

March 2024

#insideCasaliniLibri

Casalini Libri • Erasmus Boekhandel • @Cult



No time like the present | Things to come



After 65 years, Villa La Torrossa may no longer house our offices but it still plays an important part in our identity and events...



...As well as hosting November's symposium on the future of European libraries, it was also the venue for our Christmas party!

Events season

From Mexico City to Madrid, from Brussels to Basel and from Texas to Turin, once again this year we've attended many events and conferences far and wide! It has been a pleasure to team up with our colleagues at Erasmus and @Cult on a number of these occasions and we'd like to thank everyone who took time to visit our stands and listen to our contributions!

The spring saw us travel to Switzerland for this year's Fiesole Retreat, hosted by the University of Basel. With the title "One for all and all for one", the meeting proved an animated and stimulating exchange around the opportunities and challenges bringing libraries and publishers together; all details and slides are available online. We are excited as we look forward to meeting again in Cape Town in May

2024, and are grateful to our collaborators, ITOCA (Information Training and Outreach for Africa) and CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources) for their support in bringing about a truly global conversation putting Africa at the very heart of the programme, allowing us to hear unique African perspectives that have, until now, been less represented in scholarly publishing and Western library collections. Find out more at www.fiesoleretreat.org.

Summer is synonymous with the meetings of ALA, LIBER and IFLA, which took us to Chicago, Budapest and Rotterdam, while no autumn would be complete without the Frankfurter Buchmesse and Spain's Liber Feria del Libro. It also saw us involved in the 7th [BIBFRAME](#)

The story so far *inside* Casalini Libri

It is strange to think that 65 years have passed since our father first set out following his intuition and began supplying Italian books to libraries abroad!

From the small offices he rented in Florence with only a handful of collaborators, we've grown into a 100-strong team working from a custom-built home - not forgetting our Erasmus and @Cult colleagues in Paris, Amsterdam and Rome, of course!

Much of this has been made possible by the generous and rewarding collaboration we receive from so many libraries, who have guided, inspired and encouraged our many innovations and evolutions over the years, as we have extended the areas we cover, embraced digital formats and committed to innovation in cataloguing and linked data. We hope to continue to enjoy such invaluable partnerships for many more years to come!

And so, as we venture into our 66th year, we've had a little fun reminiscing (as you will see overleaf) but mostly we're very happy to once again bring you up to date with our projects and plans, news and ventures from inside Casalini Libri.

Barbara and Michele Casalini

[Workshop in Europe](#), hosted by the Royal Library of Belgium. It is extremely promising and exciting to see how we have progressed in this short time span from conversing about principles to exchanging real-life experiences of implementation in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

As winter approached, it brought our annual trip to the Charleston Conference. We were also delighted to open the doors of Villa La Torrossa for a symposium on the current state and future challenges of European academic libraries, in collaboration with our neighbours, the European University Institute.

Keep up to date with upcoming events on our online [calendar](#).

Never a dull nano second

It has been a very busy twelve months for our Digital Division as the Torrossa catalogue continues to expand, now counting over 500 publishers and University Presses from Europe, the UK and USA. When we haven't been liaising with publishers and adding content to our digital collections, we've been working hard on all-important aspects such as accessibility and open access.

Our collaborations with the LIA Foundation for Accessible Italian Books and EDRLab continue to go from strength to strength, with the latter's Radium LCP technology - a simple but reliable solution for distributing protected content - being implemented as the basis for a new reader app for enhanced consultation and personalisable settings for ePub files. Currently available for content purchased on our digital bookstore, we plan to make this development available also to institutional readers in the future.

To cement the collaboration, it was with great pleasure that our Head of Digital, Luisa Gaggini, took a seat on the EDRLab board. As board member, Luisa aims to give voice to stakeholders who are sometimes under-represented in international Boards, stating that she is "honoured to take up the challenge of working for the good of defining open standards and interoperability between systems".

We continue in taking forward our mission to provide the best and widest possible access to scholarly content, with the continuing growth of our Torrossa Open collections of digital content in open access, and to support libraries and research institutions in the procurement and management of digital content with a focus on interoperability; we are currently working on the implementation of the COUNTER 5.1 standard and look forward to making it available to our customers soon.



In attendance at the International Association of Law Libraries Annual Course in Geneva.

Digital days

We are looking forward to a day of dialogue, exchange and collaboration with our Italian publishing partners in April 2024. Following on from previous editions, the Torrossa Retreat will provide the opportunity to discuss national and international tendencies in the digital academic publishing market; to share experiences, ideas and opinions among colleagues and peers and build common strategies for the future; to delve further into the work we are undertaking at Casalini Libri and discover more about how we aim both to increase and improve access to resources, and to facilitate acquisitions of scholarly content in digital format for institutions and individuals.

The 2024 Torrossa Retreat will take place on Thursday 18th April at the Teatro di Fiesole. More information can be found at www.torrossaretreat.org.



We were present at the Frankfurt Buchmesse in October, once again as joint exhibitors with Erasmus Boekhandel.

HOW
TIME
FLIES

The 1958 Times

65
YEARS
ON

ROLLING BACK THE YEARS



IN PRINT

Il Gattopardo, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa is published. It wins the 1959 edition of the Premio Strega literary prize.

ON SCREEN

I soliti ignoti appears on cinema screens, starring Vittorio Gassman, Renato Salvatori, Carlo Pisacane, Tiberio Murgia and Marcello Mastroianni. It is Italy's Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards the following year.

IN THE CHARTS

Nel blu, dipinto di blu, popularly known as Volare and recorded by singer-songwriter Domenico Modugno, is released, winning the eighth annual San Remo music festival.



ON THE ART SCENE

Oswaldo Licini is awarded the Grand Prize for painting at the twenty-ninth Venice Biennale.

IN THE NEWS

Italy signs the **Treaty of Rome**, marking the creation of the European Economic Community

IN SPORT

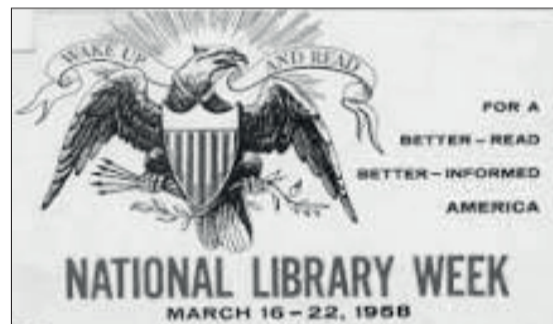
Ercole Baldini wins both the Giro d'Italia and the World Cycling Championship.

FROM THE ARCHIVE IN LIBRARIES

Mario Casalini establishes **Casalini Libri** in response to growing requests both for Italian publications and for quality and timely bibliographic information from scholars and libraries across the United States. The company's mission remains to this day the diffusion of Italian culture worldwide.



Abraham Horodisch, founder of **Erasmus**, publishes the volume *Amor Librorum* to mark his sixtieth birthday, with contributions from an international network of scholars. By then Erasmus had evolved and cemented its status as a supplier to Dutch and foreign libraries.



National Library week is observed for the first time in the US, sponsored by ALA, with the theme "Wake up and Read".

IN POPULAR CULTURE

The Smurfs first appear in "Johan and Pirlouit" by Belgian cartoonist Peyo.

The **Lego** Group patents the design of interlocking Lego bricks.

The **Hula Hoop** becomes an instant success.



DOWN MEMORY LANE FIFTIES FELINES

The film **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, adapted from the play by Tennessee Williams, opens in cinemas.

Andy Warhol features cats in his pop art Lithographs **So happy** and **So meow**.

American animated television series **Felix the Cat** is broadcast for the first time.

The first UK edition of Dr Seuss's children's book, **The Cat in the Hat** is published by Collins.

Italian cartoonist **Luciano Gatto** is commissioned his first full Disney comic book story.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 365 DAYS



The Brussels World Fair, also known as **Expo 58**, begins in Belgium.

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration is formed.

The new **UNESCO** building, World Heritage Centre, is inaugurated in Paris.

Sir Edmund Hillary reaches the South Pole.

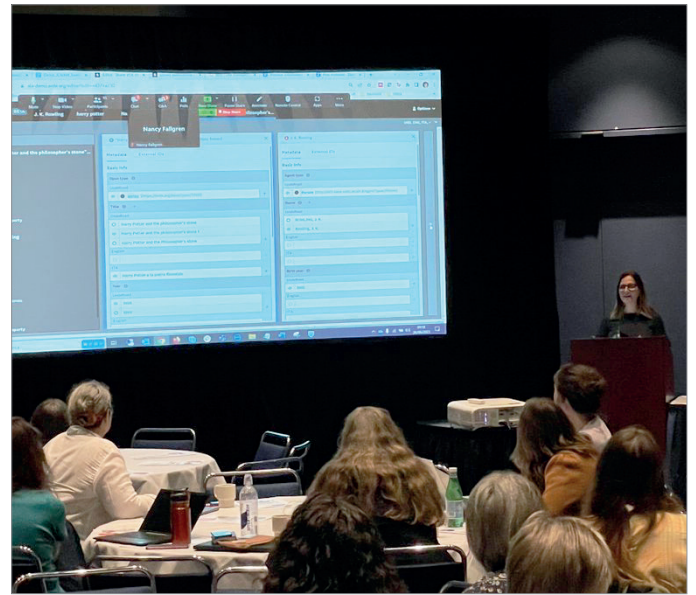
The first **Trans Atlantic** passenger jetliner service begins with flights between London and New York.

Present and correct

The [Share Family](#) continues to grow, with new members and new tenants adding to the quantity and wealth of data. We are pleased to welcome Toronto University, Berkeley Law and Lehigh University among the newest additions to the Share Family. These collaborations mark a significant milestone in our collective efforts to foster collaboration and interoperability within the community, not only strengthening our network but also opening up new possibilities for growth and innovation.

Share members have also been active in collaborating, not only in the ongoing development of the Share components, but also in speaking about Share and their experiences in conferences and specialist meetings throughout the year, from ALA to the BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe and SWIB (Semantic Web in Libraries). We would like to thank the Share community for its continued support and dedication.

One of the exciting moments of 2023 was the presentation of the Share Family's new collaborative data curation tool for the editing of bibliographic data in a collaborative and integrated environment, which will be officially launched in 2024. Developed in tandem with the Share Family community and shared across member institutions, thanks to this resource it is now possible for bibliographic data that has been converted into linked data to be subsequently edited and managed directly by participating librarians in the same environment. A collaborative, hands-on tool, it not only enables a higher quality and greater authoritativeness of data and facilitates the exchange and re-use of



Tiziana Possemato presents the Share Family's new collaborative data curation tool to members in Chicago.

bibliographic information, but also creates economic advantages as libraries share their time, expertise and resources across the entire community for the benefit of all.

Looking to the future, this tool also has the potential to interoperate with other, complementary workflows, tools and systems. If you missed the presentation and would like to know more, you can find a number of resources [online](#) or simply [get in touch!](#)

Share... around the world

The British National Bibliography (Beta) service is live, the first tenant selected for the Share Family National Bibliographies Portal.

LONDON

PARSIFAL is released, bringing together bibliographic data and authority items from 17 libraries of The Roman Union of Ecclesiastical Libraries (URBE).

ROME

The National Taiwan University Library joins the Share Family in Autumn 2023.

TAIWAN

Time out

When Serafia Kari of the National Library of Finland joined us to exchange experiences of linked data and learn more about the Share Family, her leaving gift was such a hit that a new tradition was born - no coffee break is now complete without a shared jigsaw puzzle!



Marking a milestone

On 27th October 2023 we were pleased and proud to attend the final lesson of Prof. Mauro Guerrini in his role as Professor at the University of Florence. Architect of the university's Master's degree in Library and Information Science and founder of JLIS, the Italian Journal of Library and Information Science, Mauro also played an important part in advocating and organising Italy's hosting of the IFLA conference in 2009. It has been an honour to work with Mauro throughout his career, from collaborating on the Italian translation of RDA to supporting the annual *Lectio Magistralis*, given by a number of highly respected visiting experts at the University of Florence each year since 2009, and we wish him the very best for his well earned retirement.

We also extend a warm welcome to Dr Rossana Morriello, who joins the University of Florence as Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science and with whom we have had the pleasure of working on many occasions: we wish you every success in your new role!



We were delighted to see how much our ARLIS colleagues enjoyed their visit in October and hope to welcome them back soon!



An evening of cocktails and classical music at the Teatro di Fiesole followed the symposium for Italian and European librarians in November.

The readers of the future

In 2023 we again contributed to the #ioleggoperché campaign to encourage reading among children, donating books to 5 schools in the local area. When May brought heavy rain and floods to the north of Italy,

we were pleased to send a donation of children's books to the Biblioteca Manfrediana di Faenza to replace some of those damaged by the floods. Our staff members and collaborators also participated enthusiastically

earlier in the year, organising a generous donation of previously loved children's books destined to contribute to a project building a new children's library for 1-10 year olds in the Maremma area of Tuscany.



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