

Library activity report 2025



Executive summary

In 2025, the Library reinforced its support for research, learning, and teaching, while advancing resource accessibility and prioritising the overall user experience. Investments in open science infrastructure, research data guidance, and transformative publishing agreements increased the visibility, accessibility, and reuse of EUI research. Targeted collection development and new partnerships with peer institutions broadened access to specialised collections. Responding to user survey results, the Library also improved its technological facilities by installing more screens and docking stations, and by redesigning several areas to offer more comfortable, functional, and user-friendly spaces that support study, research, and collaboration. The implementation of OpenAthens now enables seamless and efficient access to licensed resources from any location. The Library also launched its new website, providing more intuitive navigation, updated content, and better integration of Library guides, resources, and services, making it easier for students, researchers, and the wider academic community to find what they need. Finally, throughout the year, the Library continued to invest in staff development, strengthening expertise in digital tools, AI, and service delivery to support ongoing innovation and maintain high standards of excellence.

European University Institute Library
Badia Fiesolana - Via dei Roccettini 9
50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy
library@eui.eu
www.eui.eu/Library
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Graphic design: Benedetta Siviero
Cover photo: Juliette Muth



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Message from the Director

This 2025 Activity Report represents a deliberate change in how the Library accounts for its work to audiences beyond its own walls. Since 2019, the Library has published a Statistical Yearbook that set out facts, figures, and key indicators, accompanied by concise explanatory notes. Those volumes served their purpose well. They measured activity, recorded growth, and established a shared evidentiary base for internal reflection.

This report moves in a different direction. Rather than standing apart from the numbers, it absorbs them into a broader narrative that seeks to explain not only what the Library does, but how and why it does it. In doing so, it replaces the Statistical Yearbook as a separate instrument and offers a more complete view of the Library as a complex organisation of people, skills, and collaborations working in support of research, teaching, and public engagement. The intention is to make visible the collective effort that underpins services which, when they function well, often remain unnoticed.

The report therefore pays particular attention to context, decision making, and outcomes. It traces the connections between activities that might otherwise appear discrete, showing how priorities are defined, translated into action, and sustained through careful planning and coordination. By following work from intention to delivery, it reveals the internal logic of the Library's operations and the ways in which different forms of expertise are brought together to meet the needs of its users.

Throughout this period, the Library remained firmly anchored in its core mission. While forms of service evolve and new initiatives emerge, the commitment to delivering reliable, high-quality core services continues to shape daily practice. Change, as this report aims to show, has been pursued not as an end in itself, but as a means of sustaining that mission under new conditions.

Josep Torn Poch
Director, EUI Library.



Mission

The EUI Library embodies the core functions and values increasingly recognised as essential to modern academic libraries: it provides extensive access to digital and print resources that underpin research and teaching; delivers training in information literacy; and supports scholars throughout the research lifecycle, including data management, open science, and long-term access to research outputs. As a trusted provider of verified, evidence-based information, the Library plays a key role in helping students and researchers assess sources critically and navigate misinformation in complex digital environments. Through its expertise in research data stewardship, digital infrastructures, and emerging technologies, the EUI Library functions not merely as a support service but as strategic research infrastructure, advancing knowledge equity, high-quality education, and the EUI's broader academic mission within the European research landscape.



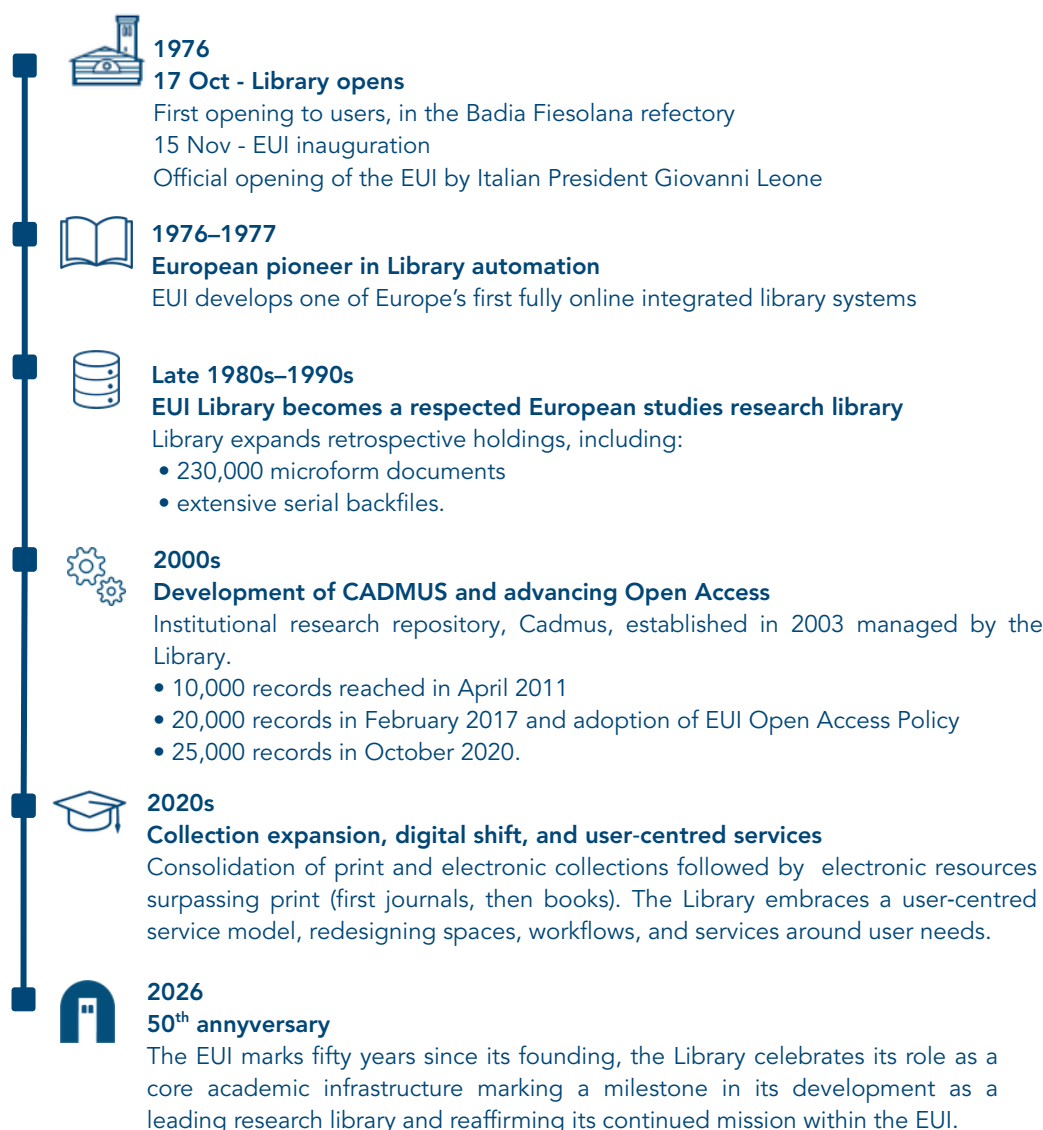
Timeline

The journey toward the EUI Library began in 1948 at the Congress of The Hague, where the initial idea for a European university was first launched. This vision gained significant political momentum in 1955 during the Messina Conference, which saw the project officially revived and endorsed.

The formal mandate for the library was established in 1972 with the signing of the EUI Convention. Under Article 13, the library was envisioned as a cornerstone of the institution with a specific four-fold mission:

- To be centrally organised and openly accessible
- To maintain an interdisciplinary research focus
- To be developed in harmony with the rich documentary heritage of Florence.

The library moved from mandate to operation in 1975. On October 1st, Kenneth W. Humphreys was appointed as the first Library Director. To ensure the institution remained forward-looking, the role of Deputy Librarian was created specifically to lead the library's automation strategy, a position first held by Michel Boisset.



Source until 1990s: Tommaso Giordano, Cronache bibliotecarie. Prima della rete, ovvero nascita e formazione della Biblioteca dell'Istituto Universitario Europeo, In: Studi e testimonianze offerti a Luigi Crocetti. Milano, Bibliografica, 2004.



Library organisation

The Library is a single, well-coordinated service, organised into three functional offices that work closely together to ensure requests and services are handled efficiently.

The Front Office delivers front-line services to users; the Back Office manages technical services; and the Open Science Office oversees open science initiatives and manages the EUI's institutional research repository. Each area is led by a designated coordinator who plans activities and monitors progress. Overall management and coordination is ensured by the Director, who connects the work of the three offices and aligns it with the priorities of the wider Institute.

In addition to the three offices, each academic department at the Institute is supported by a dedicated information specialist, serving as the main point of contact for discipline-specific and interdisciplinary needs related to information, collections, and services for research in Economics, Sociology and Political Science, Law, and History.

Complementing this, there is a specific position dedicated to research data and data-related services, providing transversal support in close collaboration with the Open Science Office.

Alongside this organisational structure, the Library's working groups address current and emerging topics with actions. Their work contributes to the continuous improvement of Library services and is consistently guided by a user-centred vision, placing the needs of the academic community at the core of all decisions and initiatives.



Financial overview

The analysis of the Library's running costs shows a high concentration of expenditure on scientific collections, which account for 84.37% of the total budget, compared with 8.29% allocated to technological solutions and process improvement. This shows the central role of collections in the Library's mission and service model.

As the cost of scholarly resources keeps rising, faster than inflation, due to publisher pricing, market concentration, and the move to digital and transformative agreements, the Library faces significant pressure to sustain a broad, high quality range of resources that academic community rely on. At the same time continued investment in infrastructure, automation, and new digital tools are essential to sustaining operational efficiency and service quality in an increasingly complex higher education environment. In the short term, additional spending is required to introduce AI-based tools that will strengthen process and operational improvements. This initial investment is strategic, as it is expected to generate significant medium and long-term savings across other budget lines, while optimising resource allocation, and supporting the Library's capacity to absorb growing demand without proportional increases in recurrent expenditure. In this context, the Library must adopt a strategic approach to spending, exploring more sustainable models for acquiring and accessing content, and investing selectively in technologies that streamline workflows, efficiency, and reinforce the Library's value to the institution.



EUI Library annual report 2025

In 2025, the Library consolidated its core functions, strengthened services that users rely on every day and invested in people, processes, and a digital infrastructure to build a strong foundation for future innovation, efficiency, and more responsive user support. This investment will directly translate into concrete benefits for the academic community. This report is organised around five focus areas and includes key statistics and contextual information that define the scope of the Library's activities in 2025:

Advancing scholarship, open science and research data

To strengthen the digital infrastructure, expand open access publishing, and provide robust compliant research data services.

Supporting research, teaching and community engagement

To expand research support, outreach initiatives through information literacy trainings, integrated services in support of teaching programmes, a new website and Library guides and strategic partnerships.

Adapting and optimising services, spaces and collections

To support academic needs by updating services and policies, re-thinking physical and digital spaces, and ensuring collections remain relevant, diverse, and future-ready.

Improving access, interoperability and workflows

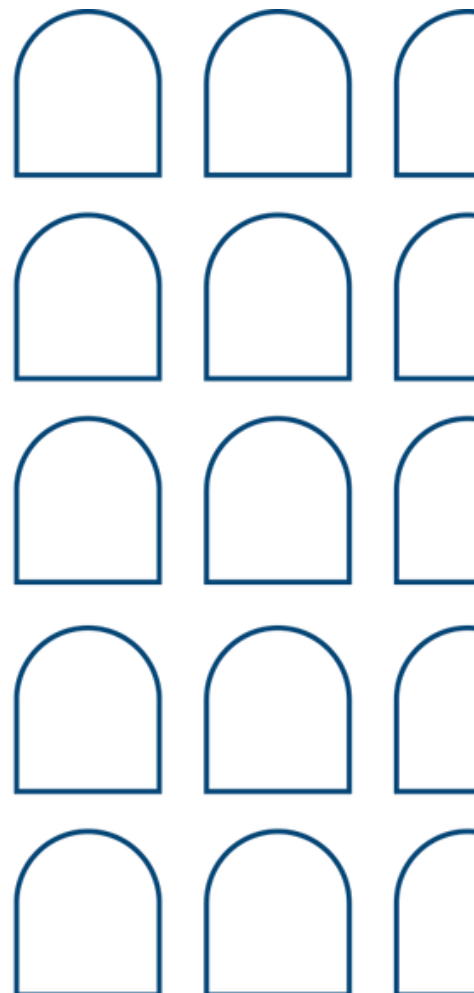
To improve users' ability to easily discover, access, and use electronic resources through seamless authentication and transparent licensing.

Developing workforce skills

To invest in staff training and professional development of the Library team to meet emerging challenges.



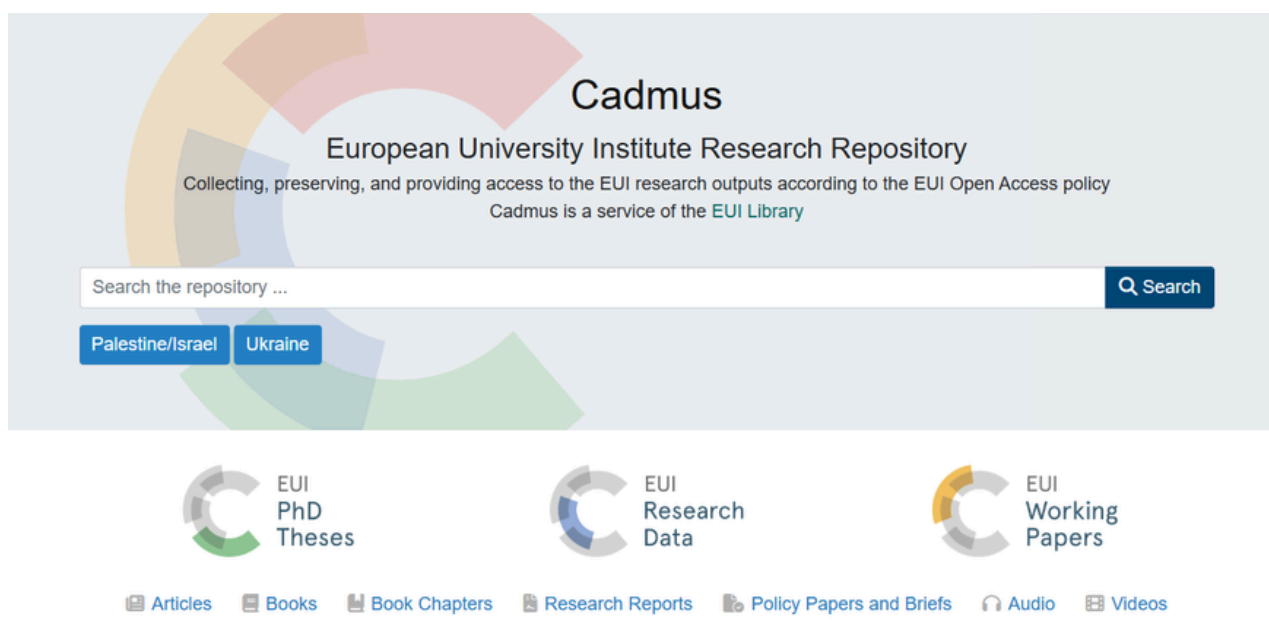
**Advancing scholarship, open
science and research data**



Institutional research repository upgrade: Cadmus

A key milestone during the year was the upgrade and migration to DSpace 7 technology of the institutional research repository, Cadmus. This upgrade resulted in improved performance, a more intuitive user experience, and a closer integration with other Library services.

This upgrade introduced several significant enhancements, including a fully responsive, mobile-friendly interface with improved search and browsing functions, as well as customisable lists that can be created, managed, and shared. New statistics dashboards were implemented to provide usage data, such as the most consulted publications, leading authors, and global readership patterns. In addition, entity-based navigation through authors, projects, and publications was introduced, supported by dedicated profile pages for all EUI members, in addition to integration with researchers' ORCID profiles.



 Total items
32,763

 Open Access items
15,753

 Theses
3,791

Cadmus is a gateway to EUI research visibility:

- It hosts both traditional outputs and formats such as datasets, and some audio and video material.
- It connects with author profiles (such as ORCID) to make research more discoverable.
- It provides unique permanent links and reliable metadata for citation and reuse.



Publishing and Open Access


EUI academic publications continue to grow, with an increasing number of theses, articles, books, datasets, and working papers. Open Access journal articles have been significantly supported by the Library's transformative read and publish agreements with major publishers, which enable authors to publish openly at reduced or no cost to authors.

Transformative agreements made it easier for EUI authors to publish their work openly, at no cost or at reduced cost. This meant that their research became more visible, more widely read, and more likely to have an international impact.

Since 2020, EUI scholars have published over 300 open access articles through transformative agreements. In 2025 alone, authors published 76 open access articles; representing an estimated of €228,000 in publishing value made available at no cost to them.

Cadmus key figures 2025*:

 **Articles**
630

 **Book chapters**
313

 **Thesis**
178

 **Working papers**
135

 **Technical reports**
96

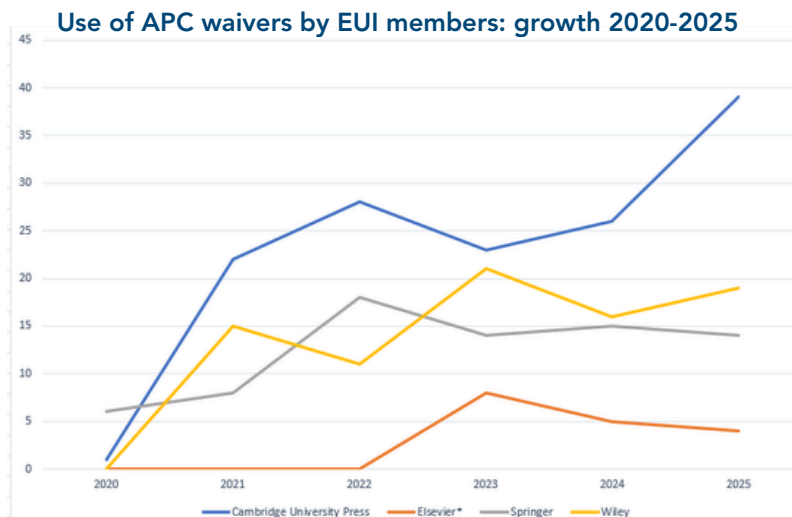
 **Policy briefs and policy papers**
76

 **Books**
99

 **Datasets**
22

 **Videos**
11

Six transformative agreements: Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley + two additional agreements with Oxford University Press and Taylor & Francis at the end of 2025



* Records added to Cadmus in 2025, not necessarily published in 2025. EUI research output published in 2025 is a separate metric (page 20).



Research data services

Research data services are a core component of the Library's role as a research infrastructure at the EUI.

In November 2025, we published a complete overhaul of the Research data guide, both in terms of structure and content, implementing feedback and recommendations from our users and the EUI Ethics Committee. This provides researchers with clearer guidance, more integrated access to data-related services, and improved alignment across Library units.



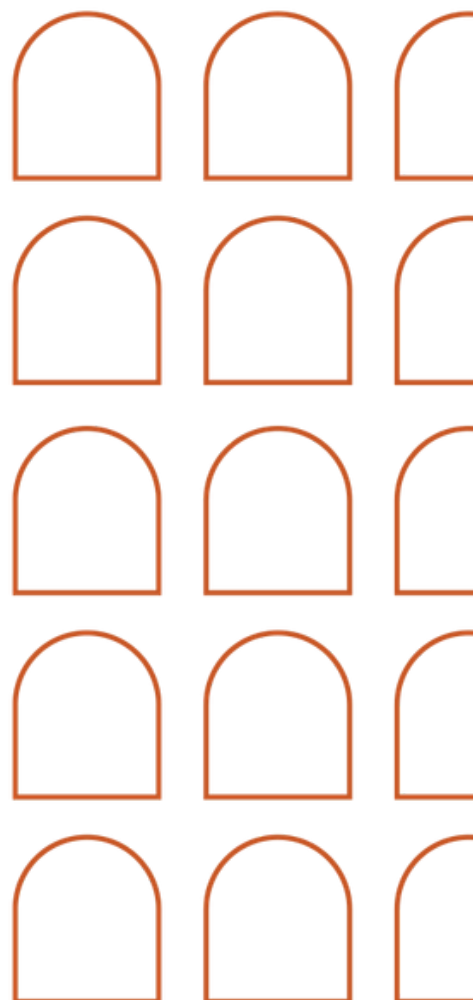
In 2025, the Library hosted more than 80 individual consultations related to research data in the following areas: support requests to access third-party data; best practice for handling sensitive and personal data; research data management plans and procedures (especially for funded projects); and data archiving and sharing.

Moreover, the Library's Secure Data Room enabled 37 authorised users to conduct a total of 180 access sessions to research data, subject to reserved rights managed by the Library. This service provides a controlled and compliant environment for working with sensitive datasets, ensuring adherence to legal, ethical, and contractual obligations while enabling advanced research.

In the same year, following an agreement concluded in September 2024 with the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Germany, the Library began providing access in Italy to data held by the Research Data Centre (FDZ). During 2025, 72 individual users accessed the data centre. This service was established through a joint initiative of the Economics Department and the Library and is open to both EUI members and external scholars. Access for non-EUI users is subject to prior authorisation by IAB and is coordinated by the Library through the Research data librarian, ensuring full compliance with IAB requirements and appropriate use of the data.



**Supporting research, teaching
and community engagement**



Support to research

Collection development

Collection development decisions were made with a stable institutional funding, rising resource prices, and increasingly complex access models. In response, the Library applied a selective, evidence-based approach to acquisitions and withdrawals, with the aim of maintaining a high-quality, sustainable, and usable collection aligned with the EUI's mission. Discussions throughout the year reinforced a guiding principle for acquisitions: intellectual relevance must be balanced with equitable access, financial sustainability, and overall coherence within the wider collection.

Evidence-based acquisitions (EBA)

The Library expanded its use of Evidence-Based Acquisition models in 2025. Following strategic decisions in 2024, new EBAs were launched with Brill and Oxford University Press. In parallel, under the ongoing EBA agreement with Cambridge University Press, Information Specialists selected 95 titles for perpetual access based on usage data and disciplinary relevance. These models ensure broad access for users while preserving the Library's ability to make targeted, long-term investments.

Monographs and real-time acquisitions

A major development in 2025 was the implementation of the real-time acquisitions (RTA) purchasing model for monographs, following the tendering of GOBI and Erasmus as the Library's book suppliers. RTA gives faster access to newly published titles and greater flexibility to support emerging research and teaching interests. At the same time, the escalating costs of e-books required careful balance between digital and print formats, particularly where electronic licences prove financially unsustainable.

Selectivity and shift to digital

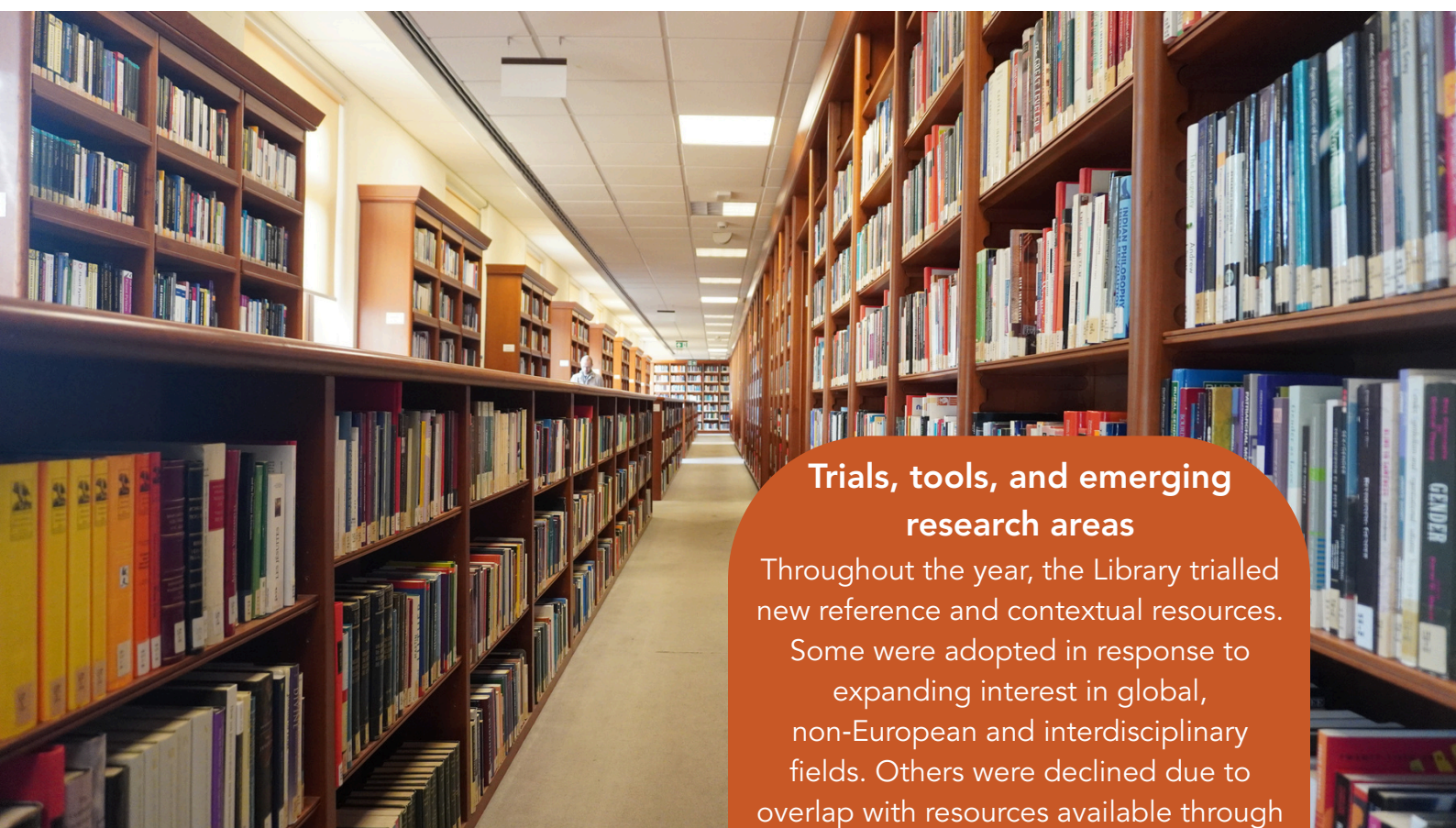
The Library reassessed several long-standing acquisition patterns, replacing automatic standing orders, such as those for the Proceedings of the British Academy, with more selective, title by title approaches. Similarly, subscriptions to 69 print journals were cancelled where reliable digital access was guaranteed; a further 30 titles moved from print to electronic-only access. These adjustments reduce duplication while preserving access to core content.



Evaluating high-cost and specialised resources

High-cost, low-usage digital platforms and data services received increased scrutiny. Rather than relying solely on usage statistics, the Library adopted a consultative approach with experts on longer-term research value.

Targeted acquisitions supported specific research projects, for example, a one-year subscription to Balkan Insight to meet project-driven needs. At the same time, the Library was more cautious with new platforms whose sustainability or long-term value remained uncertain, deferring decisions while monitoring developments.



Trials, tools, and emerging research areas

Throughout the year, the Library trialled new reference and contextual resources. Some were adopted in response to expanding interest in global, non-European and interdisciplinary fields. Others were declined due to overlap with resources available through partner institutions or concerns about completeness, ensuring the collection remains purposeful and avoids unnecessary redundancy.

Collaboration and co-financing

Close collaboration with academic units continued to guide acquisitions. In 2025, responding to the needs of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, the Library worked with CRUI to upgrade its Moody's Orbis Europe subscription to include the "All Companies" module which is financed by the RSCAS.



Collection key figures 2025



e-journals
89,416



Databases
139



Licensed e-books
980,654



Current print journals and serials
216



Print volumes
451,639

Newly added resources



Purchases based on users' requests
983



Individual print books purchased in the year
2,914



e-books purchased with perpetual access
4,961

Online access and usage metrics



Full-text articles or e-book chapters downloaded
1,071,027



Average visits to the Library catalogue per month
55,324.75



Visits to Cadmus
156,500



Usage of print collections

The Library's extensive collections are actively used every day. Print books are taken from the shelves, consulted, placed on hold, checked out, delivered across campus, and returned, while digital resources are accessed both on-site and remotely all year round/ no matter where users are.

Usage statistics from 2025 show that print collections remain heavily consulted, demonstrating that they continue to play a central role in the Library's service.

Key figures 2025:



1,700 delivered to villas

- 1,020 Salviati
- 420 Buontalenti
- 190 Schifanoia
- 70 La Fonte



4,900 total physical hold requests completed
(3,200 at the main library)



Volumes delivered from storage
914



Volumes loaned or consulted
20,306



Interlibrary loans

To meet growing and diverse research needs, the Library offers interlibrary loan (ILL) free of charge for EUI researchers who may borrow materials from other institutions.

Key figures 2025:



1,184 interlibrary loan and document delivery requests



70% fulfilled by Italian libraries - 30% by libraries abroad



339 requests were cancelled

- 183 cases already available in the Library
- 153 cases could be purchased



287 EUI fulfilled lending requests from other libraries, majority coming from institutions in Italy (70%)

Most of the items requested were supplied by Italian partners (70%) and were published in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish (around 92%), reflecting the multilingual nature of research at the Institute. More than half of the requests concerned publications from 2000 onwards.

The History Department made the greatest use of the service, followed by the Law Department and the Max Weber Fellows post-doctoral programme.

In addition, the Library, in compliance with its accessibility policy, delivered digitisation on demand and delivery of about 40 articles or book chapters, for users who could not come to the Library in person.



EUI academic publications and data

The Library has continued its systematic efforts to record the full range of research output produced at the EUI in the institutional repository, Cadmus, encompassing articles, books, book chapters, datasets, and other formats. In parallel, it has sustained a strong commitment to maximising the proportion of outputs made available in Open Access.

Key figures 2025:



Articles
518



Book chapters
213



Thesis
161



Working papers
115



Technical reports
95



**Policy briefs and
policy papers** 81



Books
73



Datasets
22



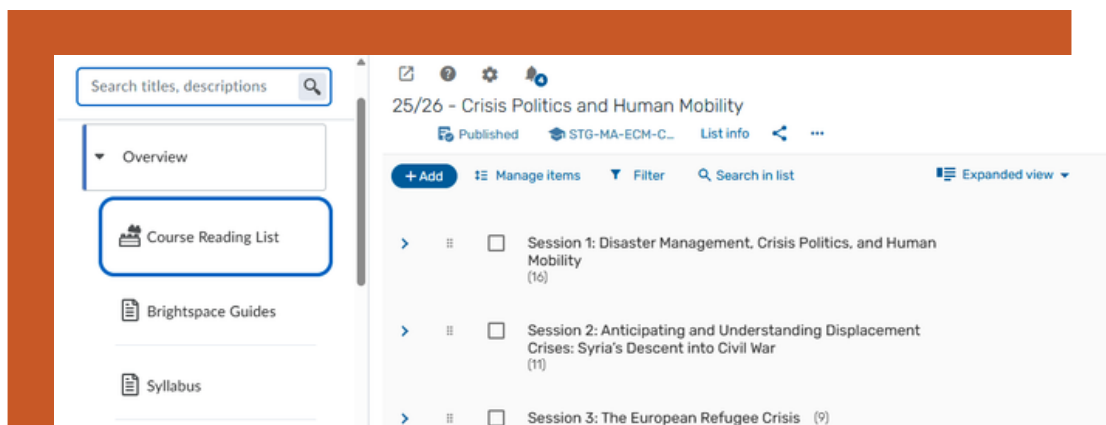
Videos
6



Support to teaching programmes

Supporting the EUI's teaching programmes remains a core part of the Library's mission. The integration of Alma (the Library information system) and Leganto (the reading list component) with Brightspace means, the Library is embedded directly into the teaching workflow.

The Library ensures that course materials are available and that copyright and licensing are properly managed across all programmes.



In the STG Master's in Transnational Governance, the Library is responsible for the entire process of preparing and delivering reading lists. This involves liaising with teaching assistants, overseeing copyright clearance and acquisitions, and ensuring that all course readings are correctly uploaded and accessible in Brightspace by the beginning of each term.

FOCUS ON STG READING LISTS

The EUI's two-year Master's programme in Transnational Governance:

Terms 1 and 3 = autumn courses (years 1 and 2)

Terms 2 and 4 = spring courses (years 1 and 2)

Terms 1 & 3

(September–December 2025)

- 17 courses supported, with 17 reading lists created
- 1,152 resources added (bibliographic citations with direct links to full text materials, or to course reserve books when a digital version is not available)

Terms 2 & 4

(January–May 2025 – First and second year Cohorts)

- 17 courses supported with 17 reading lists created
- 1,136 resources added (bibliographic citations with direct links to fulltext materials, or to course reserve books when a digital version is not available)



Community engagement

Research skills sessions

During 2025, the Library implemented a strategic shift in the design and delivery of its training activities, aligning them more closely with the needs of an international, research intensive academic environment. The change was intentional, internally led and informed by external input. The objective was to maximise reach while maintaining academic rigour and relevance to advanced research with a provision that is considered, for us today, a structural element.

This evolution required librarians to strengthen digital skills. Sessions were also reshaped, with a clearer student-centred focus, to be interactive and problem-driven, enhancing engagement and coherence across the programme.

Group sessions continued to be complemented by one-to-one consultations to ensure practical impact. In 2025, we introduced targeted, small-group workshops delivered on demand to address specialised needs more effectively. Asynchronous materials were further developed, particularly through focused LibGuides on niche topics that cannot be scheduled regularly (see page 22). This combination of live sessions and self-paced resources improves flexibility while safeguarding quality.

The data show that the Library maintained a high level of user participation. Results show strong user satisfaction and provide clear indications for improvement in pacing, depth and follow-up. This ensures the programme evolves on an evidence-based basis.

Over the course of the year, the Library delivered 85 training sessions, reaching 982 participants and accounting for a total of 1,130 user-hours of training. These figures confirm that training remains a well-established service, with sustained demand across the user community.

Key Figures 2025:



85 training sessions



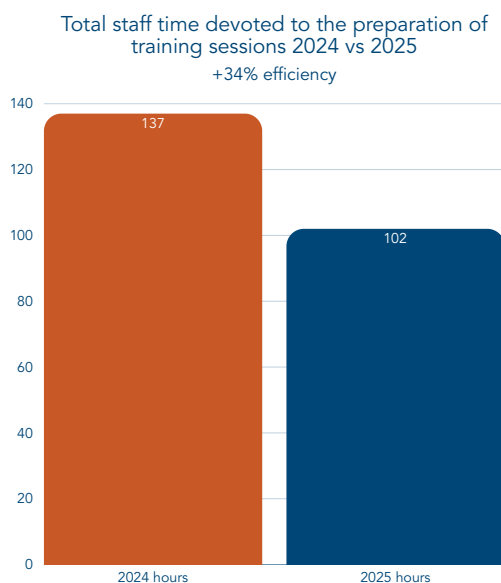
982 participants



1,130 user-hours



102 Library staff hours spent delivering training



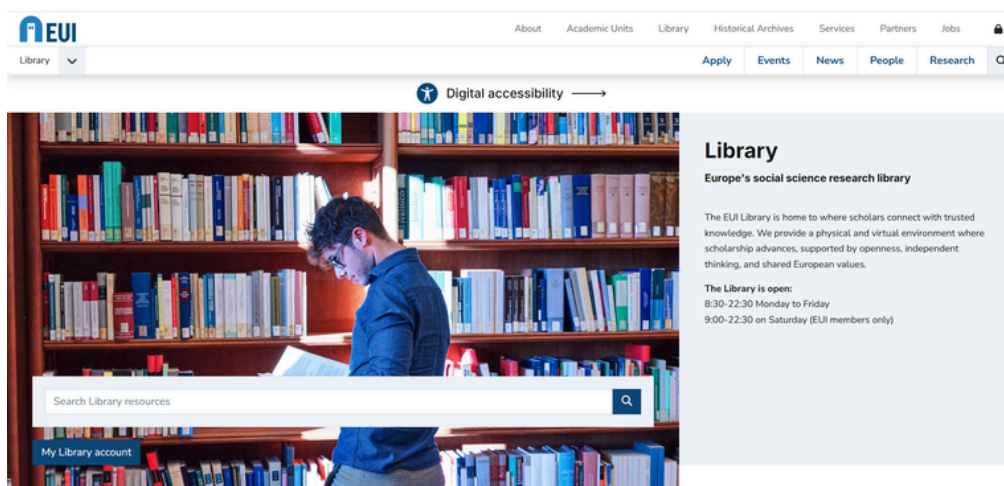
In 2025, the Library delivered nearly the same volume of training with substantially less staff time. Total staff time devoted to the preparation of training sessions decreased from 137 hours in 2024 to 102 hours in 2025. This reduction did not result in a corresponding decline in the number of user-hours delivered, which remained close to the previous year's levels. The data therefore highlight a significant gain in efficiency.

The year was not characterised by an expansion in volume, but rather by the consolidation and optimisation of the training programme.



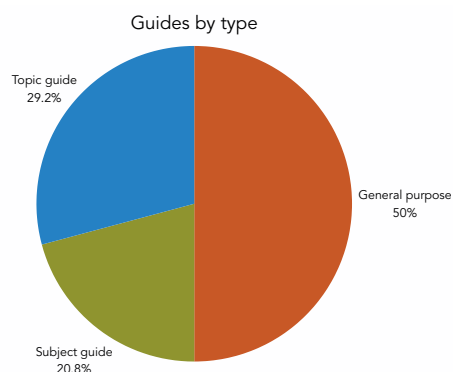
New Library website

The Library completely redesigned its website to make information easier for users to find and use. The site was simplified and reorganised around how users actually search for information, with clearer navigation, redesigned landing pages, and closer integration with Library guides (LibGuides) and the Frequently Asked Questions. The revision also included online forms. Outdated content was archived to improve clarity and discoverability, and Library guides were reorganised and expanded so that related resources are grouped into clear, task-based guides. The result is a website that feels lighter, clearer, and easier to navigate, and that better supports users' needs. Ongoing updates will continue to improve the site over time.



Library Guides

The EUI Library Guides are designed to explore and use the Library's collections. The 18 guides published in 2025 include discipline-specific guides, for core fields such as Economics, Law, History, and Political and Social Sciences, an A-Z database portal, as well as dedicated guides for research data, citation tools and subject-tailored resources that reflect the diversity of EUI academic work.



Topic guides 7:

- [Cadmus, the EUI Research Repository](#)
- [News resources](#)
- [Open Access at the EUI](#)
- [Open Access books](#)
- [ORCID at the EUI](#)
- [Publish Open Access articles](#)
- [Zotero for research in the humanities and social sciences](#)

General purpose 12:

- [Accessibility services](#)
- [EUI alumni](#)
- [European Documentation Centre](#)
- [External users](#)
- [Florence School of Transnational Governance Guide](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan](#)
- [Libraries in Florence and beyond](#)
- [Perma.cc](#)
- [Reference collection](#)
- [Special collections](#)
- [Using electronic resources](#)
- [Historical newspapers](#)

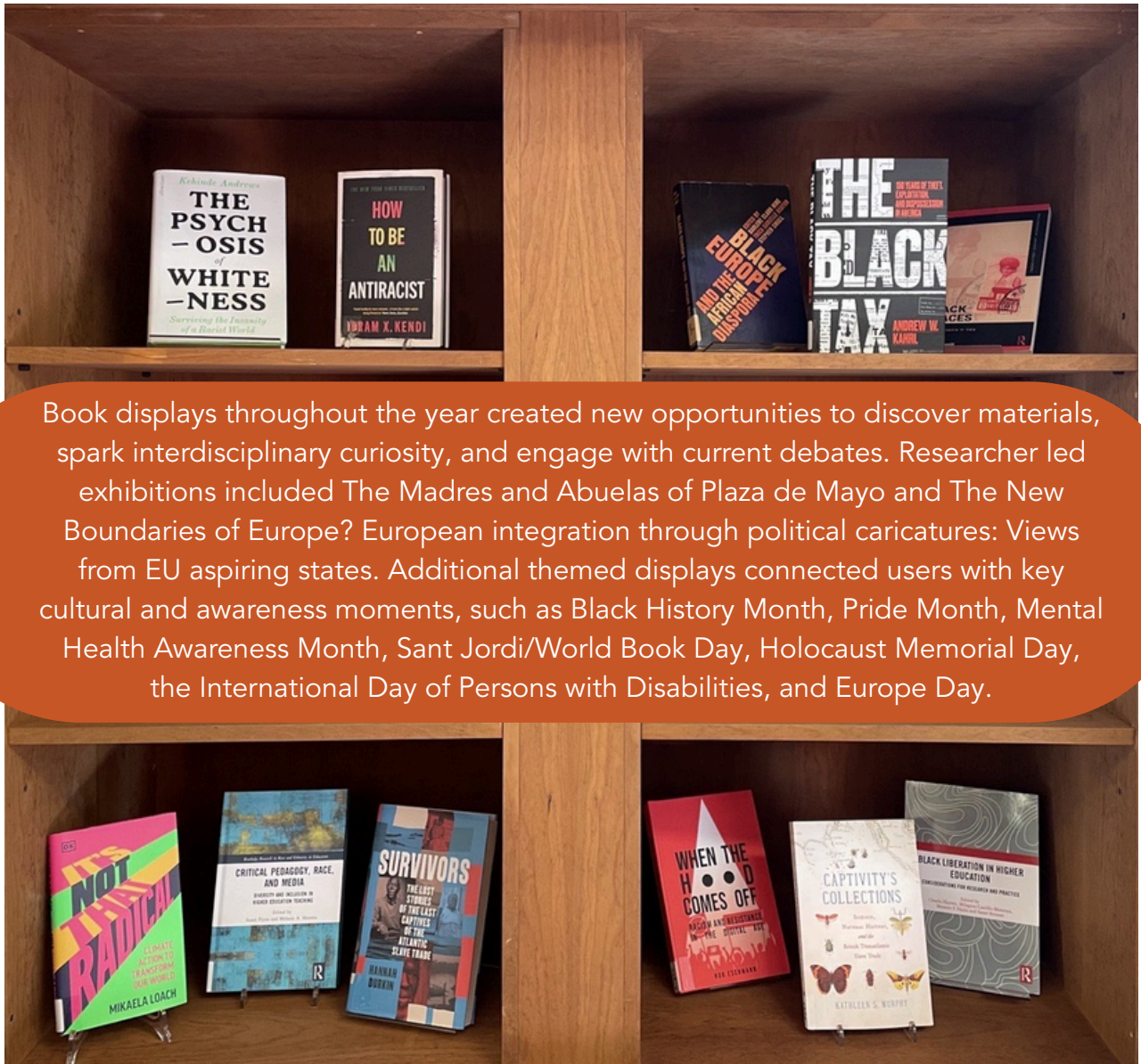
Subject guides 5:

- [Economics Guide](#)
- [History Guide](#)
- [Law Guide](#)
- [Research Data Guide](#)
- [Social and Political Sciences Guide](#)



Exhibitions and book displays

In 2025, the Library promoted its collections through thematic book displays and researcher curated exhibitions.



Book displays throughout the year created new opportunities to discover materials, spark interdisciplinary curiosity, and engage with current debates. Researcher led exhibitions included The Madres and Abuelas of Plaza de Mayo and The New Boundaries of Europe? European integration through political caricatures: Views from EU aspiring states. Additional themed displays connected users with key cultural and awareness moments, such as Black History Month, Pride Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Sant Jordi/World Book Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and Europe Day.

Beyond exhibitions and book displays, the Library contributed actively to the wider academic calendar. Activities included newcomer welcome programmes, events for Open Access Week, and joint initiatives with the Language Centre during Academic Writing Month. Engagement with the alumni community was equally strong: during the Class of 1995 reunion, the Library organised tours, thesis displays, pop up activities, and created a dedicated online alumni guide, strengthening connections between former researchers and current Library services.



Library Cafè

Library Cafè outreach events and book displays mark cultural and awareness days. In 2025 the Library continued its Library Cafè initiative, with 9 pop-up outreach activities designed to bring collections directly into the social spaces of campus, on topics including Black History Month, Pride Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Sant Jordi / World Book Day, the Holocaust Memorial Day, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



Each event focused on a specific theme and a curated selection of books temporarily displayed in locations such as the bar, cloister, or lounge areas. The books could be browsed and borrowed on the spot. Some events highlighted digital resources and newspapers, offering short information-literacy guidance on how to access Library-subscribed content. A coffee voucher added a welcoming social element, and informal interaction between librarians and the EUI community.



FOCUS EVENT

Inauguration of the Cassese room and collection



The inauguration of the Cassese Room hosting the Antonio Cassese collection was warmly received and well attended, with more than 50 delegates from the High Council taking part in the event as well as the Cassese family, including his son, daughter, grandchildren and his brother Sabino. The collection presented by the Law Information Specialist at the Library, and Professor Arnulf Becker Lorca explored the intellectual journey woven through approximately 1,000 volumes reflecting on Cassese's lasting influence as a scholar and jurist. Professor Antonio Cassese, a pioneering figure in international law, was also a former EUI professor, co-founder of the Academy of European Law, and a key architect of modern international justice. The collection is his "travelling library": books that were selected, carried, and consulted by Professor Antonio Cassese across decades and cities, from universities to international tribunals. Many are foundational works, texts Cassese considered essential for the library of an international judge, while others, gifted to him, reflect the breadth of his interdisciplinary interests, ranging from international responsibility to human rights, Holocaust studies, and international relations. The most intimate traces of the collection can be found in Cassese's rare personal books from his student years carried across a lifetime; books filled with annotations, cross-references, and marginal reflections that reveal a mind constantly at work. Dedications, dates, and places of reading turn these volumes into a scholar's intellectual journey.



Partnerships with other libraries or research organisations

In 2025, the Library continued to build and strengthen its network of partners, both locally and internationally, to better support research and collaboration. A new partnership with the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence opened access to one of the most important libraries and photo archives in the field of art history and visual culture. At the same time, the renewed agreement with the University of Southern Denmark created new opportunities for leadership exchange and library staff mobility. The Library also renewed its partnership with Maison Shalom to host one graduate refugee trainee each year.



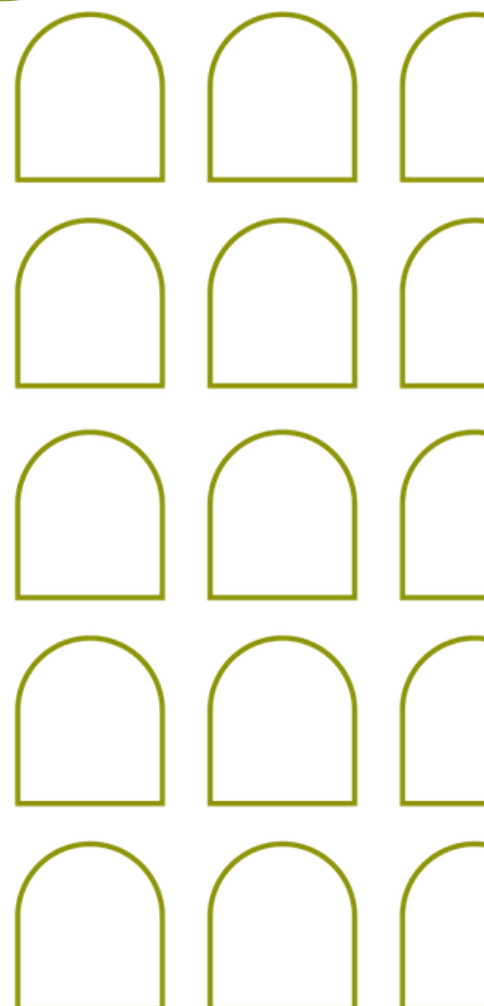
Partnering with professional networks

Engagement with professionals across academia, the publishing sector, library communities, and strategic partners continued to reinforce the Library's role beyond the Institute. Over the course of the year, the Library organised two major events that brought these communities together to exchange ideas, share expertise, and help shape future practice.

The Fiesole Retreat, held at Badia in collaboration with Casalini Libri, welcomed over 100 international delegates for three days of discussion on the theme Learning from the past, informing the future. Later, the Library hosted the meeting of Italian data stewards at Palazzo Buontalenti, bringing together more than 40 participants to share good practice and strengthen connections around data stewardship and research support.



**Adapting and optimising services,
spaces, and collections**



Library study spaces

The Library maintains all reading rooms as silent areas for focused study. In addition, its two bookable meeting rooms and a social room support group work and informal collaboration. During peak periods, occupancy reached 80 - 90%, highlighting both strong demand and the Library's central role as a student centred learning environment.



FOCUS ON UX DESIGN

In 2025, the Library began embedding UX design, an approach focused on improving users' experiences with spaces, services, and resources, into its operations. A key focus this year has been enhancing the Vasco da Gama entrance, the lobby and the ground floor. Most Library staff participated in a workshop led by Johanna Palm, a Swedish librarian specialising in UX design, to rethink these spaces from the user's perspective. As a result, printers in the stairwell area were relocated, while signage and wayfinding were updated across all floors.



Optimising collections and storage

Significant progress was made in library storage space and collections. Following consultations with the History Department and researchers, the History collection, consisting of over 1,000 linear metres, was moved to the top floor to better preserve it from recurring humidity on the ground floor. Selected smaller and less-used collections were relocated to improve their storage and access. In addition, targeted weeding and deselection were carried out across multiple collections.



On the Library ground floor, about 920 linear metres of compact shelving were installed. In the process, we freed approximately 535 linear metres of storage space in villa Il Poggiolo, which improved both the preservation and the access to selected collections. Contextually, the Library carried out an overlap analysis of digital and print journal holdings, identifying titles where digital access could replace physical copies. To further support researchers and reduce handling of print materials, a scanning service for journal articles was introduced, so users may request and receive content in a digital format, quickly and effortlessly, through the Library catalogue.

FOCUS LAW COLLECTION RECLASSIFICATION

In 2025, the Library completed a two-year project to reclassify the Law collection from Steiner to Dewey Decimal classification system aligning it with the rest of the collections. In 2023, a total of about 23,500 volumes were reclassified by the Law information specialist and processed by Library staff with the support of an external company. After a pause, in 2025, the final 11,000 volumes were successfully reclassified and processed entirely with in-house resources, bringing the project to full completion.



EUI Library Frequently Asked Questions

70 Answers

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Assistance to users

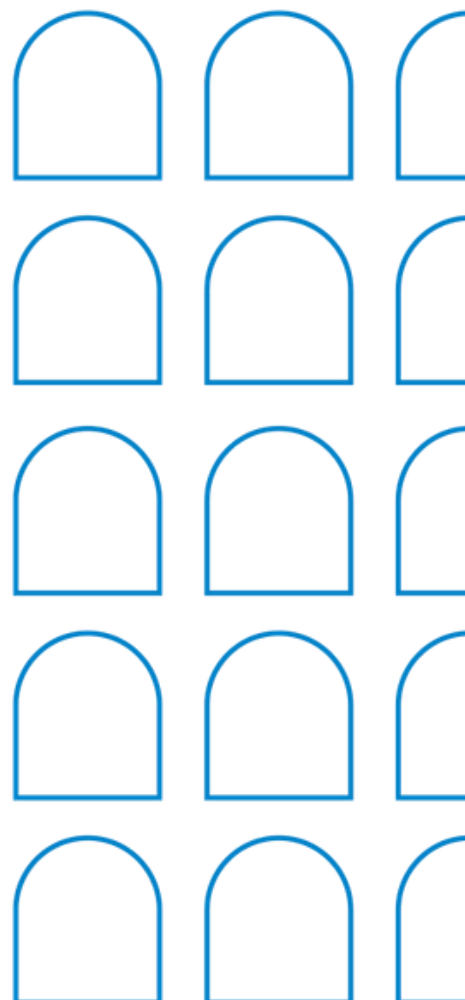
To help users navigate resources and services, the Library introduced the LibAnswers ticketing system and a new FAQ knowledge base. Since May, staff have handled 508 tickets alongside traditional support channels assisting with enquiries, electronic resource access, and requests from external users for access to the Library.

Consistency, transparency, and simplification

In response to the growth of EUI academic projects and programmes, the Library reviewed user groups and access rights to identify areas for improvement. This work led to updated policies and a unified manual of policies which provides a fair, consistent, and transparent framework while working on simplifying procedures for users.

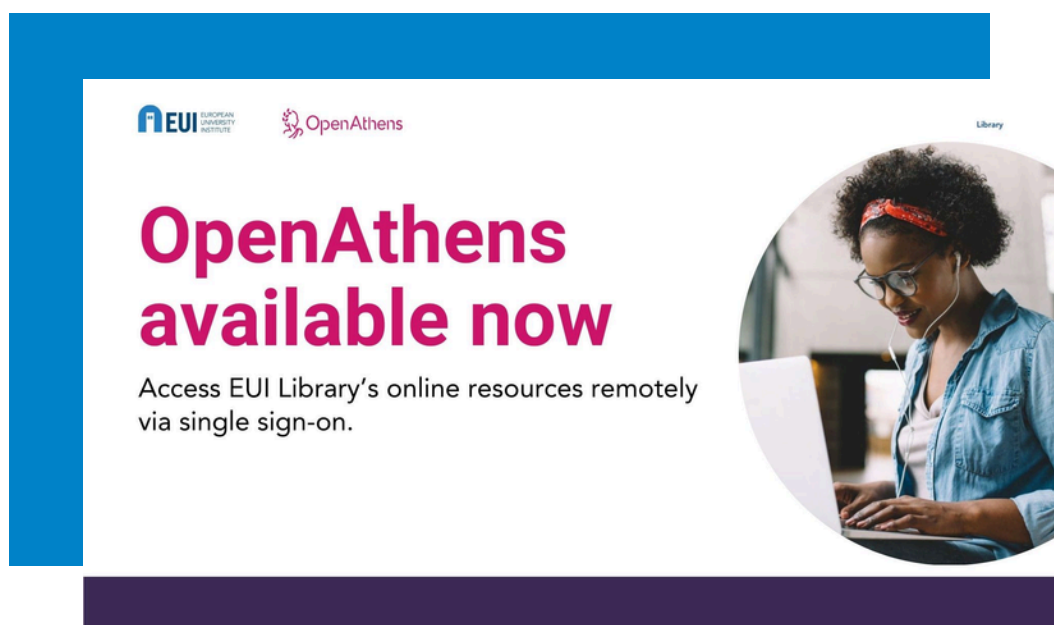


**Improving access, interoperability
and workflows**



Over the year, the Library introduced several technology improvements introducing tools to streamline workflows, simplify monitoring, and support integrated maintenance of and access to our electronic collections.

Improving access to e-resources remained a key objective, supported by technology integration. The Library implemented a single sign-on system, OpenAthens, replacing EZproxy to provide users with a seamless and secure sign-in experience, while also allowing the Library to manage access more effectively according to user groups and licensing rules. As a result, the Library is now preparing to extend selected e-resources to Alumni, creating new opportunities for former members of the community to continue benefiting from selected digital collections.

A promotional banner for OpenAthens. It features a blue header bar at the top. Below it, on the left, are the EUI (European University Institute) logo and the OpenAthens logo. The main text reads "OpenAthens available now" in large, bold, pink letters. Below this, in smaller black text, it says "Access EUI Library's online resources remotely via single sign-on." On the right side of the banner is a circular image of a woman with glasses and a headband, looking at a laptop. The word "Library" is written in small text in the top right corner of the banner area.

The Library also moved to a new automation and services platform, Alma, at the end of 2023. According to plan, all tasks related to the implementation of Alma were completed in 2025, making it a stable and fully operational integrated library system. In parallel, metadata quality was reviewed, correcting errors inherited from previous systems and adapting it to new system configurations.

We have also carried out extensive work on several aspects related to the Library catalogue and discovery tool, Primo, to take full advantage of all its features and modules, and set the foundations for a new version which will be implemented in 2026. While the new Alma platform has provided the Library with a solid and complete automation environment, the ongoing objective of the Library to provide advanced and personalised services led us to enhance Alma with a new tool, Library Open Workflows, which allows extending the functionality of Alma beyond its standard features by using a simple, yet powerful development graphical interface to create custom workflows that enhance both backend efficiency and patron facing services. Back office processes, where possible, have been streamlined and further automated, using Alma standard functionality and Library Open Workflows, and cooperating with Library suppliers.

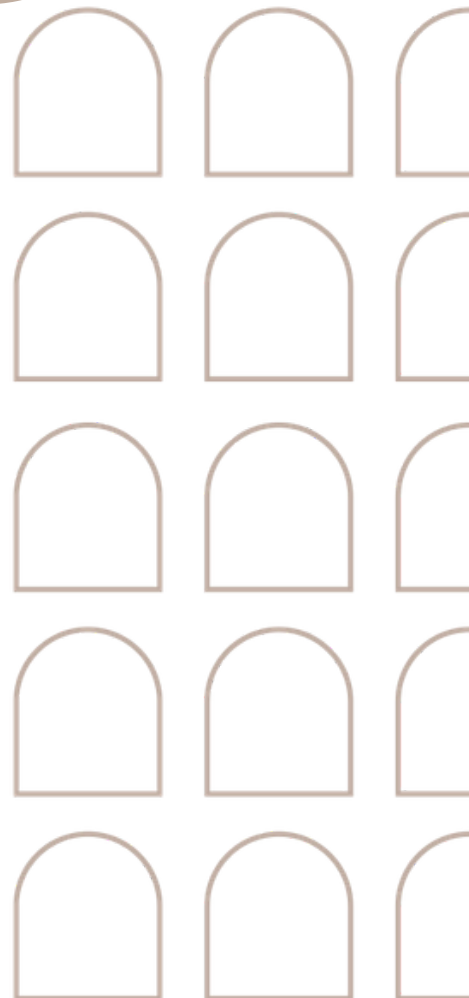


In order to support an adequate framework for preparing, collecting and leveraging the data managed by the Library to support decision making, a set of best practices and tools were identified and implemented. This framework will allow us to keep track of the performance of the Library over the years, past and future, and to provide the right answers at the right time.

Finally, in line with the EUI AI Administrative LAB initiative and in our permanent effort to stay abreast of the latest technologies, the Library has started testing and partially implemented Artificial Intelligence tools on both the staff and user side. These tools will not only help staff count on an additional support layer for completing their tasks, but also the EUI community at large search the Library resources in a more in-depth way and obtain more complete and better contextualised results.



Developing workforce skills



Library staff

Over the past two years, the EUI Library has undergone a period of significant transition marked by staff retirements and the loss of valuable institutional knowledge. This moment however, opened opportunities to introduce new skills, adopt innovative workflow approaches, and shape a forward-looking vision for the future.

In 2024 the Library developed a human resources plan that guided recent recruitments. Three new staff members, respectively in the Open Science and in the Front Office, as well as an administrative coordinator, were fully onboarded in 2025, along with four trainees who joined the Library teams and their ongoing projects. The plan also made it possible to launch two recruitment competitions for positions to be filled in 2026, following the planned retirements in 2025.

Overall, the Library's staffing has decreased from 19.7 FTE in 2023 to 18 FTE in 2025. To support the teams through this change, the Director focused on strengthening clarity around roles and responsibilities, and nearly all job profiles were updated.



The Library committed throughout 2025 to strengthen staff skills and professional capacity. Staff benefited from more than 20 training activities organised by Human Resources, together with workshops on digital tools and emerging AI applications, supported continuous learning across teams. Staff also took part in 16 missions, ranging from major sector events such as the UKSG Conference, the RLUK Conference, the European conference on information literacy, the LIBER annual conference, the EUROLIB meeting at the European Central Bank, and the Convegno delle Stelline, to international user-group meetings like IGeLU and ITALE, where staff gained practical insights into Alma and Primo VE developments and ERASMUS+ staff weeks where librarians exchanged best practices with colleagues from around the world.



These conferences focused on emerging trends in research libraries, including e-resources management, metadata, accessibility, UX design, digital transformation. Expertise in Open Science and scholarly communication grew through participation in the Munin conference, the Italian Reproducibility Network meeting, and the Community of Italian Data Stewards, as well as through contributions to the CoARA Working Group on research assessment. Additional missions, including the Frankfurt Book Fair offered opportunities to connect with publishers and providers.

Throughout 2025, particular attention was given to supporting staff wellbeing and fostering a healthy working environment. Regular bi weekly coordination meetings, followed by clear and timely communication through meeting minutes, the weekly internal newsletter, and targeted email updates, helped reduce uncertainty and ensured that everyone remained informed about ongoing work and upcoming priorities. This created more space for open discussion, joint planning, and shared decision making, strengthened cross-team collaboration and reinforced a sense of collective purpose, helping staff feel supported, connected, and able to contribute meaningfully to the Library's regular work and annual objectives.

Clearer roles, stronger collaboration, higher engagement in multi-team projects, and new digital and AI skills are driving the Library's capacity to innovate

Countries of origin of Library staff 2025



Countries of origin of one year traineeship 2025



