

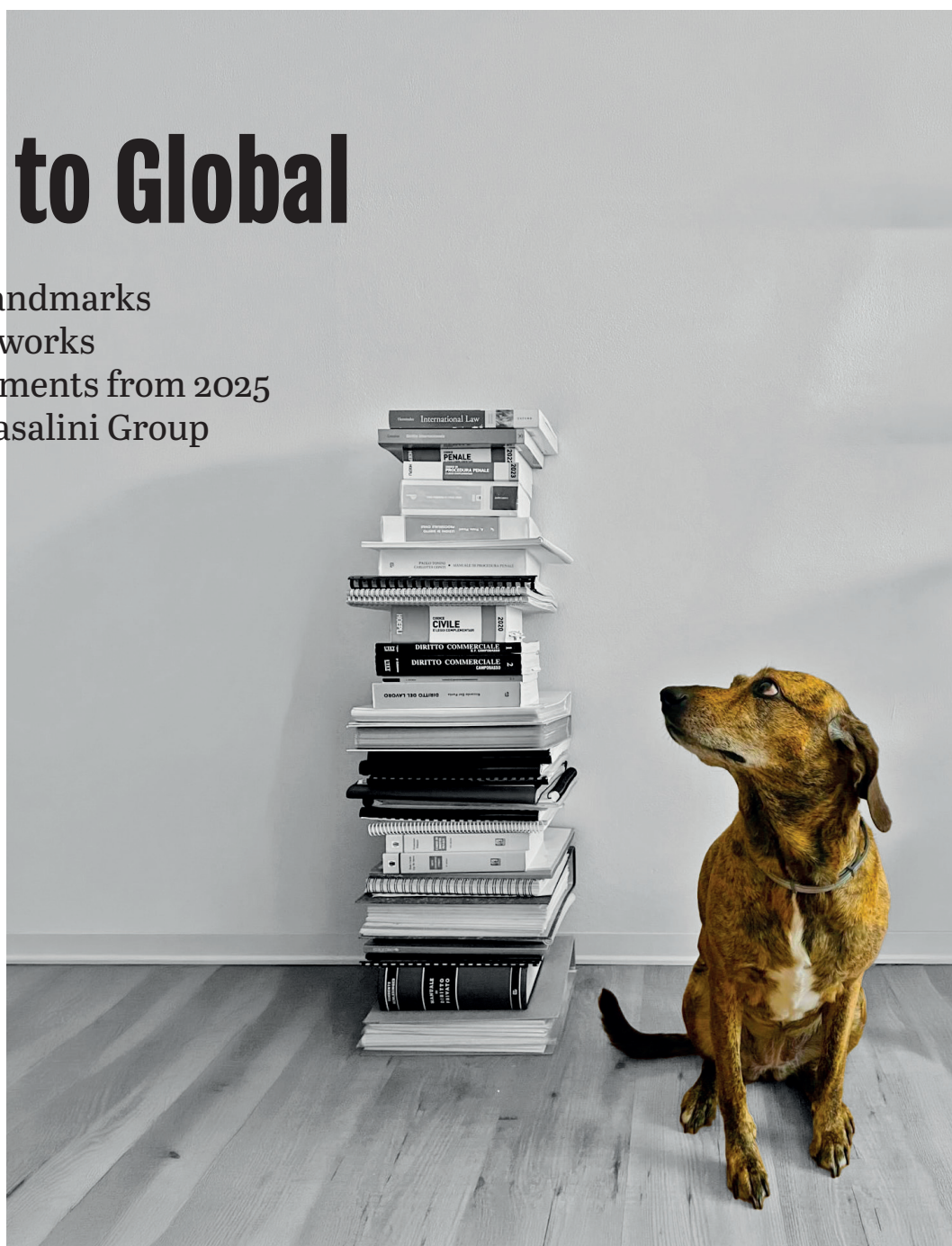
#inside

Casalini Libri • Erasmus Boekhandel • @Cult

APRIL 2026

Local to Global

From local landmarks
to global networks
Defining moments from 2025
across the Casalini Group



No place like home

Rooted at home, shaping what's next
for libraries worldwide: partnerships,
projects and progress

Fiesole Retreat

In April we celebrated 25 years of the Fiesole Retreat with a successful anniversary edition held at the European University Institute, just down the road in Fiesole. Many thanks to everyone who participated and contributed for helping to make this milestone both memorable and inspiring, from our hosts at the EUI, to all of the speakers, sponsors and colleagues who travelled to join us.

It is poignant that only a few months later we received the sad news of the loss of Ward Shaw, an integral part of the Retreat since the very beginning. Not only a colleague but a dear friend, Ward's company, wisdom and warmth will be greatly missed. We dedicated our 2026 meeting to his memory in recognition of his commitment and significant contribution to our community.

We have recently concluded our 26th meeting, which was held at the University of Tübingen, Germany, on 13-15 April, 2026. The title "May you live in interesting times" reflects the world we are navigating. Together with colleagues from across our sector, we looked at how reduced public funding, AI, and Open Science are transforming education and scholarly communication, and shared insight, impressions and experiences across topics including digital-age information preservation, creative uses of digitised collections and AI, collaboration for accessibility and sustainability, and the key role of libraries in maintaining knowledge and trust. The full programme and all contributions are now available on the conference website.

Erasmus, Paris

For 35 years, our Paris-based company Librairie Erasmus has been committed to shaping the future with innovation, dedication, and a passion for delivering exceptional value to our clients. What began as a bold vision in the heart of Paris has grown into a trusted partner for libraries across the world – driven by our unwavering focus on quality, creativity, and customer success.

This milestone is more than an anniversary; it is a celebration of the people who have made our journey possible. Our employees, clients, and partners have helped us evolve, challenge conventions, and continuously raise the bar. Together, we have built a legacy of reliability, expertise, and forward-thinking solutions.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to pushing boundaries and embracing new opportunities. The next chapter promises even more innovation, deeper collaborations, and continued growth.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Here's to 35 years of achievements and to a future filled with new possibilities.

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Digital Division

Who would have thought in 2000 that our small collection of digital Italian titles would grow into the vast library and bookstore that we see today? What started as a way of exploring the implications and potential of digital publishing now hosts content from more than 600 publishers from all over the world!

Last year was an important one for our Torrossa platform, with many more publishers coming aboard, stronger ties made with leading industry organisations and important updates to tools, all with a focus on accessibility and user experience.

In May 2025 we announced our membership of the LIA Foundation for Accessible Italian Books, the culmination of a longstanding and rewarding collaboration as we work together towards the key objectives of increasing accessible content and making the experience of choosing, purchasing and reading books accessible for all. Later in the year, we unveiled the updated Torrossa Reader app for desktop, which supplements mobile and web browser access and facilitates reading for both PDF and ePub files.

Over the course of 2025, we consolidated our connection with EDRLab, with Luisa Gaggini, our Head of Digital re-elected to the Board of Directors for a second term. We also increased integration with The Palace Project with new features for accessing and distributing digital and open access content, and embarked on a new collaboration with Zenty, to boost the visibility and reach of Torrossa content in new and emerging markets.

@Cult

The new year also heralds the 25th year of activity of @Cult, in preparation for the company's 25th anniversary celebrations in December. From its first steps a software provider for Italian libraries and library consortia, @Cult has grown from strength to strength, becoming the powerhouse behind the Share Family linked data ecosystem and earning its place as a global leader in the field of knowledge management for the cultural heritage sector.

Over the years, @Cult has turned that early library-tech know-how into deep, hands-on expertise in making cultural heritage data cleaner, richer, and easier to share. From building and integrating systems to moving data into linked open data, the company continues to help institutions connect collections and unlock knowledge at scale. After 25 years in the field, @Cult is still doing what it has always done best: practical innovation, backed by solid experience.

Welcome

Over the past year we have been reminded, once again, that everything we do is built on relationships: with libraries and scholars, publishers and colleagues, and the wider community that connects local work to global exchange.

Thanks to your continued trust and partnership, we've been able to enhance the services libraries depend on. We've supported acquisitions workflows, invested in accessible tools and platforms, adapted to emerging needs, and continue to learn with you as technology and expectations change.

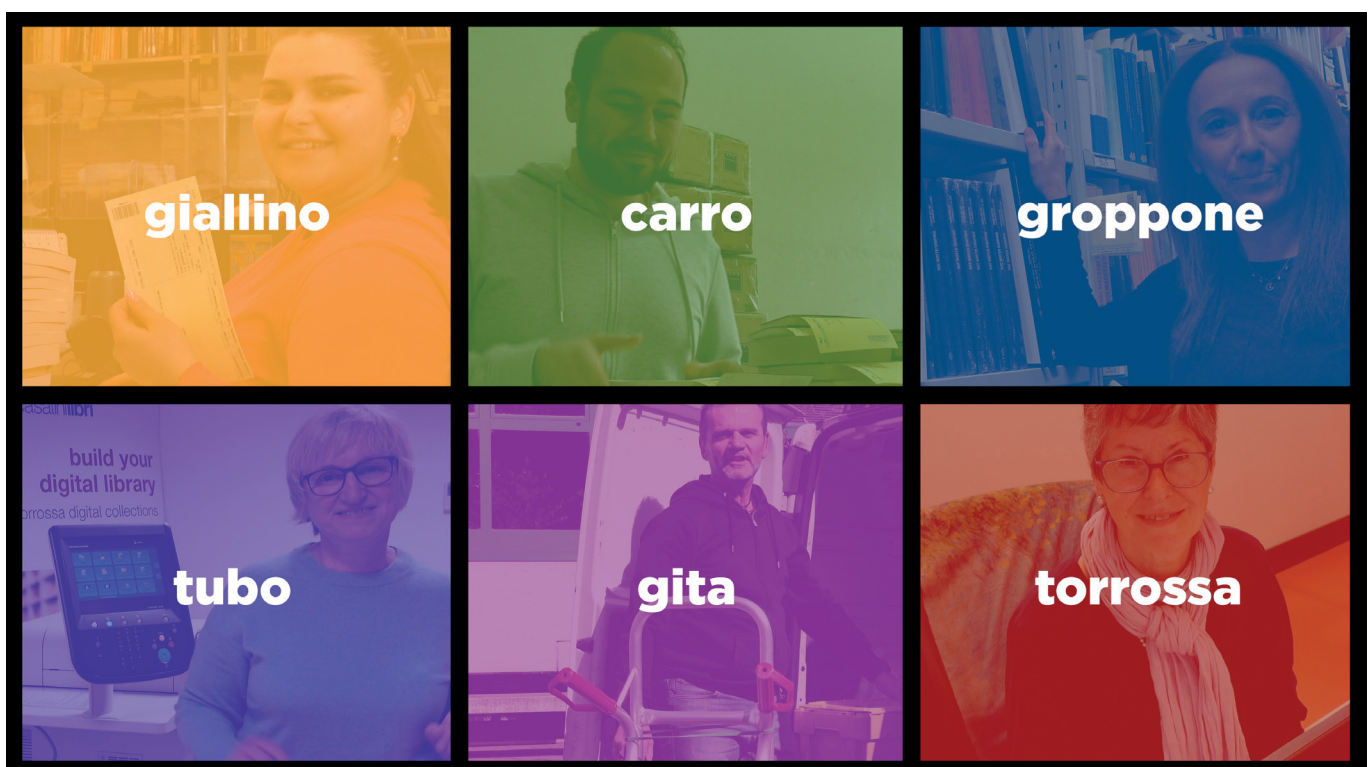
You may notice a change in the title – and content - of this issue, which brings together updates, insights and achievements from across the Casalini Group. This marks an important step in the evolution and communications of our group, reflecting the ongoing growth in collaboration and daily teamwork with our partners Erasmus and @Cult.

We are grateful to you for the discussions and the shared projects that make this work so rewarding and look forward to sparking fresh conversations, shaping practical solutions, and enabling even more connections across the global community together in the months to come.

Barbara and Michele Casalini

In our own words...

What do daytrips, horses and pipes have to do with library supply? If you missed our video last Spring, here's another chance to discover a few of the unique "inside" terms we use at Casalini every day!



No place like Home



While our work may reach - and take us - all over the world, we remain firmly rooted in, and proud to be a part of, our local territory. Here are a few of the institutions and individuals with whom we have connections - both longstanding and newly established - as well as some of the initiatives, associations and events we have had the pleasure of supporting and participating in over the last year. We've also added one or two local landmarks for good measure!

1 ARTISTI FIESOLANI
In June we celebrated the inauguration of the third permanent exhibition in our office space. Triografie, a work by local artisti fiesolani Raffaele Bueno, Paolo della Bella and Aldo Frangioni, joins the installations Cento disegni per Centuria (Paolo della Bella) and Nel nostro prossimo destino (Aldo Frangioni).

2 VILLA LA TORROSSA
No introductions needed! Our home and headquarters was the perfect venue for the Fiesole Retreat cocktail reception for our special anniversary year in 2025.

3 EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE
We count ourselves lucky to have a strong and collaborative relationship with our colleagues and neighbours at the EUI Library: from the annual visit to our offices by members of the EUI library traineeship programme, to the Institute's generous hosting of recent Fiesole Retreat meetings on home soil, we have many opportunities to work together.

4 CIMITERO DEGLI INGLESI
Earlier this year, we had the pleasure of collaborating with Professor Julia Bolton Holloway, the landmark's custodian of over 20 years and author of several publications focused on pilgrimage and literature, to make some of her works available in open access on the Torrossa Open platform, embracing our common aim of freely sharing research, projects, and knowledge with new generations of scholars.

7 UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE
Thanks to our ongoing collaboration with our local university, one of the largest research and higher education organizations in Italy, we regularly welcome Masters students specialising in Library Sciences to our offices to gain insight into the multiple and varied aspects of our work.



5

FIRENZE MARATHON CHARITY RUN

In November, a trio of our colleagues joined forces to run a charity relay held at the Cascine park just outside the old city walls. Stella Di Vincenzo, Andrea Ferro and Luisa Gaggini completed the 3x7km run, raising money for local charities.



6

TESTO

In February, we joined local and national publishers at this celebration of the book. It was the perfect opportunity to reconnect with our publishing partners and expand our network, to discuss emerging opportunities and plan for the future, and to bring the Torrossa digital platform to the attention of a wider public.



8

FOOTBALL TEAM

Football is a huge part of Florentine culture, from the annual medieval calcio storico tournament to the city's team, Fiorentina. We proudly support this tradition at grass-roots level, sponsoring a local student futsal team.

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Participating...



IN ITALY

In 2025 we consolidated our longstanding relationship with the LIA Foundation for Accessible Italian Books, by becoming a full member of the Foundation.

We also strengthened our collaboration with CRIC (Coordinamento delle riviste italiane di cultura), working together to bring Italian cultural journals to libraries and institutions in Italy and abroad. Through distribution on Torrossa, titles become easier for scholars worldwide to discover, access and cite, supporting research in the humanities and social sciences and helping to sustain bibliodiversity by giving greater visibility to authors and publishers.

Some of the most fascinating books are the hardest to find - so we helped bring them to the surface. Through BDIB (Bibliographic Database of Interactive Books), we partnered with the Share Family and Sapienza University of Rome to bring interactive and movable books, complex artifacts that are difficult to accommodate within conventional cataloguing systems, into the open via Linked Open Data, describing the material components, mechanisms, and narrative structures of these works. The portal pairs a dedicated and interoperable metadata model with modern discovery features like entity enrichment and IIIF-based viewing, helping libraries share these materials more widely and giving researchers richer, easier-to-navigate context.



IN EUROPE



As always, it was a pleasure to attend the annual Mario Casalini Lecture, held by the UK Italian Studies Library Group. The 2025 lecture was delivered by Prof. Joseph Farrell, Emeritus Professor at the University of Strathclyde, on "Carlo Levi and Power in Society".

Together with Erasmus, we sought to provide reliable and updated information to publishers and libraries and lobbied for the exclusion of printed books from the EUDR (European Deforestation Regulations), also urging Italian MEPs to consider the library sector when voting.

2025 saw Head of our Digital Division, Luisa Gaggini, re-elected to the Board of Directors of EDRLab, affirming our collaboration and dedication to driving innovation and champion accessibility in digital publishing.

We were involved both in organisation for the 2025 BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe in Naples, with Michele Casalini participating on the organising committee, and contributed to the programme with an update on advances in linked data application from Tiziana Possemato, who spoke on behalf of the Share Family.



WORLDWIDE

We continued our collaboration with the IFLA Bibliography Section, with @Cult's Tiziana Possemato acting as Chair for the National Bibliographies and New Technologies Group. In April, we had the pleasure of engaging with the group as Patricia O'Loughlin shared how our services have adapted alongside technological advances to continually support libraries. A few months later, Michele Casalini had the privilege of sending a brief greeting to delegates at the IFLA satellite meeting in Astana, which focused on "Artificial Intelligence, Bibliographic Control and Legal Matters: Navigating New Horizons."



Congratulations to the organisers on the success of the 2025 Collection Development in Africa meeting! Attended by Dirk Raes, who also presented on behalf of our companies, the conference set a firm foundation for networking and exchange in years to come. We are honoured to support this important hub for conversation and are delighted to see the growing legacy of the Fiesole Retreat bring even more opportunities for global collaboration.

With its roots in a project created with 11 university libraries from the South of Italy, the Share Family linked open data ecosystem is now truly a global endeavour and testimony to the power of collaboration! We're proud to be part of this growing international community and committed to supporting its ongoing evolution. Here's a quick recap of how far we've come in the last 10 years!



44 libraries in 6 nations
5 active environments
30+ information professionals
8 working groups
81 million bibliographic records
15 million authority records

Follow the Share Family on www.share-family.org or LinkedIn to learn more and stay up-to-date with all of its news and activities.

Share Family members are central in defining and designing the real-world tools that will be used in their own libraries.

The core purpose and values of the Share Family are built around its community-driven cooperation, with **collaboration** bringing **sustainability** through the optimisation of efforts for the benefit of all members, as well as supporting the sharing and visibility of **open** data and open science. We seek to boost global representation for local voices, most notably through our work with National Bibliographies and commitment to **inclusion**. Flexibility, adaptability and interaction make the Share Family a **dynamic** community, keeping pace in a rapidly changing world, helping libraries future-proof their data to reach new generations of scholars and students.

The new ecosystem in Linked Open Data brings with it advantages across the entire scholarly information chain:

Libraries

Infrastructure and interoperability for increased discovery of collections

Cataloguers

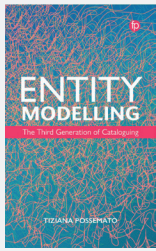
Trusted data hub;
Single integrated catalogue with local autonomy

Users

Rich, intuitive discovery and fair, open access to global knowledge

... and Connecting

**LOCAL
TO
GLOBAL**



The Third Generation of Cataloguing

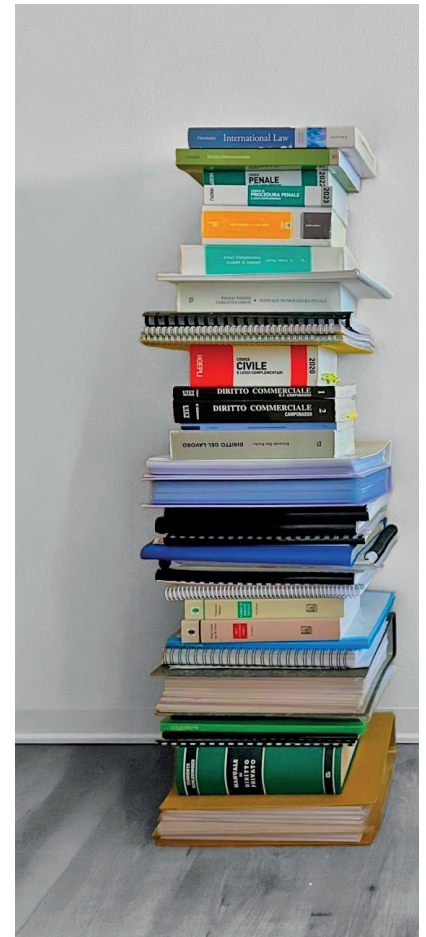
Hardback - ISBN: 9781783307289

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*We are pleased to announce the imminent publication (May 2026) of the English language edition of **Entity Modelling: The Third Generation of Cataloguing!** Written by Tiziana Possemato, Chief Information Officer of Casalini Libri, and Partner and Director of @Cult, and published by Facet Publishing, the book investigates the concepts of 'entity' and 'identity' in the field of cataloguing as a starting point for analysing and illustrating 'entity modelling' - an innovative contribution to third generation cataloguing, which involves Linked Open Data, and sets out how to apply entity modelling in GLAM settings and facilitate communication and interoperability across the GLAM sector.*

Full details are available online at

www.facetpublishing.co.uk



Cover Image "Mela"
Courtesy of Matilde Bracco



Established in 1958, Casalini Libri is an international bibliographic agency and leading supplier of publications from across Europe. Its personalised services for libraries facilitate selection and acquisitions workflows, provide access to electronic editions through the Torrossa Digital Library, which hosts an ever-increasing catalogue of quality HSS scholarly e-content, and support the library community in optimising new opportunities such as BIBFRAME and linked data.

www.casalini libri.com



Founded in Amsterdam in 1934, Erasmus Antiquariaat en Boekhandel quickly became a preeminent name in the international book trade, specializing in art and art history. Since 1984, the company has provided a comprehensive service to university, research and specialist libraries. Its subsidiary in Paris, Librairie Erasmus, was founded in 1990 to guarantee efficient delivery of French publications. Qualified booksellers in Amsterdam and Paris continue to provide personal and reliable customer service.

www.erasmusbooks.nl

www.erasmus.fr



A Rome-based software house specializing in the design and development of solutions for information management and knowledge sharing, @Cult is a leader internationally in the field of Cultural Heritage. Its awareness of the changes required by digital transformation and its commitment to providing solutions makes @Cult the ideal centre for research and development for the operational needs of the Casalini group.

www.atcult.com

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