Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

A comprehensive digitized collection of European printed works from the Early Modern Period

To talk to the sales department, contact us at 1-800-779-0137 or sales@proquest.com.
The collections in Early European Books bring online over 200 years of remarkable works from pre-18th century Europe. As a continually growing series of collections, Early European Books allows unlimited access to thousands of pre-1701 books and rare incunabula printed in Europe. It embraces the two-and-a-half centuries following Gutenberg’s invention of movable type in the mid-15th century, which witnessed an unprecedented proliferation and dissemination of literature throughout Europe. In keeping with the tenor of the time, religious works dominate, but there is no shortage of secular material concerning every field of human thought and activity. Drawing from a diverse array of primary sources in their original languages, this acclaimed series opens the door to in-depth scholarship that was once limited to fragile manuscripts housed in far-flung institutions. Developed and produced in collaboration with scholars, rare book librarians, bibliographers and other experts, Early European Books offers millions of fully searchable pages scanned directly from the original printed sources in high-resolution full color. Each item is captured in its entirety, complete with binding, edges, endpapers, blank pages and any loose inserts. The result is a wealth of information about the physical characteristics and histories of the original work.

- Detailed descriptive bibliographic metadata accompanies each set of document images to support browsing and searching.
- ProQuest's partnership with the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) further improves access and discoverability of materials essential to researchers of the early modern era.

More than 70,000 works and 20+ million pages of content are currently included, with new titles added regularly. No other online source offers such a wide survey of the print output of Europe from 1450-1700, removing the need for lengthy research trips and saving valuable time and budget.

ProQuest and USTC
ProQuest is a proud partner of the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Together, our two organizations will select future collections for Early European Books (EEB), in addition, leveraging the USTC’s expertise in this historical period, enhanced metadata to improve access and discoverability within and across the collections has been added.

- A single place to search the most comprehensive collection of Early Modern works.
- The USTC subject classification feature facilitates a search according to themes in English across multiple language texts.
- Our editors have captured searchable special page features such as marginalia, coat of arms, maps, charts and illustrations.
- The page images can be viewed in greater detail using Zoomify technology.
- Author search will identify the millions of contributors to creative works, including writers, artists, researchers, producers, publishers and more.
- Scholarly papers that review themes across the entire collection will lift out lesser known works of interest to Early Modernists.
EARLY MODERN BOOKS

Early European Books has moved from its legacy Chadwyck-Healey interface, to the powerful, newly-enhanced ProQuest platform! With its clean interface and responsive design, the ProQuest platform delivers a modern research experience that guides users' discovery, access and management of rich, diverse content sources.

And now, with the similar migration of Early English Books Online to the ProQuest platform, materials in Early European Books or Early English Books Online can be viewed in isolation or as part of Early Modern Books (EMB), which provides an integrated search and browse experience. Materials can be searched and/or browsed by the following, amongst other options:

- Date
- Author
- Country of publication
- Language
- USTC classification
- Page features

Searching both English printed titles alongside European titles could provide new discoveries of works that have travelled geographically and linguistically across Europe.

EEBO and EEB, alongside any other databases that your institution has access to, are selected via the Change Databases menu in the ProQuest Platform's main navigation,

“The scanned color images in Early European Books means it can be better than looking at real books.”

– Dr. Edward Wilson-Lee, Fellow in English, University of Cambridge
COMPREHENSIVE METADATA ENHANCES DISCOVERY

Early European Books augments its remarkable collections of digitized material with technology that makes search, retrieval and investigation much easier for scholars, faculty, librarians and other researchers.

Enhanced metadata. The USTC has reviewed and standardized the datasets applying their own Subject Classifications to each work. This provides an additional discovery layer for Early European Books that streamlines and improves search results for users. These new fields cover a broad range of subjects from academic dissertation; agriculture; art and architecture; astrology; bibles; medical texts; political tracts and many others. Moreover, the USTC has normalized metadata on the following fields: place of printing, region of printing, language, and year/date range. Because place of publication has been standardized across all the material, the translation of this material can be interpreted as scatter points on a scatter map.

Scatter map feature. Discovery of content for Early European Books is made even more remarkable with ProQuest's innovative scatter map feature. Researchers will choose their subject matter from a comprehensive metadata list (with the ability to filter by language, date of publication, source library and USTC subject classifications), and the interactive, immersive scatter map displays thumbnail results visually. This function lets researchers find connections within and among material that they may not have realized before – helping validate or clarify research and views. Results from the scatter map can then link directly to the full digitized page in Early European Books.

Filter by subject matter. Select a subject to narrow the map visualization.

Filter books by publication year.

Filter by language.

Filter by source library.

Select a circle on the map to view the book details.
THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON RESEARCH

Digitization of early modern books has revolutionized scholarship by enabling around-the-clock access to rare material that was once limited to those with the time and budget to visit far-flung places.

Watch a video on digitization of Early European Books, at proquest.com/go/eebvideo with commentary by renowned British historian Professor Andrew Pettigree. See the careful digitization process and major efforts to provide researchers with high-quality filming.

Read the Case Study from Professor Andrew Pettigree:
Opening New Worlds to Researchers with Early Modern Historical Materials. Professor Pettigree, director of the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC), discusses USTC’s collaboration with ProQuest, challenges in the study of early print books, and the future of scholarship in this area.
https://webcache.brandmaker.com/871_1573064217736.original.html

Read about Early European Books Collections 1–10 and their highlights:
Early European Books (EEB) Collections 1–10 covers the curated materials from 3 important print centres of early modern Europe: The Netherlands (KBNL), France (BNF), and Italy (BCNF). It also includes works that span the wealth of scientific discoveries emerging from the Scandinavian North (KBDK), to the extensive medical collections of the Wellcome Trust in London.
https://webcache.brandmaker.com/1_1629269479070.original.html

“Early European Books presents this material on an accessible platform that allows the user to dive into the texts and read them almost as if they were in hand.”
– Arthur der Weduwen, University of St. Andrews
Premier Partners

Leading European research libraries trust ProQuest to safely digitize their irreplaceable historic material for inclusion in Early European Books. Partner institutions include:

- **Det Kongelige Bibliotek (KBDK)/The Royal Library, Copenhagen** – Early European Books’ first partner library, the KBDK is Denmark’s national library and holds an almost complete collection of all Danish books printed since 1482. Collection 1 of Early European Books was made up of volumes from the KBDK in its entirety and, to date, KBDK material is a component of Collection 3, 4 and 5. Digitization was carried out at the library.

- **Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF)/The National Central Library, Florence** – Early European Books’ second partner library, the BNCF is one of the two central libraries of Italy. Originally founded in 1714 when the scholar Antonio Magliabechi bequeathed 30,000 books, the library quickly became a repository for all published works in Tuscany. Its holdings combined with those of the Biblioteca Palatina in 1861, by 1870 it had become a repository for the whole of Italy and in 1885 it became officially known as the National Central Library of Florence. The entirety of Collection 2 is material from the BNCF while further volumes from the BNCF form components of Collection 3 and 4. Digitization was carried out at the library.

- **Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBNL)/The Royal Library of the Netherlands in The Hague** – Founded in 1798, the library has a collection that contains almost the entire literature of the Netherlands, from early manuscripts to the most recent publications. Publication of material from the KBNL began with Collection 3, initially with an agreement to digitize the entire KBNL collection of material printed in the Netherlands before 1700 (approximately 28,500 items), with an option to extend this program to the digitization of the library’s holdings of books printed outside the Netherlands before 1700.

- **Wellcome Library, London** – Founded on the private collection of Sir Henry Wellcome (1853-1936), the library’s rich holdings encompass the history of medicine and include works on alchemy, anthropology and ethnology. Henry Wellcome began collecting books in the late 1890s, searching the world for a diverse range of books and buying collections such as William Morris’s library and the library of Joseph Frank Payne, librarian to the Royal College of Physicians. As with the KBNL, material from the Wellcome begins with Collection 3.

- **Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)/National Library of France, Paris** – Intended as the national repository of everything published in France, the origins of the library go back to 1368 and the royal collection established by Charles V. First opened to the public in 1692, over the centuries the collection grew in size and shifted location on numerous occasions. During the French Revolution, the collection swelled to over 300,000 volumes and, later, under Napoleon’s reign, became established as France’s national repository. The first material from the library was released as part of Collection 4 in 2013. Further material will be in stand-alone collections; the first of such is Collection 6, released in 2014; followed by Collection 8 released in 2015; Collection 10 released in 2016; Collection 12 released in 2017; Collection 14 released in 2018; Collection 16 released in 2019, and Collections 17-18 to be released in 2020.

Extend research and support multidisciplinary research by enabling primary-source exploration of life and culture in the early modern era.

Talk to your ProQuest representative to see how Early European Books and related resource Early English Books Online fit into your institution’s collection, and request a personalized demo.

Learn more at [https://about.proquest.com/en/products-services/eeb/](https://about.proquest.com/en/products-services/eeb/)