

February 2022

#insideCasaliniLibri

Casalini Libri • Erasmus Boekhandel • Houtschild • @Cult



Back on the Road | Exploring new directions

Working in tandem

We finally welcomed our colleagues from Erasmus and Houtschild to Fiesole in September and November!

We've been working virtually together on a number of projects over the last 12 months and it was great to share in person our collective experience in order to better define and strengthen our joint strategies for the future.

We're looking forward to taking

these forward into the new year and to having many more opportunities to create ever greater synergy.

Each of our companies has had a busy year dense also with new and renewed tenders and contracts. The hard work has paid off and we're very satisfied to have maintained our respective positions in the market.



Out and about

While local and international restrictions ruled out any travel during the first half of the year, we were glad to connect with you at many virtual events. One of the aspects of online meetings that we've particularly enjoyed has been introducing you to more of our team in Fiesole and in turn meeting more library colleagues than would usually be possible.

In the second half of the year, we happily returned in person to a number of trade events in Italy and Europe, from specialist library conferences such as ADBU in Marseille and the Convegno Stelline in Milan, to book fairs including the Frankfurter Buchmesse, Liber Feria del Libro (Madrid) and the Salone del libro in Turin. It was good to be joined by colleagues from Erasmus Boekhandel on some of these occasions, which meant we could present

our collaboration and shared vision - as well as a newly restyled stand - on the road together for the first time!

On the cataloguing side, we've also been following a full and satisfying schedule as joint co-ordinators of the European BIBFRAME workshop and participants in the International Conference on Bibliographic Control in the Digital Ecosystem at the University of Florence, as well as EURIG and PCC meetings among others, during the year.

And our New Titles specialists have once again been out, sourcing interesting new publications directly from the bookshops and cultural centres of Portugal, Spain and Italy. We attended many important cultural events, from the 17th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice to the annual Lucca Comics Convention and the Più Libri Più Liberi book fair in Rome.

At home, in Fiesole...

In a year of two realities, many of us have moved gradually towards a hybrid style of working. It has been good to reconnect with colleagues after many months of screen-based communication. We've also been investing in ourselves, focusing on the technology and skills that facilitate our work and allow us to offer even better service! This year has seen us migrate to a new system for our internal communications and develop a brand new, improved intranet that we hope will become an indispensable tool for all of our colleagues. We've acquired new skills and enhanced existing ones, with many of our team taking part in a series of internal and external training programmes.

Venturing into new territories

In February 2021 we announced our plan to substantially increase the scope of the Torrossa Digital Library, working in collaboration with Erasmus to add to our catalogue English and French language content from several prestigious international publishing houses. We've added a number of important new publishers and content to the Digital Library during 2021, and are confident that our offer of digital content will continue to grow.

The Digital Library has already exceeded 200,000 academic e-books and 1,200 e-journals, with an average of 18,000 new items (including articles and chapters) added every month from over 400 publishers; new contributors to the digital library in 2021 included Amsterdam University Press, L'Harmattan, Taylor & Francis and its imprints Routledge and CRC press, and the École française d'Athènes.

Don't just take our word for it - now you can see for yourself! We've made the metadata for the entire catalogue available for you to browse at content.torrossa.com. We hope that it will make it easier for you to find and select the material needed for your digital collections.

We've helped many libraries to expand their digital collections over the last two years: 2020 saw a peak in demand for single titles and sales of single e-books has remained high throughout 2021. Our team of Approval experts have risen to the challenge, applying their experience and skills to curate personalised lists and thematic collections, designed to match requests from the market, fit specific collection profiles and cater for all budgets. Get in touch to find out how we can support you in selecting the best digital publications for your library.



Beyond the library

And let's not forget the Digital Library's sister site, the Torrossa Digital Bookstore! Used by academics and professionals across the world, the Digital Bookstore has also benefitted from the increase in available content, not just in Italian and Spanish but also English, French, German and more.

Never visited it? Take a look: www.torrossa.com.

Access all areas

Our ongoing commitment is to make Torrossa accessible for blind, visually impaired and dyslexic users.

During 2021 we collaborated with the LIA Foundation for Accessible Italian Books to ensure that our Digital Library conforms with current EU accessibility standards. We'll make more improvements over the coming months, involving publishers with the aim of publishing new digital content in a natively accessible format. You

can read more about this project and keep up to date with progress at www.casalini.it/accessibility.asp.

Another of our goals is to simplify the way our digital content can be read and downloaded. The Torrossa Reader app - due for release in the near future - has been developed specifically to enable easy consultation of Torrossa texts from both desktop and mobile devices.

Year of Dante

2021 marked 700 years since the death of Dante Alighieri. From Florence to Ravenna and much further afield, the events and initiatives dedicated to the poet have been too many to count!

Earlier in the year, we paid our own, very personal tribute to Dante, asking ourselves and our colleagues what we associate most with Dante and how we would describe him.

The result? This portrait, summing up exactly what Dante means to us and celebrating the place the poet and his works still occupy in Italian society and culture.

We've been busy throughout the year, profiling and cataloguing the impressive number of works that have been published for this important anniversary, from dictionaries to facsimiles, essays to exhibition catalogues... and even graphic novels inspired by Dante! Many of these volumes have since found their way to library shelves all over the world, to be studied and enjoyed by new generations of scholars, students and readers.



no sù, el primo e io secondo, tanto ch'i' vidi de le cose belle che porta 'l ciel, per un pertugio tondo. E quindi uscimmo a riveder le stelle.

ALLEGORY
na per seguir virtute e conoscenza
JOURNEY
Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch'intrate
MODERN
SIONARY
diso
RNO
APPRECIATE

#Dante700

(A year in numbers)

+900

new titles
by or about Dante
catalogued in 2021 alone

+30

new editions and facsimile
reproductions published to
mark the anniversary

+1900

volumes by or about Dante
supplied to libraries
during the year

New frontiers in cataloguing

The world has changed since we first started shipping books in 1958!

Through the years we've dedicated ourselves to helping libraries and publishers adapt to challenges set by the fast-changing nature of scholarly publishing, and have always based our services on real, emerging needs. As new technologies create a world that both expects and creates more information, how can libraries respond to those expectations and to the

potential proliferation of unvalidated information?

We've developed a suite of authority control services, using innovative technology from our sister company and technological branch, @Cult, so that we can continue to support libraries by ensuring that they have current, updated and reliable information from authoritative sources. Ask us for details!



Connecting knowledge across the globe

September saw the launch of the Share-VDE 2.0 linked data management system and entity discovery portal, a pioneering environment that uses linked data to connect and present authoritative data from a growing network of libraries.

A project in which we have been heavily involved over recent years, the Share Virtual Discovery Environment is designed to support libraries, archives and museums in the transition from traditional cataloguing environments to innovative models based on linked data. It aims to facilitate the exchange

and reuse of bibliographic data, enabling wider access to knowledge through increased visibility.

Share-VDE benefits both from the technological know-how of @Cult, the software developer responsible for the structure and evolution of the linked data management system, and from the valuable collaboration and contributions of library professionals from around the globe, who have helped to shape, steer and assure its leading position in the field of Library Linked Data ever since the initial pilot project began in 2016.

This essential input, guided by the Share-VDE Advisory Council, enables Share-VDE to respond precisely to the real needs of participating libraries, creating a global family built on collaboration.

More information about Share-VDE, the Share Family and the advantages of linked data for libraries can be found at www.casalini.it/linked-data-for-libraries.



Linked
Data
Environment

Moving forward together

We've taken part in many meetings and conferences this year, including ongoing discussions around the future of libraries and librarianship, from BIBFRAME and linked data to *The New Shape of Sharing*, a series of online conversations regarding new models for collaborative collection development and services, the challenges of the growing range of content and format types, and the evolving role of libraries and librarians in the research process.

We're preparing for another full and

exciting calendar of events in 2022!

The *Fiesole Collection Development Retreat*, postponed from 2020, is now scheduled to go ahead as a hybrid event, in Athens and online from 5-7 April 2022. Hosted by the National Library of Greece, the theme of the 22nd meeting in the Retreat series is "Tradition Meets Innovation". It promises to be an interesting and thought-provoking exchange of experience and ideas on current topics that are key to the evolving ecosystem of academic publishing.

Find out more about registering for this event [here](#).

Also in the Spring, we will welcome to Fiesole our Italian contributors to the Torrossa digital library for an informal day of updates and discussions to explore together some of the most topical questions relating to the fast-changing digital publishing world.

We will be sponsors and participants for the seminar organised by Jlis.it, the *Italian Journal of Library, Archives, and Information Science*, which will take place at the University of Florence in May. Entitled "Modellare la conoscenza" ("Modelling knowledge") the day-long workshop will explore important research and innovation in the field of bibliographic standards. Tiziana Possemato, Director of our sister company @Cult will also participate on the theme of entity modelling.

These are just a few of the events and conferences that await us in the coming months; keep track of where we'll be and what we're doing on our website, or by following us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. We're looking forward to continuing our work with the international library community into 2022 and the future, and hope to see many of you very soon!



Photo by Library of Congress on Unsplash



Via Benedetto da Maiano 3 - 50014 Fiesole (Florence) - Italy
Tel. +39 055 50181 - Fax +39 055 5018201
www.casalini.it - info@casalini.it

Follow us

