

Historical Background

Pietro Giuseppe Corradini, a doctor from Reggio Emilia, donated his personal library to the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova (see Manzini Paola, Pietro Giuseppe Corradini a [chemist out of his love](#) ... for medicine). He died in 1783 leaving the hospital his own personal library of about 1,000 books and a certain sum of money that was to be used to buy new books (Montanari Elisabetta – [The Antique Section](#) same as above). The Library has grown steadily since then, albeit with the usual ups and downs, to its present-day sum total of 10,000 books and approximately 1,000 subscriptions to journals. In 1970, Tullio Pernici, the librarian at the time, catalogued all the books and journals according to the Dewey classification. In 1979, the library was reorganized and all non-medical books, approximately 800 volumes of fiction, literary essays, and treatises on political science, were donated to the city's Public Library, the Biblioteca "A. Panizzi".

As of December 31, 2005, the Library owned the following collection of books and journals:

A section for **Journals** containing 452 current journals stored on open-shelved bookcases for easy reference according to subject matter as classified by the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda (MD), and 783 out-of-print journals kept in storage outside of the library. Recent journals are on display so that users can consult new arrivals.

There is a section for **Books** and **Textbooks** in which there are 8,563 volumes dating from 1851 to the present. In 1961, all books were shelved according to the classification by subject used by the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda (MD).