



Identifying and Locating Italian Printed Books

1. General resources for finding Italian books

WorldCat.

The online catalog of books and other materials, including manuscripts, in almost all US and some European research libraries. Time period coverage goes back to the Middle Ages (medieval manuscripts). Keyword searching by author, title, subject; with capability to limit by language, time period, type of material, etc.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page*

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.

The catalogue includes: modern books acquired since 1989; magazines and newspapers since 1989. For publications prior to what is covered in the online catalog, there are print indexes at the library.

Web database: <http://www.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/>

URBS: Unione Romana Biblioteche Scientifiche

Online catalog of 14 research libraries in Rome, including the American Academy in Rome, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, and the Pontificia Università Lateranense.

Web site: <http://www-urbs.vatlib.it/default.asp>

The National Union Catalogue, pre 1956 imprints. (the “NUC”).

An amazingly complete (754 volumes) listing of books printed prior to 1956, in US libraries. *Always double-check titles not found in WorldCat here.* Includes books in all languages. Alphabetical by author or title of anonymous work. Gives library locations in the US.

General Reference (South end): *Z 881 .A1C28 QUARTO*

Letteratura italiana.

A very important, large set on Italian literature, in 8 parts: I maggiori (2 vol.), I minori (4 vol.), Le corrente (2 vol.), I contemporanei (6 vol.), I critici (5 vol.), Novecento (10 vol.), Novecento: le avanguardie letterarie (3 vol.). Individual articles on writers, with a *Bibliografia* at the end of each. Many lesser-known writers are included, as well as the big names. Volume 5 is particularly useful: it is a *Repertorio bibliografico* of writers not included in the set. Obscure writers not found elsewhere, as well as good background and bibliographies on major writers and movements.

D Level: *PG 1003 .L4*

Prime edizioni italiane. M. Parenti.

Alphabetical by author. Lists the first printed edition of Italian writers.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): *PG 1002 .P37 1948*

Biblioteca di bibliografia italiana.

A large set of individual titles, that are easily browsed in the catalog (do an **Alphabetical** search on **Series Titles**), or less easily browsed in the stacks (they have call numbers all over the library, and the large run of them on D Level don't usually have spine titles). Many interesting titles here. For example: *A bibliography of Renaissance Italian translations of Virgil, La tipografia del '500 in Italia, Bibliotheca magica : dalle opere a stampa della Biblioteca casanatense di Roma , Bibliography of British and American travel in Italy to 1860, Bibliografia leopardiana.*

Various call numbers, but a majority of them are on D Level: PG 1002.B51



2. Resources by time period

Le Origini, il Duecento e il Trecento

See ***Identifying and Locating Italian Manuscripts or Manuscripts in Italy***
(Above)

Delle novelle italiane in prosa bibliografia. B. Gamba.

Lists editions of the *novelle* from the 15th to the 19th century. Some annotations. Index of authors, titles of anonymous works, printers, illustrators, and other titles that are cited. Also includes a table of individual *novelle* and the earliest printed anthologies in which they appear.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): PG 1177 .Z9 G2

Iter Italicum:

"The most comprehensive finding list available of previously uncatalogued or incompletely catalogued Renaissance humanistic manuscripts found in libraries and collections all over the world. Originally published in six volumes between 1963 and 1992, it is an essential tool for any scholar working in classical, medieval and Renaissance studies." Permits searching and browsing for keywords, countries, cities, libraries and / or library collections associated with a manuscript location. There is a print equivalent on D Level, Call number: Z6620.I8K7 1963. There is also a CD-ROM available in Audio/Visual on A Level, Comp File 207.

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database

Il Quattrocento e il Cinquecento

EDIT 16 : Censimento nazionale delle edizioni italiane del XVI secolo.

La base dati descrive edizioni stampate tra il 1501 e il 1600 in Italia, in qualsiasi lingua, e all'estero in lingua italiana. Al Censimento partecipano oltre [1.200 biblioteche](#) tra statali, di enti locali, ecclesiastiche e private, che in stretta collaborazione con l'ICCU, responsabile del progetto, contribuiscono in vario modo alla sua realizzazione.

http://edit16.iccu.sbn.it/web_iccu/ihome.htm

Short-title catalogue of books printed in Italy and of Italian books printed in other countries from 1465 to 1600 now in the British Museum.

Alphabetical by author. Includes index of printers.

Special Collections Reference (A Level): Z 2162 .B86 1924

Short-title catalogue of books printed in Italy and of books in Italian printed abroad: 1501 to 1600, held in selected North American libraries.

3-volumes. Alphabetical by author. Gives library holdings. Index of printers and publishers.

General Reference: Z 2342 .S56 1970

Italian books before 1601.

An index to a large microfilm set (which we do not own), but useful for locating microfilm copies of obscure or rare early Italian books. Use the indexes towards the end of the file.

http://library.nyu.edu/research/italian/Italian_Books_Before_1601.pdf

BIBLIA: La biblioteca volgare 1: Libri di poesia.

A catalog of early poetic works. Covers 1470-1600. Alphabetical by author or anonymous title. Gives some library holdings in Italy. Index of printers and booksellers, Index of secondary authors, Chronological index, Index of cities of publication. Useful for identifying early editions of writers such as Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Ovid, Ariosto, Aretino, etc.

General Reference: Z 2342 .B53 1996

A bibliography of 16th century Italian verse collections in the University of Toronto

Library. J. Molinaro.

Alphabetical by author, editor, or anonymous title. For each collection, lists editors, printers, dedicatees, and most importantly poets included in the title. Reproductions of title pages. Index of authors.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): PG 1213 .A5 Z95 1969

Il Seicento e Il Settecento

Catalogue of 17th century Italian books in the British Library.

3-volumes.

Special Collections Reference: Z 2342 .B658 1988

A short title catalogue of Italian books, 1601-1700, in the Library of the British Museum. Alphabetical by author or anonymous title. Many indexes to aid in locating 17th century books: Titles, printers, and others.

D level: Z 2162 .B87 1973 QUARTO

Répertoire des ouvrages imprimés en langue italienne au XVII^e siècle conservés dans les bibliothèques de France.

8-volumes. Alphabetical by author. Gives library holdings.

General Reference: Z 2342 .M5 1967

Italian 17th century books in Cambridge libraries. R. Bruni.

Alphabetical by author. Index of titles, printers, places of publication; chronological index.

D Level: Z 1015 .B8 1997

Italian books 1601-1700.

An index to a large microfilm set (which we do not own), but useful for locating microfilm copies of obscure or rare early Italian books. Alphabetical by author or anonymous title.

http://library.nyu.edu/research/italian/Italian_Books_1601-1700.pdf

Catalogue of Italian plays, 1500-1700, in the University of Toronto. B. Corrigan.

500 briefly annotated entries, with information on performances and dedicatees. Alphabetical by author. List of plays by title and list of Italian printers represented.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): PG 1002 .T63 1961

Letterate toscane del Settecento: un regesto.

Biographical information and bibliographies (of primary and secondary literature) on many female Italian writers of the 18th century.

D Level: PG 1063 .G56 1994

Il Ottocento

CLIO : Catalogo dei Libri Italiani dell'Ottocento (1801-1900).

19 volumes. An inventory of books printed in Italy in the 19th century. 6 volumes alphabetical by Author, 6 volumes alphabetical by Publisher, 6 volumes alphabetical by Place of Publication, 1 volume Index.

D Level: *Z 2341 .C56 1991 QUARTO*

Catalogo generale della libreria italiana dall'anno 1847 a 1940.

A very useful set that lists all Italian books published during the period, including some very obscure titles. The Index volumes to 1847-1920 have the added advantage of providing subject access to the titles listed. You can search by Author's name, as a subject, to find studies written on them.

D Level: *Z 2341 .A85 QUARTO*

Bibliografia italiana; giornale dell'Associazione Tipografico-libreria Italiana. 1867-1897

A bibliography of books and periodicals published in Italy. There are monthly issues and an annual index. Each month includes a list of books published that month, as well as *Nuove pubblicazioni periodiche* (usually 10-12 titles), *Indice del contenuto delle principali riviste italiane* (the only direct indexing of 19th century periodical contents). Also includes *Indice metodico* (an index by subject) and *Indice alfabetico degli autori*. At the end of the volume there are many pages of publishers' advertisements, listing books published that year. An excellent look at the book trade as well.

D Level: *Z 2345 .B58*

CUBI: catalogo cumulativo, 1886-1957 del Bollettino delle pubblicazioni italiane ricevute per diritto di stampa dalla Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.

41-volumes. Alphabetical by author. Includes *Indice dei soggetti*, useful for seeing what books were published in various subjects.

D Level: *Z 2345 .F63 Quarto*

Le mouvement romantique, 1788-1850. M. Escoffier.

Begins with a series of *Tables (auteurs, anonymes, recueils collectifs, keepsakes et albums, périodiques, relieurs)*. This is followed by a listing, year by year, of works published. Includes all types of material – *romans, poésie, histoire, politique, périodiques, sciences, beaux-arts, philosophie*. Very useful for locating romantic works published during the period 1765-1882. Includes facsimiles of many title pages.

Libraries Service Center (LSC) *PH 2035 .E74*

Il Novecento

Catalogo generale della libreria italiana dall'anno 1847 a 1940.

A very useful set that lists all Italian books published during the period, including some very obscure titles. The Index volumes to 1847-1920 have the added advantage of providing subject access to the titles listed. You can search by Author's name, as a subject, to find studies written on them.

D Level: *Z 2341 .A85 QUARTO*

CUBI: catalogo cumulativo, 1886-1957 del Bollettino delle pubblicazioni italiane ricevute per diritto di stampa dalla Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.

41-volumes. Alphabetical by author. Includes *Indice dei soggetti*, useful for seeing what books were published in various subjects.

D Level: *Z 2345 .F63 Quarto*

Bibliografia nazionale italiana. 1958-1988.

Continues the above title. A yearly listing of books published in Italy. With author, title, and subject indexes.

D Level: *Z 2345 .B583*

La letteratura italiana del Novecento : repertorio delle prime edizioni. L. Gambetti

A catalog of the first editions of the works of 709 Italian writers of the 20th century. Alphabetical by author.

D Level: *Z 2353 .G36 1997*

Catalogo dei libri italiani in commercio.

An annual publication of Italian books in print. Earlier volumes are in Libraries Service Center (LSC).

General Reference: *Z 2341 .A8*



Periodicals

MLA Directory of Periodicals

An essential resource when submitting a manuscript for publication. Gives publisher information on periodicals indexed in the MLA International Bibliography: addresses, editors, dates and deadlines for submission, manuscript requirements, etc. Also has a subject index, to find which periodicals publish in a particular field. Print version available *General Reference P 1 .A1 M62*

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page under **Search a database**

Ulrich's Directory of Periodicals

An essential resource, for finding out where a periodical is indexed, and thus verifying citations. Also has publisher information: addresses, etc. Print version available *M Level Ready Reference: Z 6941 .U45*

Web database: Access from Libraries' Home Page under **Search a database**

Guida della stampa periodica italiana. N. Bernardini.

An inventory as well as a history of the Italian periodical press. Includes chapters on the development of the periodical press and listings by province of titles currently published (1890), as well as ceased titles. Bibliographical information (title, city, year of 1st publication, publisher) on thousands of titles, organized by province. Also includes Italian language periodicals published in other countries.

Libraries Service Center (LSC) (protected): DG 403.5 .B51

La stampa italiana dal Cinquecento all'Ottocento.

A comprehensive history of the Italian periodical press. Each chapter includes an excellent bibliography of further works, and a list of periodical titles from that period. Indexes of names and titles. Volume one in the series *Storia della stampa italiana*.

D Level: P 7243 .C37 1976

La biblioteca periodica: repertorio dei giornali letterari del 6-700 in Emilia e in Romagna.

Three volumes, indexing the contents of 25 periodicals from 1668-1781.

D Level: P 7248 .E452 B5 1985

Giornalismo letterario del Settecento.

Detailed chapters on 6 journals of the 18th century: *Giornale de letterati, Osservazioni letterarie, Novelle letterarie, L'Osservatore veneto, La frusta letteraria de Aristarco Scannabue, Il caffè.*

Libraries Service Center (LSC): PG 1204 .A7P5 1947

La stampa periodici veneziana fino alla caduta della Repubblica.

A listing and description of c. 150 periodicals published in Venice from 1661-1796. *Indice per titoli, Indice dei direttori e redattori, Indice dei librai e dei tipografi.*

Libraries Service Center (LSC): Z 6956 .I8 S3 1942

Stampa e letteratura: spazi e generi nei quotidiani italiani dell'Ottocento: catalogo ragionato.

A catalog of 259 19th century Italian periodicals. Entries include title, subtitle, place of publication, date of publication, genre (e.g. *versi, spettacolo, narrativa empirica, varietà, moda*), notes (title changes, name of editors, etc), *bibliographia* (where a particular title is cited in a work on the Italian periodical press).

Several indexes at the back: *Indice dei nomi, Indice delle regioni e delle città, Indice dei generi.*

D Level: Z 6956 .I8 B77 1996

I periodici letterari dell'Ottocento: indice ragionato (collaboratore e testate).

A catalog of 427 19th century Italian periodicals. Entries include title, subtitle, place of publication, dates of publication, "settori" (e.g. versi, cronaca e attualità, narrativa empirica, varietà, moda), contributors (*firme*), notes (title changes, name of editors, etc). Several indexes at the back: *Indice dei nomi*, *Indice per città*, *Indice delle riviste*, *Indice per dominanti* (genre). While it does not index individual articles, the index of names points to the journals in which a particular writer would have published.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): *Z 6956 .I8 B75 1996*

La stampa periodica delle donne in Italia, 1861-1985.

Catalog of periodicals published for women. Includes title, subtitle, dates of publication, frequency, city of publication, and indicates which Italian libraries hold each title. Includes *Indice cronologico* and *Indice dei luoghi di edizione*.

B Level: *HQ 1107 .D486 1987*

La stampa italiana dall'unità al fascismo. V. Castronovo

Libraries Service Center (LSC): *P 7244 .C35 1973*

La stampa periodica romana durante il fascismo (1927-1943).

2 volumes: Rassegne and Repertorio.

D Level Blue Labels: *PN5247.P4 S73 1998*

La stampa italiana sotto il fascismo, 1919-1932

B Level: *DG 571 .B82 1971 QUARTO*

Bibliografia dei giornali fascisti lombardi, 1919-1945.

A detailed description of 262 periodicals published in Lombardy. Not an index of individual articles, but the descriptions are detailed enough to cite some specific articles. Includes title, subtitle, place of publication, responsible entity, dates of publication, director's name, periodicity, and pagination.

D Level: *Z 6956 .I8 B42 1995*

La stampa italiana dalla Resistenza agli anni Sessanta.

D Level Blue Labels: *PN 5242 .S86 v.5*

La stampa italiana del dopoguerra 1943-1972.

D Level Blue Labels: *PN 5244 .M83 1973*

Le riviste de meta'novecento. G. Langella.

D Level: *Blue PN 5244 .R59 1981*

La stampa italiana del neocapitalismo.

Libraries Service Center (LSC): *P 7244 .S7 1976*

Gli anni delle riviste: le riviste letterarie dal 1945 agli anni ottanta. E. Mondello

D Level Blue Labels: *PN 5247 .L6 M66 1985*

See also the Guide to Italian Literature : **Using Periodicals in Research**

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/italian/periodicals.pdf>



Archives: manuscripts (not Medieval) and other unpublished material

Archive Finder

Current directory which describes over 206,200 collections of primary source material housed in thousands of repositories across the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database*

ArchiveGrid

A database for locating special collections worldwide. Over 2,500 libraries, museums, and archives worldwide contribute collection descriptions.

Web database: *Access from Libraries' Home Page, under Search a Database*

Vatican archives: an inventory and guide to historical documents of the Holy See. F. Blouin.

B Level: *CD 1586 1998*

For online access to the catalogue, see this Web page:

http://www.bl.uk/gabriel/libraries/en/libraries_itv_frame_en.html

There are a number of archival guides and catalogs on B-Level, between the call numbers CD1400 and CD 1660.

Library of Congress : Manuscripts Division

The Library of Congress in Washington has a separate division for its large manuscripts collection, in the Madison Building. Contact the Italian Area Specialist at LC, Eric Solsten (esol@loc.gov) for information on their holdings in Italian manuscripts.

Web site: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/>

See the Web page on **Archival research** in the Italian Language and Literature Guide to Research.

<http://guides.library.jhu.edu/content.php?pid=25794&sid=186239>

Published bibliographies often have references to unpublished material. Do a keyword search in the Libraries Catalog on "bibliography" and an author's name.

Try a **search on the Web** (i.e. Google) on keywords like an author's name and "papers", "manuscripts", "archive", "correspondence", or "museum" (and the Italian equivalents). This is often a good way to find collections of archival material related to a writer.



Primary Resources in Italian at the MSE Library

Special Collections, on A Level

has several facsimiles of manuscripts by Dante and Boccaccio, as well as several early printed editions of their works. In addition, there are many interesting items in Italian scattered throughout the 3 locations of Special Collections. These include a humanist manuscript in Italian of Josephus' *De bello judaica* and a 16th century edition of Vittoria Colonna's poetry. Italian theater is very well represented. Another important collection is the avant-garde periodicals of the late 19th-early 20th centuries.

Contact: Earle Havens, Rare Books Curator (earle.havens@jhu.edu)

Electronic texts in Italian

The MSE Library has purchased access to many e-texts in Italian literature. These include the works of most of Italy's major writers on the CD-ROM LIZ, and the complete works of Tasso, Petrarch, Leopardi, and Pico della Mirandola. The venerable Dartmouth Dante Project, with the complete text of the *Commedia* and all the commentaries is also available. These, and many links to free online e-texts, are gathered on the Web page below.

Web site: <http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/italian/etexts.html>

←-----→

This represents the basics of finding primary literature. There are many other, more specialized resources. **Here are a few strategies:**

⊕ One good way to find such things is to use the "**Type of Literature**" search. By doing a keyword subject search in a library catalog on types of literature such as:

<i>catalogs</i>	<i>bibliography</i>
<i>manuscripts</i>	<i>dictionaries</i>

... you can exploit the fact that these categories are standardized across US library catalogs, and locate relevant or specialized resources.

For example, to find a bibliography of Italian poetry, do a keyword search on **Italian poetry** and the word **bibliography**. There are many specialized bibliographies on subjects such as **Italian periodicals** or **futurism**.

There are many published bibliographies on **individual authors**, that include the most comprehensive listings of their works, published and unpublished. To find these, do a Subject, or General, Keyword search on the **author's last name** and the word **bibliography**. Many of these bibliographies are in Libraries Service Center (LSC), and will **not** be found by browsing the stacks.

⊕ You may have noticed certain **call numbers** that are particularly important. Browsing PG 1000-1040, either in the stacks, or even better, in the online catalog, will turn up some interesting things. Likewise, Z 2350 – 2690 is a place you should be familiar with.

⊕ By reading the **introductions and prefaces** to the older printed indexes, you will find other bibliographies and indexes mentioned. Follow these leads where possible.

⊕ There are several **published guides to research** in Italian literature. They include references to standard works on Italian bibliography. Here are a few. You can locate them with a subject keyword search on:

reference books, Italian, bibliography, philology, handbooks, manuals

Walford's Guide to Reference Material. Volume 3: Generalia, language & literature, the arts. p. 828-843 for Italian literature. *General Reference Z 1035 .W25*

Manuale critico-bibliografico per lo studio della letteratura italiana. Mario Puppo. *Gen Ref Z 2354 .C3 P87 2002 (earlier editions on D level)*

Biblioteche in rete: istruzioni per l'uso. F. Metitieri & R. Ridi. *D level Z 699.35 .M38 2002*

Guida alla biblioteca di italianistica. M. Tarantino. *D Level PQ 4005 .T37x 2001*

Introduzione bibliografica alla letteratura italiana. R. Frattarolo. *Libraries Service Center (LSC) PG 1002 .F752 1963*

Avviamento allo studio critico delle lettere italiane. G. Mazzoni. *Libraries Service Center (LSC) PG 1013 M29*