is mainly focussed on the period up to 1800 and includes far more detail than the library catalogue entries.
This is currently housed on his own server but will shortly be moved to a new wiki farm for bibliographical resources which the Bibliographical Society is developing.

There is also a list of Provenance names for books in the **Canterbury Cathedral Library** printed before 1801:**Download PDF**.

Corrections and other questions about this wiki or list should be sent to david@djshaw.co.uk.

- Bodleian Library, Oxford: Provenance index of rare books collections in the Bodleian Library

From the Bodleian Library's entry in *A directory of rare book and special collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland* / edited by B.C. Bloomfield with the assistance of Karen Potts (Library Association, 1997).
A comprehensive description of the origins and contents of the many constituent collections of the Bodleian and its dependent libraries.

Unidentified coats of arms in Bodleian incunables can be viewed **here**.

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UNITED STATES

- Pennsylvania University, Provenance Online Project (POP)
Images of Unidentified, partially identified, or identified bookplates, stamps, inscriptions, and bindings from their Special Collections.

- Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ALA): RBMS Controlled Vocabularies: Provenance Evidence Terms
These thesauri provide standardised vocabulary for retrieving special collections materials by form, genre, or by various physical characteristics that are typically of interest to researchers and special collections librarians, and for relating materials to individuals or corporate bodies.