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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the ISLG Bulletin, the newsletter of the Italian Studies Library Group. The newsletter will initially appear in the summer on an annual basis. Because of this infrequency, the media for up-to-date information will be through email, meetings and the ISLG website, available at:

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/wider/italstulib.html>

The newsletter will contain articles of interest to those working with Italian such as items about libraries and collections of use to ISLG members, or advance notice of special events. All contributions from members are welcome, whether in the form of articles or letters which should be submitted to the Editor, Jane Gibbs. Jane can be contacted via email at:

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ipcat - The online Catalogue of Italian Periodicals: A brief history & developments to date.

By Denis Reidy,
Head of Italian, The British Library

As early as 1983, Brian Cainen, a former academic in the Department of Italian at the University of Wales at Swansea, compiled and edited an extremely useful hard-copy, cyclostyled "Catalogue of periodicals of interest to Italianists held in Universities in the British Isles," which was revised and reissued in 1987. This Catalogue was originally and quite modestly produced on a word processor, printed on paper and bound in a light card held together by a plastic spiral binder. This Catalogue ran to some 64 pages and as its title suggests, listed over 611 periodicals, covering the Social Sciences and the Humanities published in Italian and all major languages which were of interest to Italianists. It had the additional advantage of listing the periodical holdings of most Universities in the British Isles.

However as we all know, periodical holdings of large libraries change considerably over the years for various reasons, and I had thought for some time that it would be very useful for academics in general and for Italianists and Italian subject specialists in libraries in particular, to update this Catalogue and to include the holdings of other organisations and ideally to make it universally available online. I like to think that I am a reasonably practical person and I soon realised that in order to bring this project to fruition considerable resources would need to be invested. I could not countenance starting, let alone completing, such an ambitious project on my own, although I began the project by compiling a Catalogue of current Italian periodicals held at the British Library on a database.

This Catalogue, published as A Catalogue of Periodicals in the Humanities and the Social Sciences published in Italy and currently held at The British Library compiled and edited by Denis Reidy, London, The British Library, 2000, pp. 93. , was produced 'in house' by the British Library, bound in a plastic coated A5 ring binder and was distributed gratis to members of the Society for Italian Studies attending the SIS Conference at Exeter in 2001 with the aim that a copy should be available in every major institution which has significant Italian holdings throughout the British Isles. A few copies of this catalogue still remain, so if your Institution would like a copy please write to me at The British Library, The Italian and Modern Greek Section, Upper Ground Floor, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.

In 1999 I saw a window of opportunity when the British Library announced that it was prepared to support bids for financial assistance in cataloguing projects as part of its Co-operation and Partnership Programme. Realising that my own catalogue of the British Library's Italian periodicals was progressing well and was due to be completed at the end of 1999 for publication early in 2000, and that an external partner in the Higher Education Sector had to be found, I raised the matter with the Committee of The Society for Italian Studies (the ultimate authority for Italian Studies in the British Isles) in order to work together to find a suitable external partner and to prepare a bid.

The Department of Italian and the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds were eventually chosen as external partners because of their excellent Italian collections and computing facilities, and because the Society for Italian Studies web site was designed and maintained there. After meetings with Prof. Brian Richardson, one of the Professors of Italian at Leeds, Michael Emly from the University Library and Brian Diggle of Leeds University Information Systems Services, we prepared and submitted a 15 page bid to the British Library together with the Catalogue of Italian periodicals held at the British Library in

order to illustrate the potential of the proposed online Catalogue more forcefully.

The bid was successful and in 2000 the sum of £32,000 was awarded by the British Library to the University of Leeds to undertake the project. Since the project had to be submitted and headed by the external body putting forward the bid, it was decided that it should be headed by Professor Brian Richardson. Dr Guyda Armstrong, a post-doctoral Research Fellow in the Italian Department was engaged to begin compiling the Catalogue. Guyda was responsible for the initial data entry until her departure to take up another post and from 16 July 2001 she was replaced by Dr Colin Winborn. After considerable discussion with technical staff both in Leeds and in London we decided to have the web interface (some refer to them as portals or "front ends" to the web site) designed 'in house' by staff at Leeds. We are very grateful to Brian Diggie for designing such an effective, functional and user-friendly web interface at a very competitive price. Nor should the sterling efforts of Michael Emly of the Brotherton Library at Leeds go unsung for he was responsible for the design of the database for ipcat and for arranging that the data be held within the Brotherton Library's record management system, Innopac.

Further technical problems have since had to be addressed and resolved. The first of these has been the considerable range and variety of cataloguing records held by the many different organisations contributing to the project. One or two institutions still use manuscript records held on card indexes. These are often difficult to capture and in some cases will have to be left to the end of the project as the electronic records for these particular items may be generated from other sources and so only the holdings statements of these institutions will need to be added to the database.

Some institutions are using UKMARC records, whereas others are using UNIMARC records. It has been decided to record all periodical titles under the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2) and to hold the data in UKMARC format. This conforms to current standard practice among Higher Education and other research libraries in the UK, and provides a reliable safeguard for long-term access to the data collected. Each bibliographical record will be supplemented by the use of a local tag (981) allowing the summary holdings of each relevant library to be listed. There has been some improvement in the standardisation of records from UKMARC to MARC 21 format in recent years with many libraries, notably university libraries, such as Oxford, Cambridge, Leeds etc., plus the National Library of Scotland and others having gone over to using MARC 21. This bodes well if the project is to be extended to include the periodical holdings of other institutions in the British Isles. It is hoped that at some stage in the future the project will be extended to include the holdings of institutions in Europe - especially Italy and, ideally, those of institutions across the Atlantic. This is a further reason for ensuring that all the records in the database are Z39.50 compatible, thus enabling access to records held on databases in the USA and consequently making them available and loadable on the same expanded database.

It is intended that eventually all data will be converted to MARC 21 format. This will provide an ideal vehicle for the long-term maintenance and preservation of the database. The entire database, will also be output in MARC exchange format and will be stored within the University of Leeds archival file store system, along with all the necessary metadata and additional documentation. The University of Leeds, it should be noted, is also a partner in the eLib CEDARS project, and metadata produced will conform to current best practice within the UK Higher Education community. The files will also be offered to the British Library for eventual preservation.

For the purposes of public access, relevant fields in the MARC record will be imported into a specially developed Access database which will be used as the source data for Web based querying. The on-line search interface will be located on a server at the University of Leeds, but the principal point of access will be a hyperlink from the British Library website. Searchable fields include title, issuing body, ISSN, publication details, frequency, and keyword search. Access will also be possible via the holding libraries, so users can, for example, check the availability of a certain title in a specific library or learned institution.

A series of web pages accompany the online Catalogue, recording the scope of the project, the data formats used, and additional "help" pages to assist searching by the user community. The underlying database, the Advance Server Protocol (ASP) scripts and the accompanying web pages will also be archived but these do not represent the primary record of the project's data compilation since the MARC exchange file fulfils this function.

We should also bear in mind the possible expansion of the project to include the holdings of Italian periodicals in other countries, particularly the greatest source of holdings of Italian periodicals at the National Libraries of Rome and Florence, which could add a further 50,000 plus periodicals to the database if we were to receive further funding for the project.

Excellent progress has been made to date and so far the periodicals holdings of the following institutions have been catalogued :-
Aberdeen University, The School of Advanced Studies (University of London), Bath University, Birkbeck College London, Birmingham University, Bristol University, The British Library, Cambridge University, Durham University, Edinburgh University, Exeter University, Glasgow University, Goldsmith's College London, Heythrop College London, Hull University, Imperial College London, King's College London, Lancaster University, Leicester University, Leicester De Montfort University, Leeds University, Liverpool University, London Business School, London University,

Institute of Education, Manchester University, Oxford University, Reading University and Trinity College, Dublin.

The holdings of all these libraries can all be accessed on the Catalogue's URL which is :- <http://ipcat.leeds.ac.uk> and is already being used by many scholars on a daily basis and there is a link to the ipcat. site from the Society for Italian Studies web pages at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sis/> under 'Resources'.

Data on the Italian periodical holdings of the following institutions continue to be added :-

The London School of Economics, The National Libraries of Scotland and of Wales, The London Library, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The School of Oriental and African Studies (London), The Society of Antiquaries, Aberystwyth University Bangor University, Lampeter, Nottingham University, Oxford Brookes University, Queen Mary & Westfield College London, Queen's University Belfast, Royal Holloway College London, Salford University, Strathclyde University, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (London), Senate House Library University of London, St Andrew's University, Sheffield University, Sussex University, Swansea University, University College Cork, University College Dublin, University College Galway, University College London, The Warburg Institute (University of London), The University of Warwick, and York University .

The funding for the present project will cease in Autumn of this year but a new bid for further funding has been submitted in order to expand the number of holdings of institutions in the British Isles and hopefully further afield. Let us hope that this bid will be successful.

The Casalini Website

Following the first Annual General Meeting of the Italian Studies Library Group at the University of Warwick on 7th June 2002, Barbara Casalini was invited to demonstrate the Casalini Libri website. The following is her description of the site based on the presentation given.

Casalini Libri's fully updated Web site **www.casalini.it** has been designed with the needs of library professionals in mind. The site offers access to Casalini's **i libri Database®** and **le riviste Database®** containing the very latest bibliographical information on Italian books and periodicals.

By registering, users may view complete bibliographical records for Italian publications, in first or revised editions, in all subject areas (with the exception of manuals and translations of works which originally appeared in other modern languages). The databases are updated on a weekly basis and are endowed with advanced search facilities permitting keyword searching in all fields using Boolean search operators. Customers may also arrange **Host Profiles** with our Customer Services department, or create a personal **Web Profile** on-line to conveniently carry out searches in specific areas of interest.

An increasing number of titles include additional information such as cover images, abstracts and sample pages, and we regularly provide news of forthcoming titles and special offers. A subscription to our **i libri Database®Plus** and **le riviste Database®Plus** ToC services guarantees access to the tables of contents of a rapidly growing number of titles: in the current year we expect to add around 4000 tables of contents. **le riviste Database®Plus** coverage includes over

600 periodical titles in the areas of law and the social sciences beginning with the year 1999.

Subject specialists and acquisitions staff also have at their disposal a range of other on-line services which aim to improve the efficiency of internal acquisitions and collection management, many of which can be personalised to suit the particular requirements of individual libraries. The **Master Account** function enables single selectors to compile lists of titles on-line for eventual review, confirmation or cancellation by the acquisitions department or other authorised personnel. Customers also may monitor the status of orders of books and periodicals on-line.

Access for library staff is free of charge. In addition we also offer to make the **i libri Database®** and **le riviste Database®** accessible to library patrons through IP address controlled access; details of subscriptions are available on request.

Reviewers Wanted

Would you like to critically review works for Reference Reviews Europe? If you don't have a copy, a review copy can be arranged (except for Portuguese imprints) -- for which we'd need yr preferred postal address. We generally ask for ca. 750 words in a single-title review. See RRE Online <<http://www.rre.casalini.com/>> for exemplars. We haven't set a deadline for copy--probably late this fall or early winter.

-Jeffry Larson

Romance language section editor, Reference Reviews Europe
Yale University Library

Italian Collections at the University of Warwick Library: A Brief Introduction

William Pine-Coffin, Subject Librarian for Italian & Classics

As could be expected for the library of a university founded as recently as 1964, the Italian Collections at Warwick are indicative of several features of the university's research and teaching, and its firm commitment to Italian Studies. This is particularly evident in the areas of Literature, History and the History of Art.

From the outset, the major strength has been in Renaissance Studies, and the library continues to acquire major literary, historical and artistic texts relating to this period, together with significant secondary material. In the early years the university also benefited from the acquisition of much of the collections of Roberto Weiss and Edward Hutton: many of their books now form part of our Special Collections. Drama has also long been a major research and teaching subject in the University, and the library has extensive collections in several languages and cultures including Italian. Renaissance drama is very strongly represented, as is the theatre of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Again, major texts and secondary materials for the core of the collections, and we have had a degree of success in acquiring some long 'out of print' materials. Several academic departments at Warwick – notably Italian, History, the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance and the History of Art are currently engaged in research in Italian literature, history and culture.

The Italian Department has recently established a joint MA programme, in conjunction with its counterpart at Birmingham, in which the libraries of both universities play a key role. The Departments of History and the History of Art have for many years included a term in Venice for their students of Renaissance Italy, together with an integrated language course. The library pays special attention to the provision of materials for these courses, including books for the small library kept in Venice for those taking part.

Cinquantenario dell'AISLLI – Consorzio di università belghe Identità e diversità nella lingua e nella letteratura italiana

15-19 luglio 2003

Lovanio – Louvain-la-Neuve – Anversa – Bruxelles

Call For Papers

Identità e diversità sono nozioni fondamentali che hanno nutrito innumerevoli testi in epoche diverse. L'*identico* e il *diverso* sono concetti filosofici di base, pietre angolari della nostra cultura e della nostra conoscenza. Aperte a ridefinizioni continue nel corso dei secoli, le stesse nozioni hanno assunto nella cultura novecentesca e, in particolare, in quella contemporanea, un'importanza notevole. Sono alla base di alcune delle maggiori correnti nei sistemi di pensiero trasmessi dal Novecento ormai concluso. Nel convegno proposto si vogliono studiare l'evoluzione e le ramificazioni di questo binomio tematico nei diversi periodi e in vari settori della lingua e della letteratura italiana.

I contributi dovranno vertere, più precisamente, sui seguenti tipi di ricerca:

- La posizione dell'italiano in Europa e nel mondo
- Traduzione: identità e diversità del testo tradotto
- Gli atteggiamenti verso la lingua nazionale e verso i dialetti
- La letteratura di fronte alla diversità culturale ed antropologica
- Il rapporto tra italiano e inglese
- La letteratura di fronte alla diversità sociale
- L'italiano fuori d'Italia
- Diversità e rinnovamento letterario
- Lo "stato di salute" dell'insegnamento dell'italiano all'estero
- Oltre l'umano
- Unità e diversità della lingua nazionale
- Paradigmi e modelli per lo studio della letteratura

Una più ampia descrizione sia del tema generale sia delle sezioni tematiche si può trovare sul sito web <http://www.aislli-2003.be>.

Chi intende proporre una relazione è pregato di inviare un riassunto (di una cartella massimo) al comitato scientifico (riassunti@aislli-2003.be) entro il

1° ottobre 2002

I relatori avranno a disposizione 20 minuti per la comunicazione e 10 minuti per la discussione.

Per ulteriori informazioni si prega di consultare il sito del convegno all'indirizzo <http://www.aislli-2003.be> o di contattare informazioni@aislli-2003.be.

Wess Paris Conference 2004

The Western European Studies Section (WESS) of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) is planning an international conference, *"Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library"*, to coincide with the Salon du Livre in Paris in March 2004.

General goals of the Conference are to increase our knowledge of European librarianship & issues facing European libraries, increase WESS and institutional ties to French institutions and libraries, increase knowledge of and contact with the French book trade, and to share projects and challenges with European librarians. Libraries not only gather, catalog, and archive social and cultural production but also react to and help shape it. Migration taken in the broadest sense (demographic, technological, cultural, intellectual, etc.) will continue to enhance Europe's historically rich intellectual and artistic life, as well as affecting attitudes and expectations. This conference will address the opportunities and tensions these changes bring to Western Europe, its libraries' collections and services, and American libraries that support the study of Western Europe. Well-known cultural historian Roger Chartier has already agreed to be a speaker.

Projecting an attendance of about 200 librarians, WESS hopes to attract European participants and attendees, as it did at its successful conference in Florence, Italy, in 1988. It welcomes prospective partners on either side of the Atlantic to help organize and focus the conference program. Further details can be obtained from the WESS website at:

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/rsd/other/wess2004/wess2004.html>

If any of members of the Italian Studies Library Group are attending IFLA in Glasgow and are interested in learning more about the WESS European Conference, a member of the planning committee will be in Glasgow. She is Ms. Patricia O'Loughlin, manager of the Paris office of Erasmus Books. They will be having a formal presence at the Arlis preconference, and she will be in the environs during the IFLA meetings.