



La Biblioteca de Catalunya

English



Prat de la Riba room

An environment of knowledge

The mission of the Biblioteca de Catalunya (BC) is to gather, conserve and disseminate the bibliographical output of Catalonia and that production related with the Catalan linguistic field.

As an institution, it is open to the public for research and investigation, and it has some very clear objectives for the citizens, namely:

- To promote the intellectual growth of people.
- To enrich the discovery, enjoyment and research of our collective heritage.
- To be a reference point of social identity, facilitating knowledge about Catalonia and its language.
- To offer tools that favour learning and training.
- To be a place where cultural exchange is integrated, promoting communication and equality in the conditions of access to the culture.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya aims to fulfil its objectives of being open, reliable and useful to today's society, and that of tomorrow.

A little bit of history

The Biblioteca de Catalunya was created in 1907 by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC) and was situated in a corner of the historic Palau de la Generalitat. In 1914 the Mancomunitat de Catalunya converted the library of the IEC into a public cultural service, open to researchers and scholars. From its beginning it had the objective of forming a collection that would bring together the fundamental pieces of the bibliographic patrimony of Catalonia. At the same time, a series of collections were acquired of exceptional artistic, scientific and literary interest which would give the Biblioteca the character of universal research centre.

The BC underwent several changes to its role owing to historical and political events which unfolded during the XXth century. The first impediment to its development was the Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, but the most substantial change took place during the rule of Franco, who turned the institution into an undefined library, which supplied the deficiencies of the public and university libraries. Despite the precariousness of resources, the centre increased its bibliographic patrimony, thanks in large part to donations from collectors and publishing houses. With the recovery of democracy and of the Catalan institutions, the new Parliament approved, in 1981, the Law of Libraries, which bestowed upon the Biblioteca de Catalunya the condition of national library and attributed to it the receipt, conservation and dissemination of the Legal Deposit of documents printed in Catalonia, a role which was reinforced with the Law of the Library System of Catalonia, 1993. During the last fifteen years, the Biblioteca de Catalunya has overcome the challenge of modernization with the remodelling of the building, its own functional reorganization and the digitization of its procedures.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya has established a policy of cooperation with other centres which have collections of bibliographical interest for research and heritage.



Alphabetical catalogue of the Biblioteca de Catalunya
Sala Milà i Fontanals, Biblioteca de Catalunya, 1908



One of the reading rooms in the 1940s
Works to salvage the patrimony,
(1936-1939)



An emblematic building

The Biblioteca de Catalunya is located in one of the most important examples of civic Gothic architecture in Catalonia, the Hospital de la Santa Creu in Barcelona.

Built between the XVth and XVIIth centuries, it was the largest hospital in Catalonia for many centuries and was the result of the fusion of several hospitals that existed in medieval Barcelona. The first stone was laid in 1401 in the presence of king Martin the Humane. It was planned as a very large building, with four wings of rectangular construction, of two floors, around a courtyard, following the model of ecclesiastical cloisters, but the fourth wing which would have enclosed the cloister was never built. In the XVIIIth century the building was expanded, and throughout the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century some minor alterations were made.

The library, in its early days, was situated in an area of the Palau de la Generalitat. In 1929-30 the occupants of the ancient Hospital de Santa Creu were moved to the modern complex of what is today the Hospital de Sant Pau. In 1931 the building was declared historical patrimony and the Barcelona city council granted a large part of it to the Biblioteca de Catalunya. The person charged with studying the new organization of the library in this Gothic building was the director, Jordi Rubió i Balaguer. In 1936 the first reading room, the Sala Cervantina was opened, but the project was halted because of the Civil War and not all of the necessary adaptations were done. After the fall of Barcelona, on 26th January 1939, the library was closed. It was not until 1940 that the first room was opened, under the direction of Felip Mateu i Llopis, the new director. At the end of the 80s, the library needed to be remodelled to adapt it to its new functions, new technologies and new services. Between 1991 and 1998 a profound architectural reform of the building was carried out, of which the most notable features are the construction of four underground levels of storage – which house more than 40 kilometres of shelf-space – and the annex building. However, the library continues to grow and needs more space, so now, well into the second millennium, a new reform will be necessary.



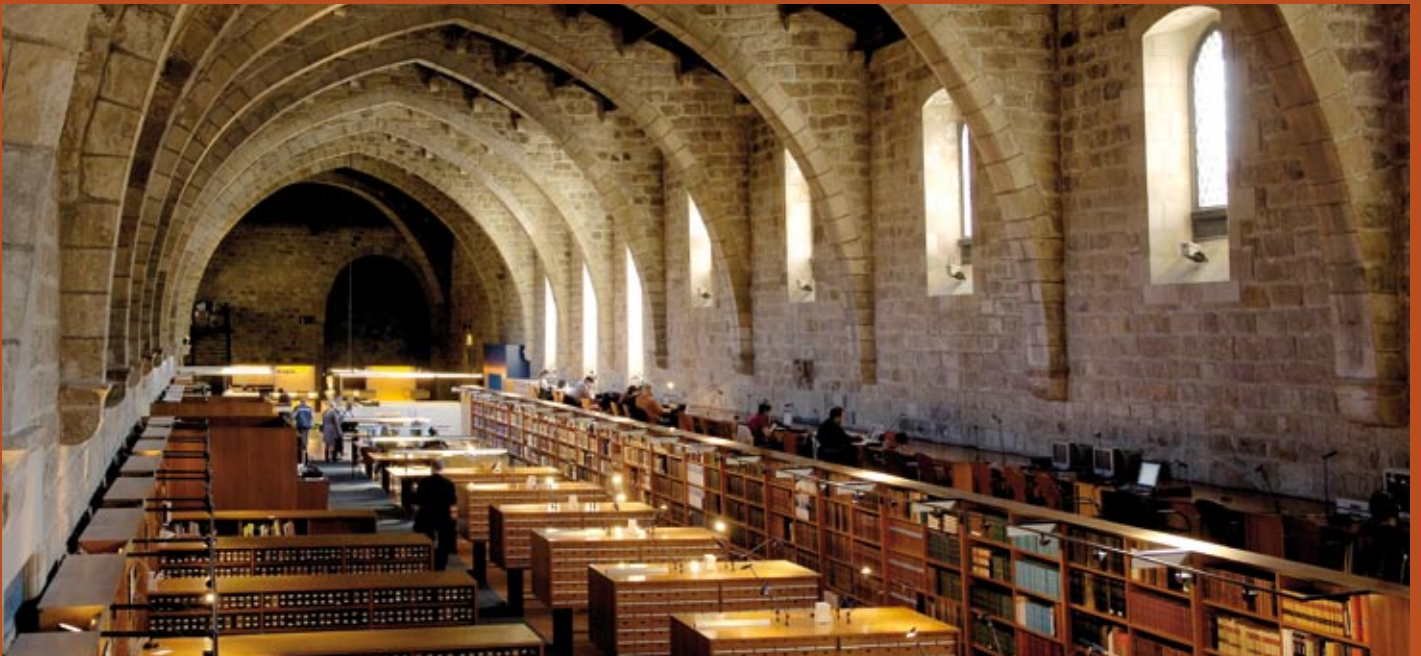
Hospital kitchen at the beginning of the XXth century

Ajuntament de Barcelona. Institut de Cultura. Arxiu Històric de la Ciutat de Barcelona.



View of the garden with the orange trees and the jacaranda in the background

View of the annex building and of the interior courtyard of Egipcíaques General reading room, Western block



The collections:

the wealth and amplitude of the bibliographic resource

The collection of the Biblioteca de Catalunya is rich and has a great bibliographic and documentary value. It is made up of nearly three million documents in various formats: books, magazines, newspapers, manuscripts, engravings, maps, scores, sound and audiovisual recordings, CD-rom, etc. Since 1981 it has brought together the printed and recorded material coming from the legal deposit of Catalonia.

Since its foundation, documents, collections and libraries have been acquired from diverse sources and origins. The donations made by many private citizens and many institutions have contributed, over many years, to strengthening the historical and bibliographical value of the centre.





El Cant de la Sibila. Lyon, 1548



Fletxa, Mateu. Col·lecció d'Ensalades i Madrigals, 1595

In 1917, Felip Pedrell – musicologist and composer – donated to the Biblioteca de Catalunya his musical and musicological works, which, together with the Carreras Dagas collection, constituted the genesis of the Music Section.

The documents of the greatest historical and heritage value are kept together in the Rare Music collection, made up of manuscript and printed work, not only of scores but also of musical literature and treatises by a wide group of authors of various ages, styles and origins. Special mention must be made of manuscripts of Occitan and Catalan

notation from the Xth century, as well as liturgical manuscripts from the XIIIth to the XVIIIth centuries, polyphony of Ars Antiqua and Ars Nova, Catalan Baroque compositions, dances and original works by Catalan authors of the XIXth and XXth centuries. The Rare Music section conserves personal archives of composers (Isaac Albéniz, Frederic Mompou), musicologists (Higini Anglès, Josep M. Lamaña) and performers (Anna Ricci, Marcos Redondo). Recently the collection of the Centre of Musical Documentation has been added, increasing the wealth of the musical collection.

Furthermore, the Biblioteca de Catalunya conserves a significant discography, which enables an answer to be found to the majority of inquiries related to music.

Some of the most well-known collections are that of Ricard Gomis (1900-1993), consisting of 1,300 records; that of Oriol Martorell (1927-1996), which has 5,600 LPs and singles, essentially of classical and Catalan music; the Jaume Baró (1935-1997) collection, an exceptional collection of opera in audio and audiovisual formats; the Turull (1922 – 2000) collection, including 367 wax cylinders; the Daniel Blanxart (1884 – 1965) collection...

Rare prints and special collections

In 1917, ten years after the foundation of the library, the Rare prints section was created, to which were assigned the foundational and heritage collections, such as the Aguiló collection, acquired in 1908.

At the moment the Rare Prints collection houses books which are ancient, rare, valuable or precious, including the incunabula (printed before the year 1500). Its structure is divided into two main groups: The Catalan Reserve – named Aguiló – and the General Reserve, particularly rich in books from the Golden Age of Spanish literature, and which also includes works from other periods.

Of particular importance among the Special Collections are the Cervantine (one of the richest and most complete collections of the works of the author), the Verdaguieriana (with a wide selection of works and editions of this Catalan poet), the *Fulletts Bonsoms* (an extraordinary collection of legislative, administrative, legal, informative and literary texts in Catalan spanning the XVIth to the XIXth centuries), as well as the Prat de la Riba, Espona, Almirall, Rull, Torres Amat, Bulbena, Pedro Pons, Elzevieriana and Sant Joan de la Creu collections, and the Toda collection, of the Spanish bibliographical output of Italy, the Verrié collection of children's books, that of books in small format, the mythological collection, that of the French Revolution and Human Rights, or the Loose Leaf collection, among others.

Eiximenis, Francesc. *Llibre de les dones*. Barcelona, 1495. Incunabula



Engravings, drawings, maps and photography

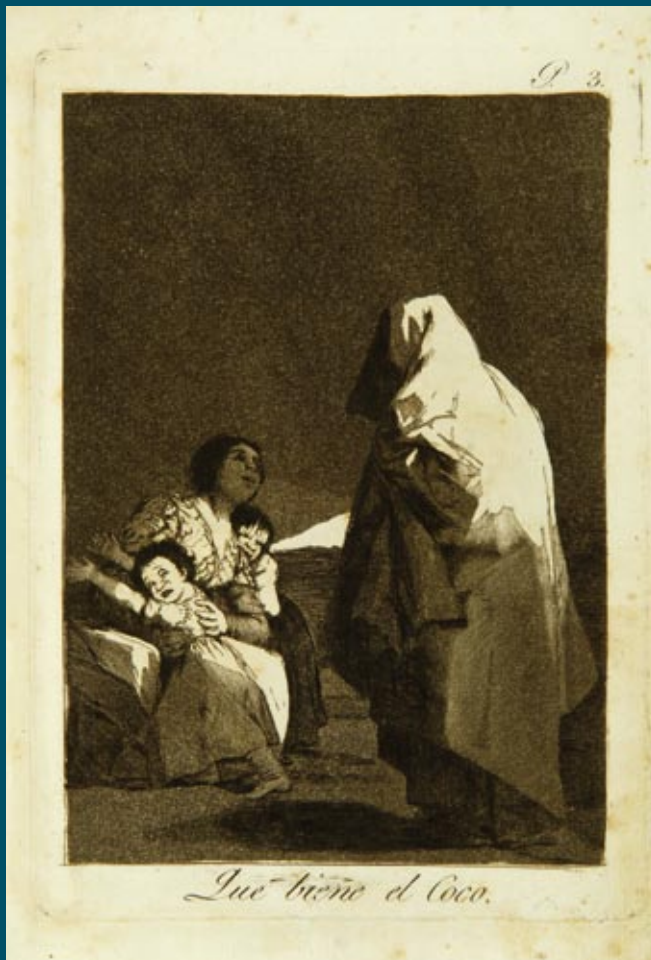
The heterogeneous material of the graphic collection of the Biblioteca de Catalunya is found in different formats: posters, prints, drawings, photographs, ex-libris, ancient photoetchings, calcographic plates, woodcuts, lithographs, maps, programmes, prospectuses, etc. The chronological scope is from the XVIth century to the present day.



Template of the work *Vida y hechos del ingenioso cavallero D. Quixote de la Mancha* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. Barcelona, 1755

Engravings

Engravings and matrices represent some of the most valuable documents of the Biblioteca de Catalunya. Of these, the collection of matrices, one of the most important in Spain (of some 12,000 units), is worthy of special note.



Goya, Francisco de. *Los Caprichos*. Madrid, before 1799. Collection of drafts prior to the first edition with uncorrected orthographic errors



Matrix of a page taken from a book of the Alphabet (II).
XVth century. Cherry-wood block



March, Josep. *Escut de la Real Junta de Comercio de Cataluña*.
Barcelona, 1815. First lithograph produced in Spain

Prints

The Biblioteca de Catalunya has a collection of prints from a large number of artists, both Catalan and universal. Among its wide range, special mention must be made of certain unique works – exceptional drawings or etchings – by artists such as Piranesi, Goya, Lluís Rigalt, Fortuny, Apel·les Mestres, Francesc Casanovas, Maillol, Ramon Casas, Triadó, Joaquim Renart, Picasso, Sunyer, Pau Roig, Opisso, Apa, Lluís Jou, Obiols, Vila-Arrufat, Max Ernst, Tanguy, Dalí, Miró, Oriol Maria Diví, Subirachs, Tàpies, Barbarà, Uclés, among many others. At the same time, the collection boasts works by the foremost etchers in the artistic history of the country, such as Abadal, Jolis, Furnó, Ismael Smith, Marlet, Ollé Pinell, Miciano or Jaume Pla.

Recently collections of children's drawings have been acquired, such as those of J. M. Madorell, artist of the comic *Cavall Fort*, and Mercè Llimona, book illustrator.

There are also several collections of printed graphic material, such as drawings, illustrations, cartoons, song sheets (almost 300,000), romances or thousands of small printed works, among which there is a rich collection of catalogues of exhibitions of paintings or sculptures of huge documentary value for the knowledge and study of the history of Catalan contemporary art.

Maps

The first register of maps and plans belonging to the initial collection of the Biblioteca de Catalunya was made in 1918. Five years later, these documents, together with new ones that were incorporated, were integrated into the new section of Prints, Etchings and Maps.

Besides the 5,000 maps belonging to the section, there are also those that constitute the Mossèn Colomer Collection, considered the best collection of Catalan maps put together by a private citizen and made up of over 4,000 articles of great value.

One of the most valuable example is a XVth century chart by Gabriel Vallseca, deposited at the Maritime Museum.



Ortelius, Abraham. *Theatrum orbis terrarum*. Anvers, 1574. This is one of the first maps drawn using data from the most advanced geographers of the age
Poster of the work by Santiago Rusiñol, *Fulls de la Vida*, lithographed by M. Utrillo, 1898



Photography

The Biblioteca de Catalunya is home to a collection of photographs from the XXth century and some from the end of the XIXth century. The most important collection is that of the photographer Josep Salvany i Blanch, which contains 10,000 images in positive and negative on stereoscopic plates (6 x 13 cm), most of them glass, dating from between 1911 and 1926. They are photographs of Catalonia and also of other places, in which can be seen images of landscape and people. This collection can be consulted via the internet.

Another notable collection comes from the Martín publishing house and includes 13,000 photographs in black and white from some provinces of Spain. The Martín publishing house, at the start of the XXth century, was specialized in geography books.



Salvany Photographic Collection, La Rambla de Barcelona, 1924

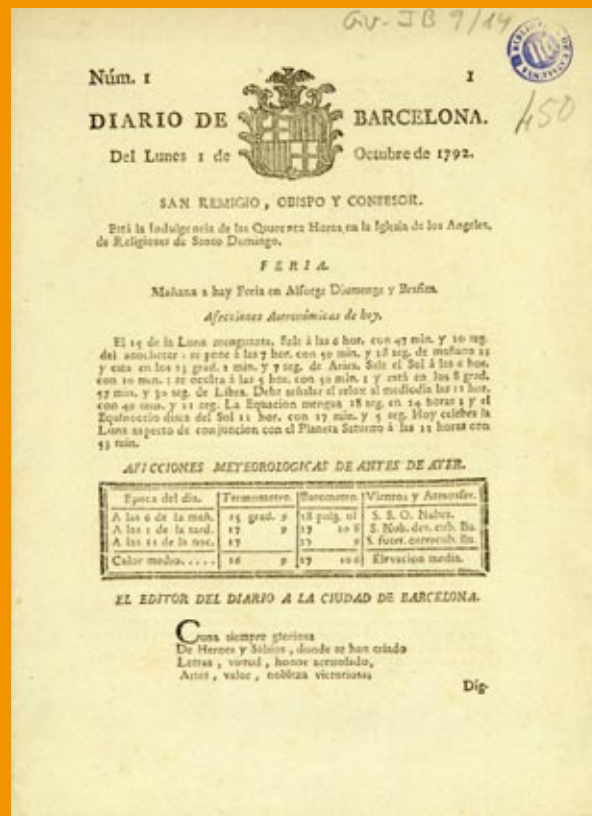
Renart, Joaquim. *Quadern de Dibuix*, 1922-1923

Poster for the film *Marta of the Lowlands* inspired by Terra Baixa by Angel Guimerà, 1914

Special journals section

The Biblioteca de Catalunya has one of the richest and most complete collections of periodicals in Catalonia. Periodical publications which began before the year 1945 – some of which date right back to the very origins of Catalan journalism, in the XVIIth century – make up the Rare Journals collection, which houses collections of newspapers and magazines containing general and specialized information. The magazines and other cultural and political publications of the Catalonia of the end of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century take on a special importance owing to their documentary and artistic value and their impact on the cultural world of the period. The Biblioteca de Catalunya is also home to the Joan Givanel Press Collection, with first issue and loose periodical publications, made up of some 3,000 titles from prior to 1930.

Among the oldest of the collections we find the *Gaceta*, printed in Barcelona in 1641 by Jaume Romeu, the *Relación diaria del Sitio de Barcelona*, printed in Girona in 1714, the *Caxon de Sastre Cathalan* from 1761 or *Lo Pare Arcangel* from 1841. The Journals section houses collections of newspapers such as *La Veu de Catalunya*, *El Telégrafo*, *El Diluvio* or *El Poble català*, humorous magazines such as *Lo Noy de la mare*; literary magazines such as *L’Avens*, later *L’Avenç*; modernist magazines like *Luz*, *Quatre gats*, *Pèl & Ploma*; *La Llumenera de Nova York* (aimed at the Catalan community residing in the United States), *Arte Joven* (directed and illustrated by Picasso), *L’Amic de les Arts* (a representative example of the European avant-garde) or *D’Ací i d’Allà* (an innovative magazine in its orientation and journalistic treatment)



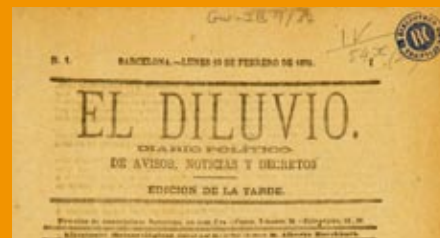
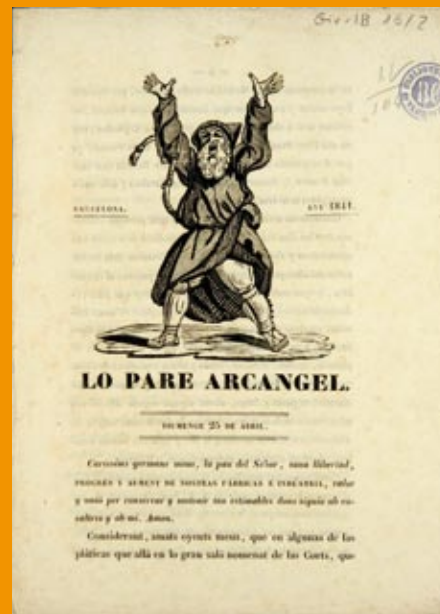
Diario de Barcelona. Barcelona, 1st October 1792

Num. 1

Barcelona 3 de Juny de 1899

10 cents.

Pèl & Ploma



Lo Pare Arcangel. Barcelona, 25th April 1811

El Diluvio. Barcelona, 10th February 1879

El Poble català. Barcelona, 12th November 1904

Pèl & Ploma. Barcelona, 3rd June 1899

Sound and audiovisual heritage

The importance of the heritage collection of the Sound library is demonstrated by its wealth in both quantity and quality, besides its mission to catalogue the discographic and audiovisual output of Catalonia as the point of entry to the Legal Depot.

The collection of the Sound Archive is constituted by 400,000 sound and audiovisual documents, organized in two sections: Old Recordings and Modern Recordings. These pieces are found in different formats: wax cylinders, pianola rolls, 8 track cartridges, Berliners, open spools, 33, 45 and 78 rpm records, cassettes, CD's, videos, DVD's...etc. The collection as a whole reflects the evolution of sound and audiovisual formats from their origins until the present day.

One of the most well known collections is that of Radio Barcelona. In 1994, in commemoration of its seventieth anniversary, Radio Barcelona donated its entire record library to the Biblioteca de Catalunya and a broad selection of their own programmes and recordings, which constitute an interesting display of talks, interviews and historic moments broadcast by a radio station that was founded in 1924. In total there are 112,000 records, 8,000 sound tapes that reproduce programmes, radio plays and speeches by famous figures of the universal history of the XXth century.

Among the collections of the Sound Archive are recorded a rich selection of original voices of historical figures, such as Alexander Fleming, Joan Brossa, Carmen Amaya, Frederica Montseny, Salvador Dalí, Jacinto Benavente, John Cowdery Kendrew, M. Aurèlia Capmany, Hipòlit Lázaro, Francesc Macià, Lluís Companys, Ramón Tamames, Jean-Paul Sartre, Joan Capri, Mary Santpere, Alfredo di Stefano, Joan Miró, Jordi Rubió i Balaguer, Vinicius de Moraes. Recently the Audiovisual Poet's Archive has been added, produced by the Collegiate Association of Writers of Catalonia.



Wax cylinders. Turull Collection

The Catalan Bibliography

The mission of the Biblioteca de Catalunya is principally to form the Catalan Bibliography with the acquisition of bibliographic materials printed in Catalonia. From its foundation, the library began this undertaking with the purchase of the collection of Marià Aguiló, which includes numerous works printed in Catalonia or written in Catalan and the admission of many of the most important works for the history of the language and literature of Catalonia.

Since 1981 admission to the Legal Depot has ensured that a copy of all printed matter produced in Catalonia is kept in the Biblioteca de Catalunya, so that from day today, and with the actions of all of the agents involved, the modern bibliographical heritage is being moulded.

A display of the diversity of formats kept in the BC



Modern heritage collections

Collections in physical formats

In this large collection of documents are included modern and contemporary books, press and magazines in publication, musical scores, graphic material and the sound and audiovisual material, also current, which are admitted principally via the Legal Depot, besides the acquisitions which the Biblioteca de Catalunya carries out. Presently the modern heritage collection also includes electronic and digital material. The largest collection is that of the modern monograph, which includes all of the bibliographic material produced after the year 1800 which the Biblioteca de Catalunya receives through donation, exchange or via the Legal Depot except those belonging to special collections. Worthy of special mention in this collection are various personal libraries, which are unique for their considerable bibliographical interest, such as those of Leandre Cervera,

August Matons, J.V. Foix, Antoni Badia i Margarit, Avel·lí Artís Gener, Josep Paluzie, Lluís Tusquets de Cabirol, Rosa Leveroni, Carles Riba and Clementina Arderiu, among others.

No less important is the collection of Catalan press in the Journals Library – edited from 1945 onwards – which includes periodical publications (newspapers, weekly journals, magazines, annual publications, memoirs, etc.) edited in Catalonia or which refer to the Catalan-speaking territories, whether national, local or regional, the majority of which are admitted via the Legal Depot.

Also constituting a comprehensive general collection, with publications that are in many cases over one hundred years old, is the Research and Specialized Magazines collection, featuring magazines published outside of Catalonia, which are useful for research.

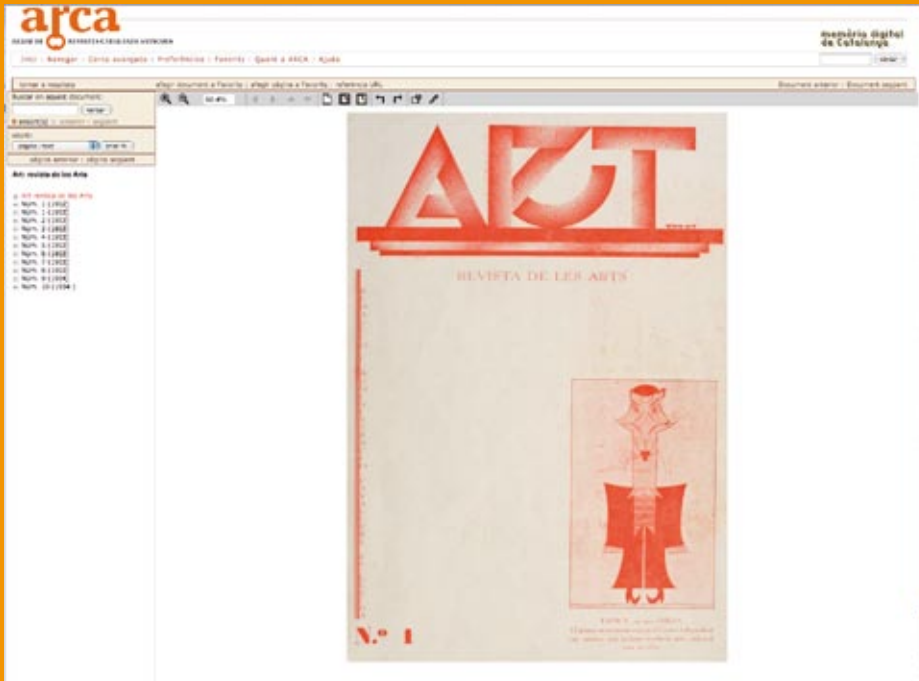
Every year more than 10,000 titles of periodical publications are received and there is access to over 5,000 electronic magazines.

The variety of graphic material is considerable, since everything that comes from the Legal Depot is gathered in a common collection; leaflets, posters, postcards, calendars, illustrations, songsheets, sticker albums, cutouts and a wide range of formats, as well as the purchases that are made.

As regards the sound and audiovisual collection, it is compiled from everything that is produced in the territory of Catalonia, as well as acquisitions that have a special interest for Catalan sound or audiovisual heritage. This collection dates from very recent times, with recent books admitted through the Legal Depot, owing to the modernity of the format.



Books admitted through the Legal Depot



ARCA. Archive of Old Catalan Magazines

The digital collection

The Biblioteca de Catalunya, as a member of the Consortium of University Libraries of Catalonia, participates in the Digital Library of Catalonia. It has also collaborated, since 1998, on the project of the Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library. In recent years, the Biblioteca de Catalunya has undertaken many projects to promote the digitization of its own collection and the subsequent consultation via the web. Among these projects, the following are worthy of note:

PADICAT (Digital Heritage of Catalonia)

The PADICAT project, begun in 2005, has as its objective to design and produce a system that enables the Biblioteca de Catalunya to compile, process and give permanent access to the digital output of Catalonia, that is to say to bring together all of those documents whose origin is digital. It is the equivalent of the already well-known Legal Depot in the world of the book. In order to achieve this,

the digital material published on the Internet is gathered *en masse*, there is a drive for the systematic depositing of the online output of the agents involved in Catalonia, and lines of research are promoted through the integration of the digital resources regarding certain events in Catalan public life.

The PADICAT project enjoys the collaboration of the Centre de Supercomputació de Catalunya (CESCA) and the backing of the Secretariat of Telecommunications and the Information Society of the Government of Catalonia.

ARCA (Archive of Old Catalan Magazines)

This is an open access portal which includes discontinued periodical publications which have been representative within Catalan society and culture. It is a cooperative depot of digital preservation promoted by the Biblioteca de Catalunya with the support of the Consortium of University Libraries of Catalonia. This portal will facilitate the consultation of the whole collection of periodical publications, even though the original copies are distributed among several different institutions. It is a project which will maximize the potential of research among scholars and will contribute to the preservation of original periodical heritage, since the use of the collections on paper will be reduced, so avoiding physical wear and tear.

RACO (Open Access Catalan Magazines)

RACO is a depot from which articles with the complete text from scientific, cultural and scholarly magazines that are currently in publication can be consulted in open access. The principal aim of RACO is to increase the visibility and consultation of magazines, whether they are electronic or scanned from paper format, in order to disseminate the academic and scientific output. With this project the electronic publication of Catalan magazines is promoted, and their consultation and preservation is facilitated.

This initiative is a joint effort between the CBCU, the BC and the CESCA.

Accord with Google

The Biblioteca de Catalunya and four more Catalan libraries announced on 10th January 2007 their involvement in Google's Libraries Project to digitize hundreds of thousands of books in the public domain (not subject to copyright) and to make them available to millions of people via the internet.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya will act as coordinator and intermediary on behalf of the other four Catalan libraries participating in the project: the library of the Monastery of Montserrat, the Public Episcopal Library of the Seminary of Barcelona, the Library of the Barcelona Excursionist Centre and the Library of the Barcelona Athenaeum.

These libraries feature special collections of great heritage value in Catalan, Spanish, French, German, Latin and English. Particularly notable are the works of Ramon Llull, Jacint Verdaguer or Cervantes.

The participation of Catalan libraries will enrich the multilingual resources of Google, offering more books in more languages to more people all around the world. Once the books have been digitized, everyone will be able to discover them, find them and read them using Google Book Search.

The Catalan libraries group thus becomes the second non Anglo-Saxon collaborator to join the Libraries Project, within the Google Book Search Programme (after the Universidad Complutense of Madrid) and the third in Europe (after Oxford University).



Press conference for the Google Accord at the Biblioteca de Catalunya, 10th January 2007

The unique collections

Frederic Marès Book Museum

Situated in the building of the Biblioteca de Catalunya itself, it houses a valuable bibliographical collection of significant patrimonial interest, a donation from the artist and collector Frederic Marès (1893 – 1991).

This collection is an interesting journey through the history of the book and is formed by more than 1,500 documents (some over one thousand years old) of various types. On one hand, the collection boasts a set of 114 items including codices, manuscripts, fragments of parchment and paper (dating from the XIIth to the XXth century). On the other hand, 136 documentary parchments from the XIth century, as well as 483 etchings, 848 printed documents (among which there are some one hundred or so incunabula) and 106 loose bindings.

The Frederic Marès Book Museum occupies the old Via Crucis Hall, presided by a Gothic wood carving with the image of Ramon Llull.



Joan Maragall Archive

The Joan Maragall Archive is a documentation centre at the service of researchers and scholars, which contains an important documentary collection regarding the figure and works of the poet, as well as modernism as a whole. The centre, assigned to the Biblioteca de Catalunya, is situated in the last residence of Joan Maragall, in c/ Alfons XII, in the Sant Gervasi area of Barcelona. The Archive complements its function of documentation centre (with its various services to facilitate consultation and research) with its condition of house-museum, in which can be visited some of the rooms of the residence of Joan Maragall.

The Joan Maragall Archive was constituted shortly after the death of the poet, in 1911, on the initiative of his widow, Clara Noble, who was the force behind the first edition of his complete works and who compiled his documentary legacy. The Maragall family assumed the maintenance of the Archive, until in 1993, owing to an agreement with the Government of Catalonia, the centre was institutionalized and became a specialist library of the Biblioteca de Catalunya.



Frederic Marès Book Museum
Joan Maragall Archive

The services of the Biblioteca de Catalunya



Students following the explanations of their teacher
Prat de la Riba Room
Digital photography service

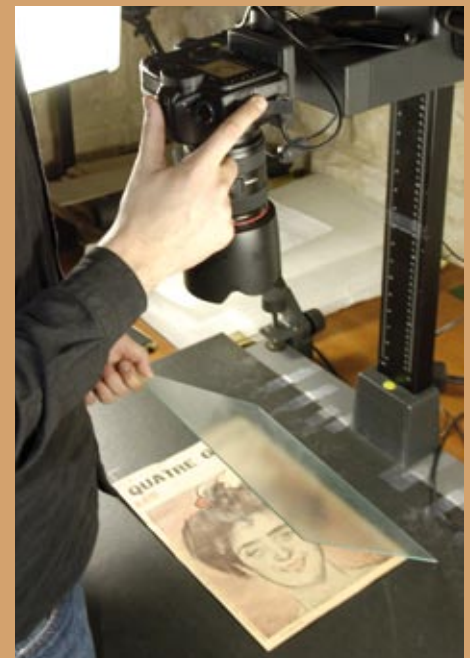
The Biblioteca de Catalunya has become a centre of reference for researchers, for many professional sectors (librarians, publishing and printing professionals, television and communications media producers...) and for the citizens in general.

The collection which the Biblioteca de Catalunya houses, its remit of compilation of the bibliographical heritage of Catalonia and the research tasks related with the establishment of standardized bibliographical registers mean that the BC stands out in terms of scientific authority related to the bibliographic patrimony of Catalunya. On a daily basis professional assessment is given on various questions of bibliographic patrimony, whether of cataloguing, preservation and conservation measures for different types of document, specialized information, etc.

Services for users and for researchers

Access to consultation of the collections of the Biblioteca de Catalunya is free of charge, the only requirement is the presentation of the National Identity Document or passport. The membership card can be applied for in advance via the web site.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya has a *Library Charter of Services* in which are specified all of the commitments, not only of the BC but also of its users, and the services that it offers. All of the information regarding regulations, order forms, contact addresses etc., can be found on the website.



The Services of the BC are as follows:

- General enquire service and specialized bibliographical information service sought in person or by email: info@bnc.cat
- Internet access via the wireless network (*Wifi*), with free access for users of the BC
- Consultation of the digitized collections and access to information in electronic subscription format (press, databases...). Access to a wide reference section of free access. Users may propose *desiderata* of documents which will be considered by the Biblioteca de Catalunya and an assessment will be made of whether it is useful to acquire them.
- Consultation of the collections in any physical format in the Biblioteca de Catalunya. At the users disposal is equipment for the reading and reproduction of microfilms. On the consultation of the collections, see the specific section *Practical summary for consultation of the collections*.
- Ordering documents online. This is a service which is extremely successful among users, as it allows them to order in advance the documents they wish to consult. Thus the time spent waiting while the books are located in the stores is reduced.
- Reproduction of documents on paper or in digital format. Orders can be placed via the email address: pib@bnc.cat
The prices and conditions are available on the website.
- Interlibrary lending. The Biblioteca de Catalunya offers a lending service between the BC and other libraries in Catalonia, Spain or abroad for consultation or research purposes. The BC participates in several programmes and interlibrary lending agreements with other institutions, such as the Consortium of University Libraries of Cata-

lonia, with the aim of promoting the use of the collections between libraries. This service is free of charge and only the costs incurred by the postal procedures and for reproductions is applied. For more information, see the corresponding section of the website or write to: pib@bnc.cat

- Lending of documents for exhibitions. The Biblioteca de Catalunya allows numerous documents to be loaned each year to other institutions such as museums, libraries or archives, whether within the country or abroad, to put on temporary exhibitions. This service promotes the dissemination of documents which are usually displayed within a specific historical, literary or artistic presentation, a fact which underlines the documentary and patrimonial value of each item. All of the information regarding the use of the service is available on the website. The address to which to write for information is: expos@bnc.cat

- Personal lending. This service, in complement to the functions of the national library, is of a more restricted use. Even so, the Biblioteca de Catalunya, unlike the majority of national libraries which do not offer this service, permits that books dating from later than 1958, which are duplicated and do not form part of the bibliographic patrimony of Catalonia, may be loaned during fifteen days. The maximum number of volumes is three for user. The conditions are available on the website.

- Lending of laptop computers for research purposes. The Biblioteca de Catalunya has laptop computers with Office accessory programmes, access to the Internet via *Wifi* which can be lent to researchers who require them for specific purposes. This service is free of charge.

- User training. General sessions are scheduled on the working of the Biblioteca, and also specific sessions aimed at teaching groups. In recent years, these activities have increased and a special attention has been given to preparing exclusive sessions for university students from the humanities. These sessions have been carried out in close collaboration with the teacher. Bookings can be made via the website.

- Resource guides. The Biblioteca de Catalunya produces resource guides of a thematic nature which are available on the website. The objective of these guides is that they should be a useful tool for users. They list reference works, on paper or electronic, which are valued selectively, as well as qualitatively and with a view to their relevance according to subject matter. The *Guides* are extremely useful aids, owing to the quantity of information that exists nowadays on any subject.

Other services:

- Carrels available to researchers for periods of no less than a week.
- Self-service cloakroom

The cultural activities of the BC



Saint George's Day. Open Day

The Biblioteca de Catalunya, in order to disseminate its patrimony and culture in general, organizes numerous activities throughout the year in order to bring its collections closer to researchers and to all of the citizens.

■ Letting of rooms for functions. The BC has spaces which it lets temporarily to other institutions for activities:

Various activities are organized:

■ Open Day. This is held each year on Saint George's Day. During the course of this day one can see an audiovisual presentation on the Biblioteca de Catalunya which includes graphic images of its history, the building, the collections and the services; exhibitions are prepared which show documents in different formats, recent acquisitions, specific facsimiles, virtual exhibitions of photos in 3D... Also the Frederic Marès Book Museum can be visited, and the Sala Cervantina. Every year, for the Open Day, complementary activities are presented.

■ Temporary exhibitions, conferences and presentations. The collections of the Biblioteca de Catalunya are varied, rich and valuable. Every year exhibitions, conferences and presentations are held about them with the objective of revealing these collections to society. Recently concerts, recitals and plays have also been put on. All of this information is systematically updated on the website.

■ Frederic Marès Book Museum. The Marès collection comes from the private donation of the bibliophile Frederic Marès. Through its selection of items one can trace a route through the history of the book: from medieval production, the incunabula, the printed works of the XVI-XVIIIth centuries, the industrial product of the XIXth and early XXth centuries, to the different types of bindings that have existed. This collec-

tion can be found in the Via Crucis hall and can be visited if requested in advance.

■ General and thematic visits for groups. The library offers a service of organized visits for groups that request it. You will find the information on the website.

■ Editions and publications. The Biblioteca de Catalunya publishes informative and scientific materials. There are publications which are only edited in digital format. Some examples of different types of publications are the following: virtual exhibitions, cultural agenda, *TresorsBC*, cataloguing standards, catalogues of the library and of exhibitions, facsimile editions... The catalogue of all of the publications of the Biblioteca de Catalunya can be consulted on the website.

Practical summary for consulting the collections

The majority of the documents of the Biblioteca de Catalunya are found in the conservation depots and their consultation must be requested.

The BC has two reading rooms:

- The Prat de la Riba reading room for materials that form part of the special documents collection: parchments, manuscripts, printed documents from the XVth – XVIIIth centuries, music in manuscript and printed form, etchings, maps, posters...and any valuable edition.
- The general reading room for materials printed or recorded principally during the XIXth – XXIst centuries: books, journals, magazines... and sound and audiovisual materials.

To know whether or not the Biblioteca de Catalunya has a particular document, the catalogues must be consulted. Presently, the majority of them are available for consultation on the website www.bnc.cat

For any unresolved question or consultation the best course is to approach the reference service, either in person or online info@bnc.cat

Once the work has been located, the request form must be completed (this can also be done online). Attention must be paid to the topographic code, which is a combination of numbers and letters that serves to locate the document among the shelves of the depots. In the electronic registers this is generally found at the end, preceded by the abbreviation TOP. On manual registers it is written in pencil on the upper right corner.

Up to five documents may be requested at a time. Usually, after a waiting time that varies between twenty and thirty minutes, the majority of documents requested are given to the user; with the exception of documents which are located in external depots, in which case you should ask to be informed.

In order to consult the documents it is necessary to give your Library pass or membership card, which will be returned when the documents are returned. Reservations can be made for the following day.

If you wish to use other services such as reproductions, interlibrary lending, training sessions...you must approach the desk staff.

Opening hours

The services of administration of membership cards, lending, interlibrary lending and reproductions are closed thirty minutes before the Biblioteca de Catalunya closes. The service for requesting documents closes one hour before the BC closes.

Biblioteca de Catalunya

Hospital, 56

08001 Barcelona

Tel. 93 270 23 00

Fax 93 270 23 04

bustia@bnc.cat

<http://www.bnc.cat>

Monday - Friday from 09.00 to 20.00

Saturday, from 09.00 to 14.00

Arxiu Joan Maragall

C. Alfons XII, 79

08006 Barcelona

93 241 30 04

arxiujoanmaragall@bnc.cat

Monday - Friday from 10.00 to 14.00

Wednesday from 16.00 to 20.00

Last Saturday of each month, from 10.00 to 14.00 h

Month of August: closed.





The BC in figures

Linear metres of shelving: 1,500 m of free access (20,000 volumes)

49,000 m of depot

Approximate total surface area of the Biblioteca: 15,000 m²

Approximate total surface area of the General reading room: 2,700 m²

Approximate surface area of the Reserve room: 360 m²

Seats (reading points): 229

Equipment:

19 computers for public use (2 printers, one in colour)

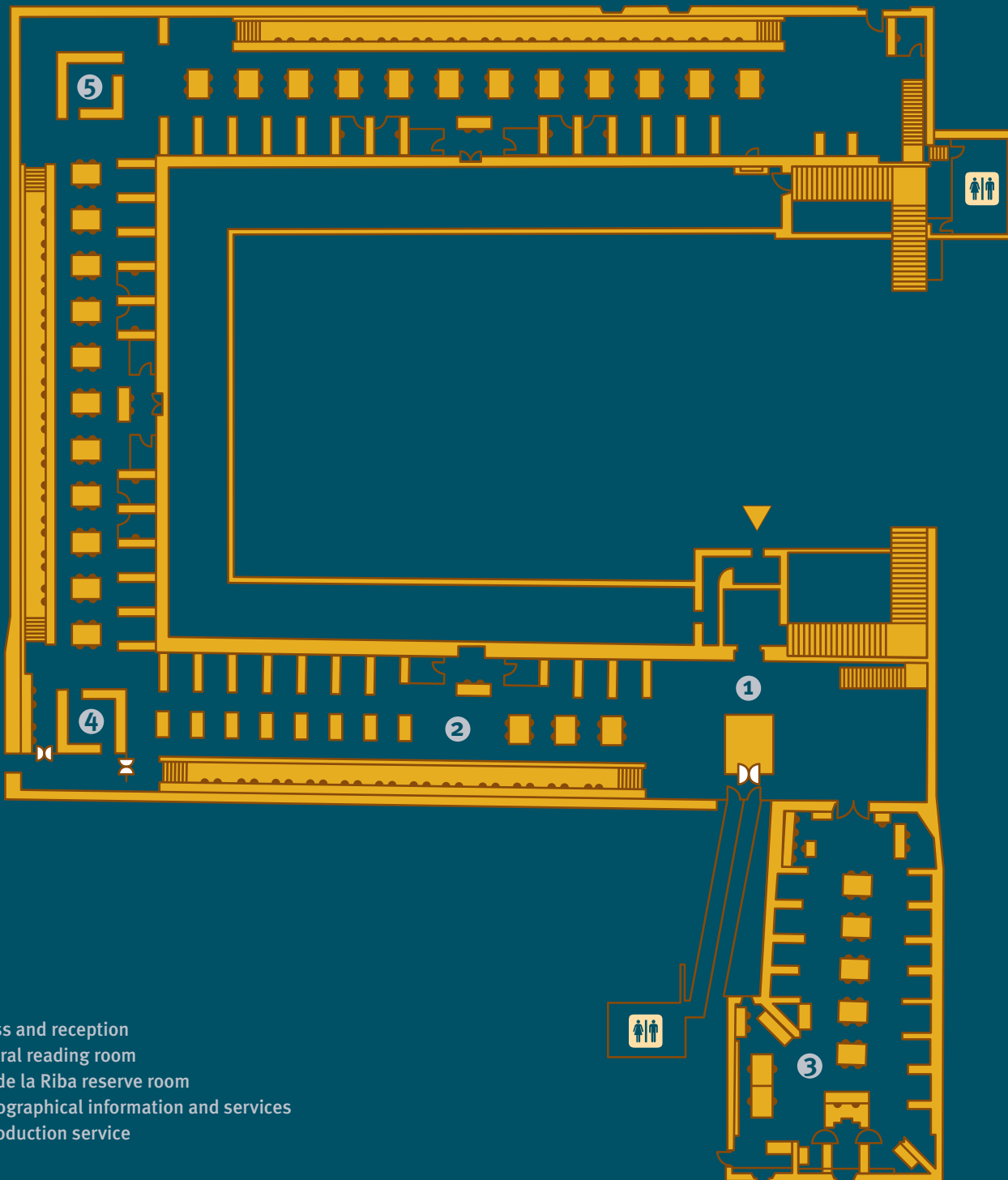
Microform readers/reproducers de: 6

Image readers/reproducers: 5

Sound readers/reproducers: 8

Reproduction machines: 5 (2 are scanners; 1 is a colour photocopier)

Total documents: 3 millions (estimation)



1. Access and reception
2. General reading room
3. Prat de la Riba reserve room
4. Bibliographical information and services
5. Reproduction service

www.bnc.cat

BC Biblioteca
de Catalunya

 Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Cultura
i Mitjans de Comunicació