



Award of the Laurea magistrale ad honorem in Library and Information Science to Michele Casalini by the University of Florence

It is with both enormous pride and great pleasure that our CEO, Michele Casalini, has accepted from the University of Florence an honorary degree celebrating his dedication and contribution to the field of Library and Information Science.

The ceremony of 21st May 2019 marked the very first bestowal of the honour in question for merit in modern librarianship by an Italian university; only the second time that a similar distinction has been conferred in Library and Information Science in Italy.

Delivering the Laudatio of the award, Prof. Mauro Guerrini praised Michele's capacity to promote innovation in his business and in general among the most advanced library community: "With Casalini Libri, he has understood that the new factor in the digital world is not the technology itself, but close and unconstrained collaboration with other partners. Michele has contributed, and continues to contribute, to the advancement of librarianship in the digital age, achieving excellent results that are appreciated and recognized internationally. Today we award Michele Casalini as a bridges builder thanks to the diffusion of culture, knowledge and research."

The honour pays tribute to Michele's work and commitment to continuing, together with his sister Barbara, the legacy of their father, Mario, founder in 1958 of Casalini Libri and internationally respected publisher in the field of the academic information chain.

Such prestigious recognition of Michele's expertise, professionalism and foresight in his field reflects the outstanding work carried out by Casalini Libri and is an immense source of pride and satisfaction for the entire company.

The full proceedings including Michele's Lectio doctoralis *The centrality of libraries for progress and democracy* are published by Firenze University Press and are available in open access on Torrossa Open at the permalink <https://oa.torrossa.com/resources/an/4485970>.

A collection of photos from the event is available at http://www.casalini.it/docs/lmh_mc_photos.pdf