

April 2025

#insideCasaliniLibri

Casalini Libri • Erasmus Boekhandel • @Cult

Anticipating the **future**

Honouring our **heritage**



Re·new | Re·group | Re·generate

Reflections and resolutions

2025 marks five years since we first joined forces with our partner companies [Erasmus Boekhandel](#) and [@Cult](#) and it is immensely satisfying to see how our collaboration has grown from strength to strength in such a short period of time!

With Erasmus and @Cult, we are committed to accompanying traditional, core services with investment in new, flexible and sustainable ways of facilitating access to academic publishing from all over the world, steered by our long-standing and close ties with the international library community and in line with their evolving needs.

Collectively leading providers of publications, bibliographic data and knowledge management solutions, we begin 2025 by renewing our dedication to the efficient supply of print books and journals, support for libraries through all aspects of selecting, acquiring and accessing digital publications with permanent access, and the provision of timely and quality bibliographic data, together with innovative solutions for information management and support for collaborative, sustainable knowledge sharing solutions.

Throughout this year - and beyond - we aim to continue to build and strengthen relationships among our companies and more widely with the international scholarly communications community, all the while echoing and sharing the approach with which our nation celebrated its role at Frankfurt 2024: "Pride in the past with a focus on the future."

Barbara and Michele Casalini

Reinforcing relations

As traditionally active collaborators with the publishing, academic and library communities, we relish the opportunity to become involved with activities and organizations that share our values and objectives.

In one of our busiest conference schedules for many years, we sponsored, attended, and made contributions, together with colleagues from Erasmus and @Cult, to events including ALA, ADBU, ARLIS North America, Bibliostar, IALL and the International Book Fair in Beijing. Opportunities for collaboration and alignment among our three companies were also created with regular management team meetings and a special "retreat" bringing together all of our technical staff from Rome, Amsterdam and Fiesole to further consolidate efforts on our shared systems and infrastructure and to prepare for future developments.

Our work with the [Share Family](#) continues to thrive, with ever-increasing community participation in the study, development and testing and implementation of the LOD platform, Authority Services and related tools. In our role as advocate for the Share Family, it has been a pleasure to participate alongside fellow Share members addressing conferences and meetings over the last twelve months on cooperation and interconnection for a sustainable Linked Open Data ecosystem, navigating the BIBFRAME frontier, and new pathways for resource description and interoperability.

We were also instrumental in the creation of a [series of short videos](#) illustrating the collective, equitable and innovative nature of the Share Family's work. We'd like to thank the Share members who gave their support and participated in these videos, giving personal testimonies to the value of this project and the benefits both for members and their patrons!

Across the wider library community, the Share-VDE group and representatives of the Share Family Advisory Group are involved

in the BIBFRAME Interoperability Group established to create guidelines for data exchange in BIBFRAME, thus expanding the methods and tools shared by linked data nodes for BIBFRAME interoperability. Our Chief of Information and Director of @Cult, Tiziana Possemato, is the Share Family liaison with the [IFLA Bibliography Section](#) for which she chairs the [National Bibliographies and New Technologies working group](#).

As well as contributing, together with @Cult colleagues Annalisa Di Sabato and Alessandra Moi, to this [volume](#) describing the genesis, implementation and prospects of [Parsifal](#), the shared catalogue of the Libraries of the Pontifical Roman Universities and Academic Institutions, Tiziana Possemato has also authored a newly-published monograph investigating the concepts of entity and identity in the cataloguing field. Entitled **Entity Modelling: The Third Generation of Cataloguing**, this volume combines theory and practical knowledge to discuss the transversal and international concepts, practices, benefits and importance of adopting new methods, to empower readers to approach and apply entity modelling with greater confidence and to contribute to the shift of paradigm related to the emerging bibliographic ecosystem. We are pleased to announce that, joining the [Italian edition](#) published in December 2024 by Firenze University Press, an [English language edition](#) of this work will be released by Facet Publishing in June 2025.

Commitment & responsibility

Beginning as we mean to go on, this year opens with Casalini Libri officially becoming a full member of [Fondazione LIA](#), the Foundation for Italian Accessible Books. A non-profit organization that promotes the culture of accessibility in the publishing field, Fondazione LIA carries out research and development activities in the field of digital accessibility and is part of an international network of organizations dealing with accessibility of contents.

Since we began our collaboration with LIA in 2021, we have successfully adapted the Torrossa platform to ensure its compliance with international accessibility standards. Side by side, we commit to "guaranteeing all people the opportunity to read a document, regardless of the type and context, means recognizing their right to culture and information, study and work, in full autonomy", and to actively contributing to the creation of an accessible digital publishing ecosystem.

Following the nomination of Luisa Gaggini, our Head of Digital, to the Board of Directors of EDRLab in 2023, we continue our engagement with this international, non-profit development Lab whose technology - upon which our own Torrossa Reader App is



Close ties with Erasmus through joint presence at conferences



IT teams from @Cult, Casalini and Erasmus share expertise and experiences at Villa La Torrossa

based - facilitates digital reading in different forms.

We are also looking forward to further expanding our collection of academic content in open access over the course of the coming years. Designed specifically to support the diffusion of academic publishing in open access from some of Europe's principal research bodies, the [Torrossa Open](#) portal is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting libraries and publishers in making access to knowledge as simple, immediate and widespread as possible.

With Torrossa Open, we aim to provide support not only for publishers wishing to publish research in open access, but also for researchers wishing to make their work available and visible internationally and - of course - for libraries, who we hope will appreciate the platform's infrastructure and functionalities. Many institutions are joining us in sustaining this venture so that together we can contribute to building a fair long term sustainability plan. More information for libraries interested in participating can be found online at <https://info.torrossa.com/open-access>.

New releases

We are delighted to announce the imminent publication of our new website at www.casalini.it, a window to all of our activities and services.

With a modern design and renewed structure, this website completes a set of three new portals we have developed over the last six months to ensure that clear and comprehensive information about our activities and services can be easily found and consulted by librarians, publishers and our collaborators throughout the wider scholarly information community.

In addition to providing descriptions of our work, the new suite of websites also reflects the company's direction and growing synergy with its partners, from the ever-stronger collaboration with Erasmus Boekhandel in the Torrossa digital platforms, bringing on board a wealth of content from scholarly publishers and university presses across

the globe, to our ongoing advocacy for the Share Family and efforts towards supporting and promoting the transition to linked open data for libraries, archives and museums, not forgetting - of course - our ties and joint ventures with international associations and groups within our community, working together to provide opportunities for dialogue and foster collaboration as we seek to make access to knowledge as simple, immediate and widespread as possible.

[Torrossa Info](#), the first portal in this new trio of websites was published in the summer of 2024 and is dedicated to providing essential information about the Torrossa Digital Library.

Packed with useful resources for librarians, the website contains descriptions and catalogues offering a range of collections curated by our own Approval selectors and details of

options for personalising acquisitions and workflows, as well as information on how we are supporting Open Access through Torrossa. You'll also find technical specifications and more on all practical aspects of Torrossa, from access and discovery to configuration and integration with library systems.

Towards the end of the 2024 we launched [Torrossa Publishers](#), the website's "twin": an updated interface for our publishing partners which provides both a source of useful information about how we can support academic publishing in the digital market and a gateway to tools that facilitate and enhance the personalised management of the content Torrossa hosts on each publisher's behalf.

We are excited to hear your opinion and invite you to visit the websites to find out more!



www.casalini.it



libraries.torrossa.com



publishers.torrossa.com

Torrossa Retreat

Once again, in 2024 we opened our doors to a group of our publishing partners for a day's reflection and discussion around trends in the national and international academic publishing market in the digital age. This Torrossa Retreat proved a valuable opportunity to share experiences, ideas and opinions with colleagues and professionals from the sector to find shared strategies for the future.

Contributions explored academic trends and research publications, two years on from our previous Retreat, requirements and prospects of academic publications from the perspectives of both publishers and research institutes, and a bird's-eye view of digital content in collections and research institutions, with an update on the all-important theme of accessibility. Our thanks go to those who generously gave their time to attend and converse with us, as well as to our speakers from *Il Mulino*, *AIE (Italian Publishers' Association)*, *Max-Planck Digital Library*, *Ledizioni*, *Wolters Kluwer Italia*, *Viella*, *Firenze University Press*, *Fondazione LIA*, *European University Institute*, *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore* and *Università Bocconi*. All contributions from the day may be consulted on the [conference website](#).



Reframing collection development



Flourishing: the olive tree planted on the occasion of the very first in the Fiesole Retreat series

We are grateful to the [European University Institute](#) for hosting us once again this year as we look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary Fiesole Retreat with [Charleston Hub](#) and [CLIR](#).

We will be welcoming returning colleagues and new faces to Fiesole for what promises to be a far-reaching and thought-provoking programme, with contributions covering themes ranging from evolutions in biodiversity across the scholarly information chain, to changes in attitudes to special collections and humanistic research, from measurement and monitoring, prestige and incentives in metrics, to inclusivity and how we can

level the playing field for effective and widespread access to knowledge.

Entitled [Learning from the Past, Informing the Future](#), this anniversary Retreat is an opportunity to reflect on the journey so far, review the questions raised over the years, and revisit major themes in order to respond to the priorities facing us today - and to prepare for tomorrow - in a climate of dialogue, participation and partnership.

Since the very first meeting in 1999 the Fiesole Retreat has created a unique space in which professionals from all areas of the scholarly communication sector can meet to consider and discuss the challenges set by rapidly changing times and technology, trends and expectations. Over 25 editions, we have taken the conversation around the future of libraries and collection development to 17 different cities spread over four continents, engaging with both local and international issues.

We are honoured to have inspired [ITOCA's](#) exciting new [Collection Development in Africa Series](#), whose second edition in Cape Town, South Africa this September will continue the legacy of last year's Retreat there, and wish them the greatest success!



Last year took us to Cape Town, in collaboration with CLIR and ITOCA, where we made new and lasting connections and began meaningful conversations.

Representing Italy

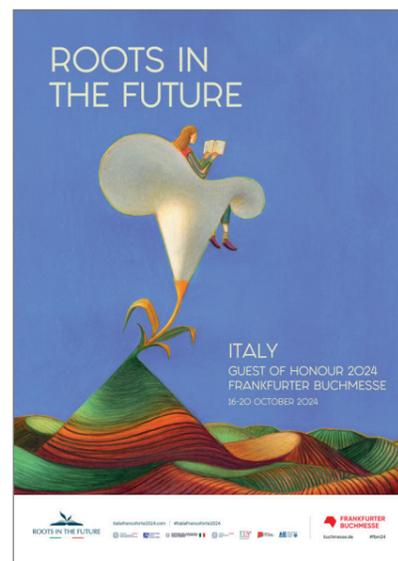
2024 saw the Frankfurt International Book Fair pay homage to Italy as its Guest of Honour. Participating with the motto "Roots in the future", Italy chose the occasion to promote the broad literary spectrum of a country that combines creative tradition with a spirit of optimism.

For our part, we were pleased and proud to participate in the Italian collective space, side by side with the many publishers with whom we collaborate, and to bring our contribution to the professional programme proposed by the [Italian Association of Publishers \(AIE\)](#).

Speaking in the round table session

dedicated to The Italy of Books in the World, Andrea Ferro discussed our role as ambassador for Italian cultural and research publishing since the 1950s and the diffusion of Italian publishing abroad over the decades, through our work to identify, catalogue and promote new publications, including those from small cultural entities, while protecting and strengthening the value of linguistic diversity.

The official illustration for Italy's year as Guest of Honour was created by Lorenzo Mattotti.



Anniversary refreshments

Congratulations were in order for Erasmus Boekhandel in April, as the company celebrated its 90th year! Our colleagues in Amsterdam marked the occasion with sweet treats and a spectacular cake.

With more than 70 colleagues working between Amsterdam and Paris, Erasmus continues to grow and thrive well into its next decade. Among the year's new developments and investments in the future were numerous agreements for digital content with many of the world's most prestigious publishers.

As part of an ongoing commitment to better serve its global community Erasmus was also pleased to announce that its website is now available also in Italian, allowing Italian-speaking users to easily navigate and access content in their preferred language.

Recurring traditions

On a similar note, Casalini favourite, the "maritozzo", is a dessert said to have origins dating back to ancient Rome and consists of a small sweet loaf traditionally filled with whipped cream. According to some sources, the name may derive from an affectionate term for husband (marito), coming from an old custom of husbands-to-be offering the dessert to their fiancées. Once a year we treat ourselves to a generous helping of these delights to sweeten the day!



The annual tradition of enjoying "maritozzi" goes strong.

Recent additions...

As we celebrate the experience and expertise of the Casalini team, we are also delighted to have welcomed new faces over the last years - an investment in new generations and the future workforce! We are sure that our new colleagues will bring fresh outlooks, cutting-edge skills and innovative ideas to the company, supporting us as we move forward.

Some of our new "acquisitions" take the place of longstanding colleagues who begin their well-earned retirements after careers spanning decades. We'd like to thank them all for their hard work and camaraderie over the years and wish them the very best in whatever they plan to do next!



Welcoming EUI library interns for a tour of our offices.



Hosting Library Science students from the University of Florence.

...and interns

Always pleased to contribute to the experiences of future library and information professionals, we were delighted during 2024 to welcome students and interns from our neighbours, the European University Institute and the Università di Firenze. We are grateful to the continuing collaboration of Professor Rossana Morriello for the privilege of being able to support the [Master's Degree in Archival and Library Science](#) at Florence University, now chaired by and Professor Annantonia Martorano

In 2024 the University's Lectio Magistralis in Library and Archive Science - the last of the series to be organized by now Emeritus Professor Mauro Guerrini prior to his retirement - was presented by Renate Behrens on the subject "Libraries in upheaval: a job profile put to the test." Watch it on [YouTube](#) or consult the text in open access on [Torrossa](#).

Remembering colleagues

2024 was a year tinged with great sadness through the loss of two important members of our community, Joachim Bartz, former Director at Casalini Libri and Erasmus Boekhandel's serving Head of IT, George Mulder.

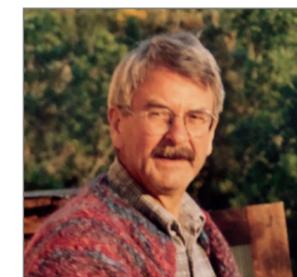
Joachim Bartz first joined Casalini at the beginning of the 1980s and subsequently returned in 1998, following a decade in London, to head our Sales team, becoming a company director until he retired - while maintaining close ties with us - in 2011. He passed away in the Summer.

With his determination, patience and good humour, Joachim made a tremendous contribution to the company's development, forged enduring relationships and earned the respect and trust of colleagues both within the company and across the library world,

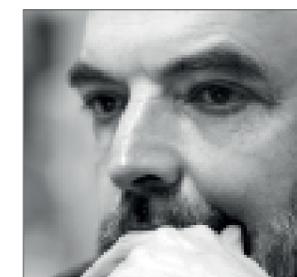
not to mention firmly cementing his place as an unforgettable part of Casalini history. We will always be grateful for Joachim's dedication and friendship and we are sure that all of those who met him over the years at conferences and on other occasions around the world will remember him just as fondly as we will in Fiesole.

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of George Mulder in July. Since joining Erasmus in 2001, George became a valuable member of the team. His dedication and expertise as an IT manager significantly contributed to the success of the company.

His passion for books and technology will live on in our memories. He will be sorely missed not only by his longer standing Erasmus colleagues but also by his more recent Casalini and @Cult counterparts.



We are immensely grateful to Joachim for his dedication and friendship.



An integral part of the Erasmus family, George will be missed by all.

Together we can connect information,
collaborate as community, and make knowledge
more visible in a way that is



cooperative



sustainable



open



inclusive

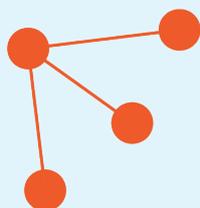


dynamic



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