



“One of the most important resources for incunable studies ever to be published and will be an indispensable addition to the growing set of specialized electronic tools for bibliographical research and library cataloguing.”

— Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship, Vol. 13, No. 2, 1999

General Editor: Dr Martin Davies

The Illustrated Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue on CD-ROM (IISTC) is based on the Incunabula Short-title Catalogue (ISTC), the database of 15th-century printing which has been in development at the British Library since 1980.

THE ISTC

The ISTC contains information on nearly all recorded editions of incunabula, or books and other material printed from movable type in the 15th century. Indulgences and other single-sheet printing are recorded, but block books and other material produced without moveable type are excluded. New editions are still being located but the current total of known editions recorded in ISTC is 28,360 of which 26,550 are true incunables (i.e. printed before 1501). The 16th-century editions included are books that have been assigned in the past to the incunable period in bibliographies and catalogues.

The ISTC records author, title and imprint information in standardized short-title forms. Each edition is described in its own record, which also contains a list of catalogues and other bibliography for that edition, and locations where copies can be found around the world. Each catalogue entry records, in separate fields, the author, title, printer, language of text, format, place of printing, date of printing, present location of known copies, bibliography and notes — both general and production, and on authorship and text. With the *IISTC*, each field can be searched separately. The notes can be searched in “All Fields”.

THE IISTC

The Illustrated Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue on CD-ROM is a version of the ISTC on CD-ROM with the addition of illustrations of key pages of each edition. The *IISTC on CD-ROM* facilitates searching in single fields (listed above) or complex searching combining a variety of field searches that can be saved for future research. These field searches include:

- All books printed in French now located in Rome
- Hebrew books issued in quarto format
- Caxton’s production before 1490
- Holdings of vernacular texts in the Vatican
- German or Italian incunabula with woodcut illustration

A list of the images available for each edition appears at the bottom of the catalogue entry. Clicking the ‘Image’ button calls up the first image which can be enlarged, magnified, saved to disk, placed in an image box for later use and comparison, or printed.

Twenty-thousand images have been added to *IISTC* so far, illustrating more than 4,000 of the 28,000 editions. A further 10,000 images will be added in regular editions until the ultimate goal of illustrating all extant incunabula has been achieved. Each new edition will be based on the latest, updated version of the British Library’s ISTC. A straightforward “Help” file covers all aspects of searching and navigation, together with detailed information on the history and construction of the ISTC.

THE ILLUSTRATED INCUNABULA SHORT-TITLE CATALOGUE ON CD-ROM: 2ND EDITION

Primary Source Microfilm
an imprint of the Gale Group

THE ILLUSTRATED INCUNABULA SHORT-TITLE CATALOGUE ON CD-ROM: 2ND EDITION

THE IMAGES

The images are chosen to demonstrate visually the construction of the book: its page layout, format and printing types, as well as the variety of printers' devices and woodcuts. The pages chosen are the **title page, prelim., start of text, first page of second quire, end of text, colophon, registrum, start and end of table, start and end of calendar and woodcuts**, depending on the text. Most of the images are in black and white, digitized from microfilm. Fifty images are in colour: these have been selected to illustrate the manner in which colour printing was employed. They can be searched as a group by typing "colour" in the "Image Information" field. We have also included in colour the magnificent page from the "Sforziada" with border illuminations and portrait heads of Francesco Sforza and his son Ludovico il Moro, by Giovan Pietro Birago — a superb example of Renaissance book illumination.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIES CONTRIBUTING IMAGES TO *IISTC*

- The British Library, London
- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague
- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München
- Bodleian Library, Oxford
- Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, CA
- Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon
- Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Universiteitsbibliotheek, Gent
- Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen
- Instituto Nacional do Livro, Lisboa
- Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid
- John Rylands University Library, Manchester
- Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Roma
- Biblioteca del Monastero Santa Scolastica, Subiaco

NEW FEATURES OF *IISTC*, 2ND EDITION

- New interface
- Location codes can now be expanded to full references for greater clarity
- Full microfiche references providing a direct index to the microfiche collection *Incunabula: The Printing Revolution in Europe, 1455-1500*
- An additional 10,000 images
- Fifty images in colour to illustrate the use of colour in printing

For classical and Renaissance historians, scholars of the history of printing, literature, philosophy, medicine, law, and anyone studying the 15th century, *IISTC on CD-ROM* facilitates rapid access and complex searches with the additional resource of digital images of key pages for visually identifying editions.

4 discs plus manual

SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS

- Pentium processor
- Windows™ 3.1x or higher
- 16 MB RAM
- 40 MB of free hard disk space
- VGA colour monitor (supporting at least 640 x 480 and 256 colours)
- CD-ROM drive
- Printer optional

For further information, contact *IISTC* Project Manager
E-mail: iistc@mail.bl.uk

Of Related Interest

Incunabula: The Printing Revolution in Europe, 1455-1500

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Tel: 800-444-0799
Fax: 203-397-3893
E-mail: sales@galegroup.com

Outside the U.S. and Canada
Primary Source Microfilm,
an imprint of the Gale Group
110 St. Martin's Lane
London, WC2N 4BA
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7257 2930
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7257 2940
E-mail: sales@psmedia.co.uk

Japan
Yushodo Co. Ltd.
29, San-ei-cho,
Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo
160-0008 Japan
Tel: +81 3 3357 1411
Fax: +81 3 3351 5855
E-mail: sales@yushodo.co.jp



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