



Casalini Group

Books, people and technology

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL
AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) REPORT 2025

Casalini Group

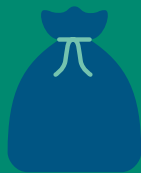
Books, people and technology

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CASALINI GROUP 2025 FIGURES

TURNOVER



OVER
37,000,000
EURO

OF WHICH

12%

IS REPRESENTED BY
BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND
DIGITAL SERVICES



OF WHICH OVER

90%

IS RELATED TO SALES
IN THE USA, ITALY
AND GERMANY



BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE

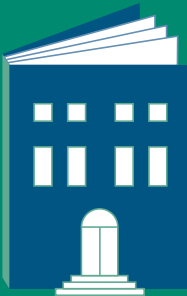
OVER
70 MILLION
TITLES



OF WHICH
76,357
WERE ONLY
INTRODUCED IN 2025

SUPPLIERS

7,800

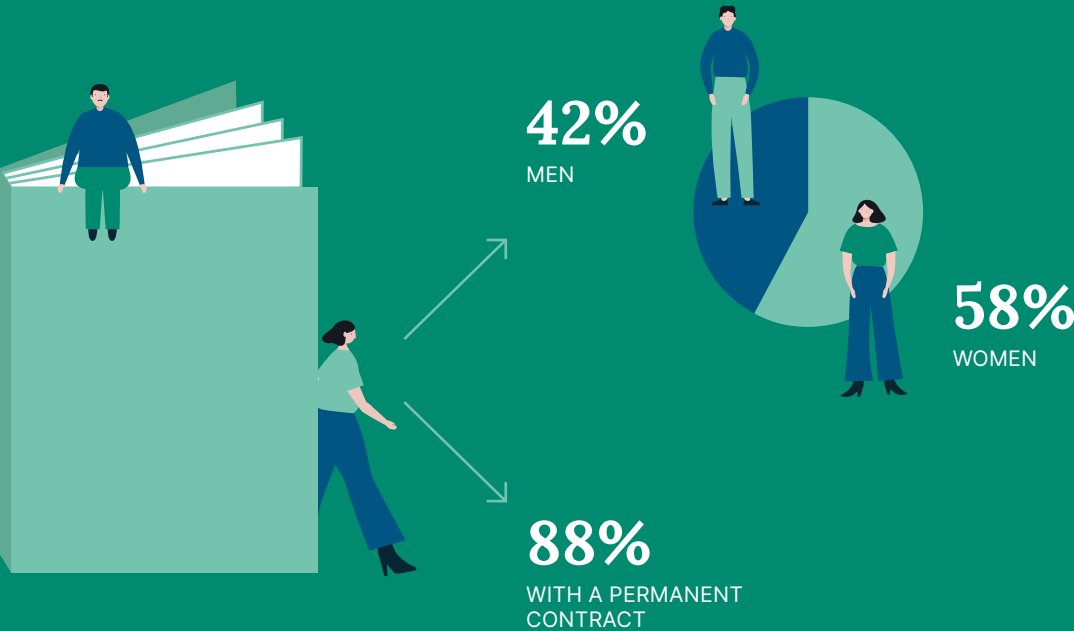


PUBLISHERS



DISTRIBUTORS

CASALINI GROUP EMPLOYEES



177

CASALINI GROUP EMPLOYEES
AT 31/12/2025

578,613

BOOKS SOLD



TO OVER
16,000
INSTITUTIONAL
AND PRIVATE CLIENTS

How bibliographic agencies work
and why they are so important
for the distribution of knowledge
and for making culture accessible to all

The place
for books



In the publishing sector, there are intermediaries who work to connect the two key players in this world: publishers, who produce books, and libraries – both public and private – which make books accessible to their users. These intermediaries are known as "bibliographic agencies", whose services enable libraries to build a collection of titles that is in line with their mission in terms of subject matter and format. Indeed, the main aim of these agencies is to support cultural organisations and research institutions in their efforts to promote knowledge, and to assist publishers in getting their publications out to the academic community.

Among the most internationally recognised bibliographic agencies are the Italian firm Casalini Libri, based in Fiesole (FI), and the Dutch firm Erasmus, based in Amsterdam – both of which are supported in their technological processes by @Cult, based in Rome. Nowadays, these companies, which have been playing a role in the book market since the mid-20th century, form the Casalini Group and, every year, supply thousands

of libraries around the world with hundreds of thousands of physical and digital books published in Europe. A steady stream of books, works and texts that are sourced, selected, collected, organised and shipped all over the world to ensure that every book reaches the right destination.

Underlying this activity is, first and foremost, the creation of a "bibliographic database": a database containing detailed information on millions of European books published from 1984 to the present day. This feature differentiates the Casalini Group from other book agents; its role in systematically cataloguing new publications is, in fact, an essential element in building bibliographic collections at an international level.

Libraries have access to the Casalini Group's online database and, using advanced selection and search functions, can choose the books that they wish to order to expand their collections, based on subject areas, preferences and their own cultural and academic profile.



"It is worth noting that there are around six thousand publishers in Italy alone, so it is key for libraries to be able to rely on a source that can filter through the options and provide an overview of the most worthwhile suggestions.,,"

Patricia O'Loughlin,
Director of Casalini Libri

THE CASALINI GROUP'S ILIBRI® BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE

MORE THAN

70,000,000 TITLES

OF WHICH OVER 80% ARE AVAILABLE
IN PAPER FORMAT



IN 2025:

76,357

NEW TITLES

ADDED THROUGH DAILY UPDATES

578,613

BOOKS SOLD

67,579

ACTIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS

FOR OVER 1,800 CLIENTS

SUPPLIERS (PUBLISHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS)

CASALINI LIBRI
COLLABORATED
WITH OVER

2,700 >

SUPPLIERS
(PUBLISHERS
AND DISTRIBUTORS)

ERASMUS
COLLABORATED
WITH OVER

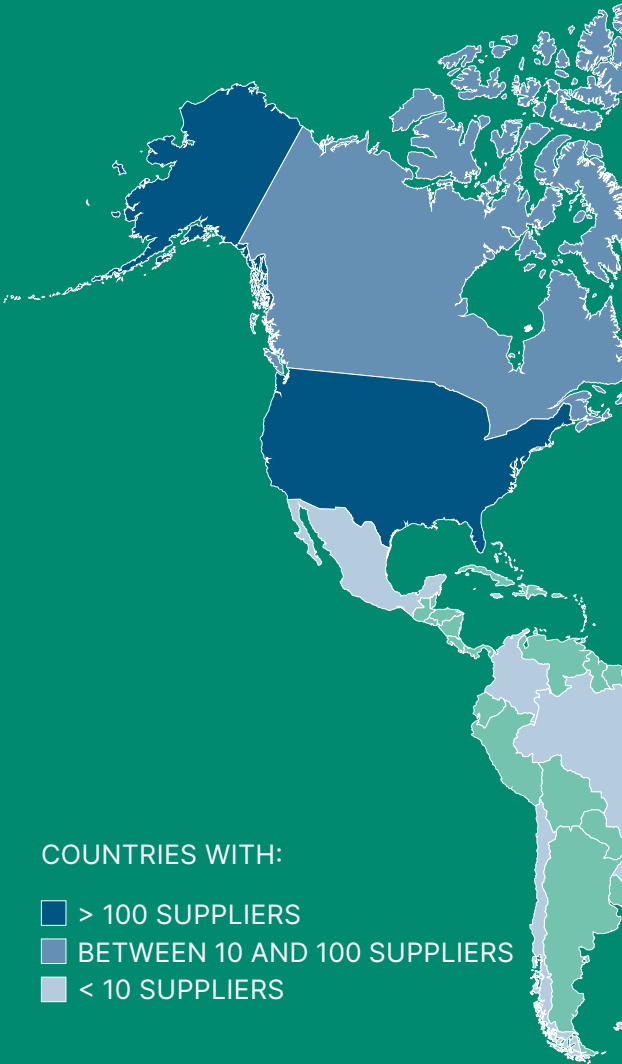
5,100 >

SUPPLIERS
(PUBLISHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS)

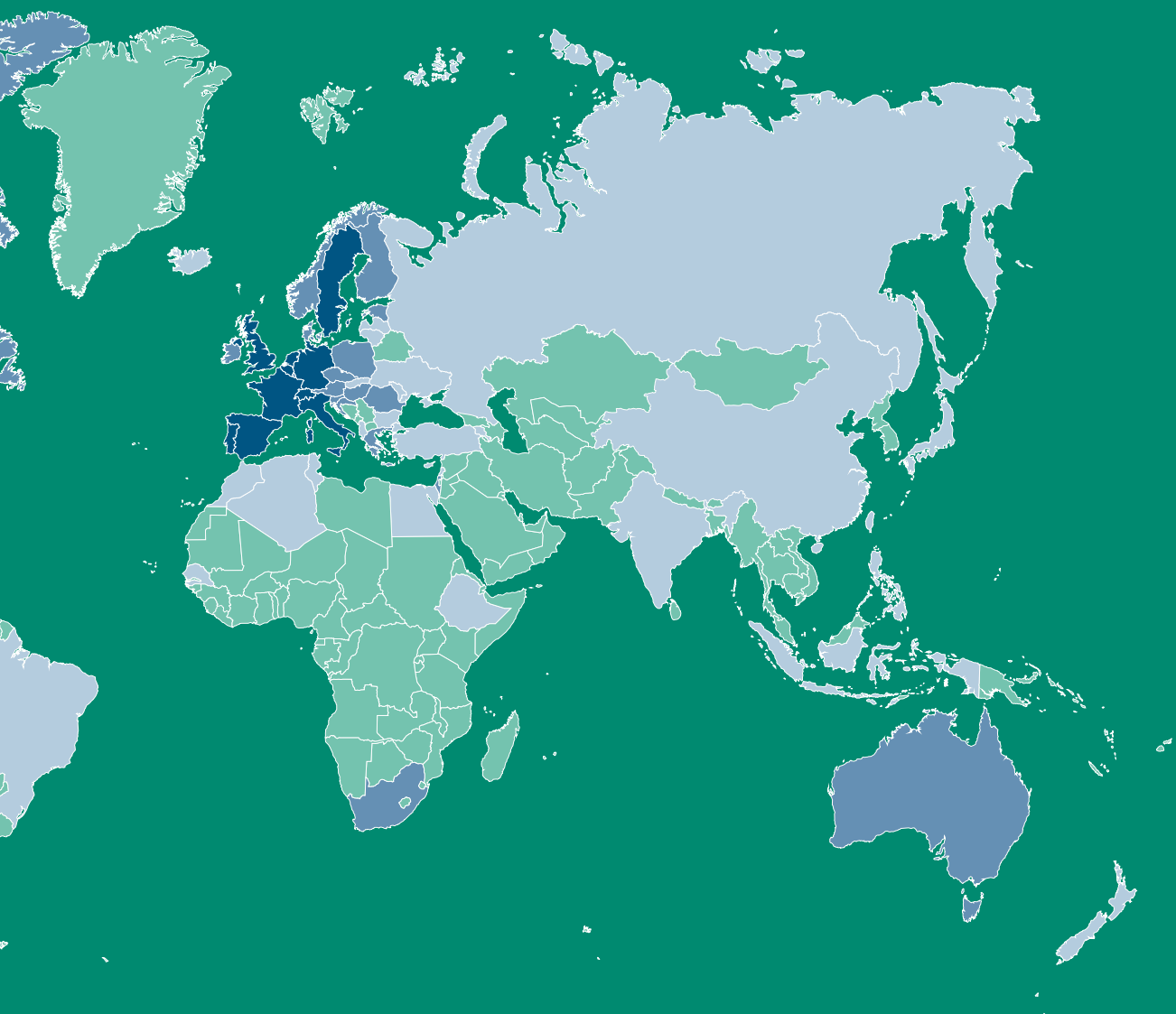
DISTRIBUTED
ACROSS

70

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES,
MAINLY IN EUROPE AND USA,
AS SHOWN ON THE MAP



IN 2025



1.1 THE ILIBRI DATABASE AND CASALINI GROUP SERVICES



APPROVAL PLAN

Over the years, Casalini Group companies have become a major point of reference for libraries around the world when it comes to purchasing European books. Long-standing relationships and an in-depth understanding of the needs of the library sector have enabled the Group to develop a highly specialised and *bespoke* service: the so-called "Approval Plan", through which libraries receive new publications directly, tailored to their interests and annual budgets. The service frees libraries from the time-consuming and delicate task of selecting and sourcing works needed to keep their collections up to date.

SHELF-READY

Supporting libraries in their mission to promote culture, the Casalini Group has structured itself to offer more hands-on support in collection management, a "turnkey" service that involves supplying books that are "shelf-ready". Upon request, books can be fitted with stamps, barcodes, labels, anti-theft strips, loan cards and plastic covers, so that they are ready for use as soon as they arrive at the library.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

By maintaining regular contact with European journal publishers, Casalini Libri and Erasmus also manage journal subscriptions on behalf of libraries. This allows clients to receive publications as promptly as possible, keeping their collections up to date and ensuring that users receive a high-quality service. Libraries may also request that a further search be carried out for back issues and out-of-print volumes.

SOURCING NEW TITLES

The Casalini Group specialises in sourcing and supplying texts published in Europe, with a particular focus on the humanities and social sciences. Together, Casalini Libri and Erasmus are able to select and source publications from Italy, Spain, Vatican City, Malta, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Greece, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Scandinavia. New titles are curated by a team of native-speaking professionals who spend their days reviewing industry newsletters, specialist journals and national catalogues, as well as visiting trade fairs and travelling to publishers' offices in person to select the latest releases. The "NTI – New Title Information" service is available both via the on-line catalogue at www.ilibri.com in MARC¹ or CSV² format, and via e-mail, with lists sent out weekly or monthly.

CATALOGUING

Most of the bibliographic records stored in the Casalini Group's databases are created by a team of expert cataloguers who work with the physical book in hand, examining and analysing its details with the aim of producing an accurate catalogue entry that complies with the RDA³ standard and the BIBCO⁴ programme.

Casalini Libri's cataloguers possess specialist expertise, particularly in the humanities and social sciences (HSS), and are often native speakers: this cultural wealth ensures that the content analysis and cataloguing work are relevant, thorough and accurate.

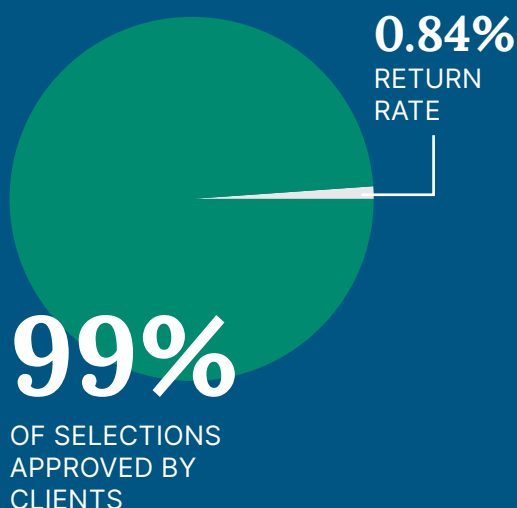
IN 2025:
THE CASALINI GROUP MANAGED
THE **APPROVAL PLAN** SERVICE FOR

230

CLIENTS
AND A TOTAL OF

515

COLLECTION PROFILES



IN 2025:
THE CASALINI GROUP MANAGED
THE **SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE** FOR

1,826

CLIENTS, FOR A TOTAL OF

67,579

ACTIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS

A black and white portrait of Barbara Casalini, President of Casalini Libri. She is an older woman with short, dark hair, wearing glasses and a light-colored scarf over a dark jacket. She is looking slightly to her right with a gentle smile.

“Thanks to our experience, we are able to track down even those hard-to-find books that are perfectly suited to the specific needs or preferences of libraries.,”

Barbara Casalini,
President of Casalini Libri

By proposing subject headings and classifications, the professionals at the Casalini Group contribute to the NACO (Name Authority Cooperative Program)⁵ and SACO (Subject Authority Cooperative Program)⁶ schemes, as well as supplying cataloguing data to the central ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier) database Casalini Libri is, in fact, recognised as an ISNI Registration Agency.

The Group’s cataloguers are also able to tailor records to the specific requirements and guidelines provided by the client: thanks to this dedicated service, libraries find it easier to classify and manage each new book, as they can rely on reliable information, sources and data.

of online tools for acquiring print and digital titles. The highly specialised and customised services that the Group is able to offer are a reflection of the close working relationships it has built with its clients over the years.

CUSTOMER CARE

Librarians working in cultural institutions around the world can rely on the attention that the Casalini Group’s staff devote to their clients to support them in their work of researching, organising and disseminating knowledge, by listening directly to their needs and collaborating with them to devise new solutions as part of an ongoing co-design process. This is another reason why regular visits to libraries are planned, during which we gather information on new requirements and feedback on services, as well as offering assistance with the use

1 Machine Readable Cataloguing: the international standard format used in libraries.

2 Comma Separated Values: a universal format for tabular data.

3 Resource Description and Access: an international cataloguing standard.

4 Bibliographic Cooperative Programme: the PCC programme – Programme for Cooperative Cataloguing – established to ensure uniformity of rules among the libraries participating in the programme and thus guarantee complete, high-quality bibliographic records.

5 PCC cooperative programme for the creation and modification of name authority records. This ensures that an author or organisation is identified in a unique and consistent manner across all bibliographic catalogues.

6 PCC cooperative programme for the creation and proposal of subject headings and classification terms.



“The role and responsibility of libraries is central to the selection of high-quality information.,,”

Michele Casalini,
Managing Director of Casalini Libri

IN 2025:

76,357

NEW TITLES

ENTERED INTO THE CASALINI LIBRI AND ERASMUS DATABASES THROUGH DAILY UPDATES

FOR OVER 50 YEARS

OUR **LONG-STANDING CLIENTS** HAVE INCLUDED:

- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALAWED
- THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
- HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
- COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
- YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
- NYU LIBRARIES

IN 2025:

THE **CASALINI GROUP** ACTIVELY COLLABORATED WITH OVER

16,000

CLIENTS: LIBRARIES, BOOKSHOPS, PUBLISHERS AND PRIVATE CLIENTS

IN OVER

120

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

1.2 THE TORROSSA DIGITAL PLATFORM



The services offered by Casalini Libri and Erasmus to libraries – including the sourcing, selection and supply of publications – also cover e-books and digital academic publications (monographs, specialist articles, scientific journals, etc.), which are made available via the Group's proprietary digital platform, **Torrossa®**.

Libraries can choose from flexible purchasing models based on their interests, subject preferences and available budget, allowing them to access the platform and build their own digital library. Every month, thousands of digital texts – which include articles, individual chapters, books and journals – are made available on Torrossa Access (the portal for institutions), many of which cannot be found elsewhere. Everything on the platform is selected by specialists from the Casalini Group on the basis of editorial quality and academic relevance. A third of all the journals available on Torrossa are certified by the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR).

Whenever new content is added and catalogued, platform subscribers receive a notification detailing the bibliographic updates (NTI – New Title Information).

Using Torrossa, bibliographic agencies offer the same Approval Plan service available for printed books, which involves selecting and proposing a

personalised list of titles based on the client's requirements.

Available on the digital platform, the catalogue, compiled in collaboration with over 651 specialist and academic publishers, university presses and research associations, focuses on the humanities and social sciences, which have always been the Casalini Group's area of specialisation.

Torrossa enables libraries with an interest in European academic publishing to significantly enhance and enrich the services they offer to users: thanks to MARC⁷ records, the e-books, e-journals, individual articles and chapters available on the platform can be accessed by readers directly via the library catalogue; Persistent identifiers such as permalinks, OpenURLs and DOIs are assigned to all types of online resources to ensure they can be located.

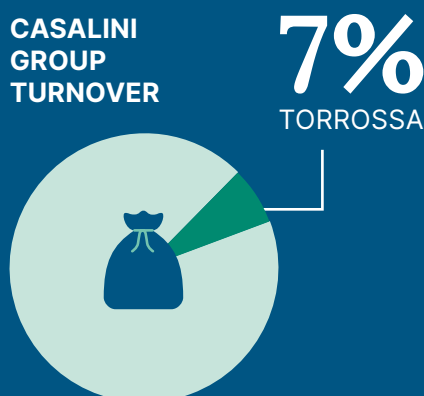
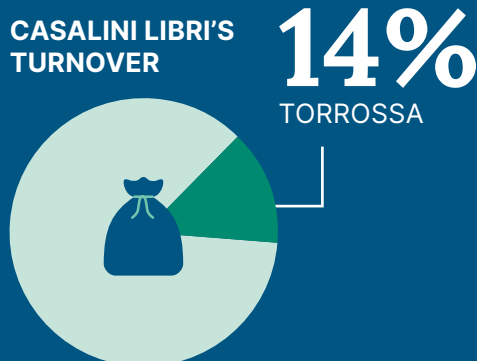
TORROSSA BOOKSTORE

Alongside libraries, individual students and researchers can also create a personal account and purchase digital books and articles from "Torrossa Bookstore".

The platform allows users to create "My Library" with the titles they have selected and purchased, and to access a workspace where they can save their searches for future use, compile bibliographies (exporting them in various formats), and access citation software. On the basis of permissions granted by publishers, various actions can be performed on individual purchased publications, including: copying and pasting, printing and *downloading* to a local device. Torrossa Bookstore has thus become an essential resource for students, researchers, lecturers and professionals working in the social sciences and humanities, as well as for anyone who enjoys reading and exploring new topics.

⁷ Machine-Readable Cataloguing: an international standard for the exchange of bibliographic data between libraries.

IN 2025, THE TORROSSA PLATFORM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROXIMATELY 14% OF CASALINI LIBRI'S TURNOVER AND 7% OF THE GROUP'S TOTAL TURNOVER, WITH PRIVATE AND INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS IN OVER 120 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.



1,171

LIBRARIES WITH
ACCESS TO TORROSSA

The following are available for sale to institutions through Torrossa Access (data updated as at 31/12/2025):

10,971

INDIVIDUALS WITH ACCESS
TO TORROSSA

The following are available for sale to individuals through Torrossa Bookstore (data updated as at 31/12/2025):

659,920

E-BOOKS

OF WHICH **91,134** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

290,533

E-BOOKS

OF WHICH **55,311** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

207,613

CHAPTERS

OF WHICH **3,433** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

199,493

CHAPTERS

OF WHICH **3,474** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

1,264

JOURNALS

OF WHICH **32** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

1,155

JOURNALS

OF WHICH **28** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

32,324

ISSUES

OF WHICH **1,702** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

26,493

ISSUES

OF WHICH **1,420** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

315,446

ARTICLES

OF WHICH **14,522** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

237,150

ARTICLES

OF WHICH **11,422** WERE ADDED
IN 2025 ALONE

651

PUBLISHERS AVAILABLE ON TORROSSA

of which 574 are also available in
the Torrossa Bookstore (73 added in
2025 alone).



“Torrossa, first launched in 2000, is the result of a long process of co-design: firstly with @CULT, our technology partner with over 20 years’ experience in digital publishing, and then with the publishers who own the works and have recognised the opportunities offered by the online market.,,

Michele Casalini,
Managing Director



1.3 THE CASALINI GROUP

The Casalini Group was founded in 2020 with the aim of maximising synergies between three companies that have been operating for many years in the publishing and library services sector: Casalini Libri, Erasmus and @Cult.

CASALINI LIBRI SPA

Founded in Florence in 1958, this bibliographic agency is one of the leading suppliers of academic publications from across Europe to libraries and institutions worldwide. The company provides libraries with a wide range of services, ranging from the selection, acquisition and physical processing of printed books to the management and enrichment of digital catalogues.



Combined, these three companies generated a turnover of over 37 million Euros in 2025, with Casalini Libri and Erasmus accounting for 48% and 49% of that sum respectively.

ERASMUS BOEKHANDEL BV

Founded in Amsterdam in 1934 as an antiquarian bookshop, Erasmus now specialises in supplying books in English, German, French and the Scandinavian languages, and provides services to university and specialist libraries. Headquartered in Amsterdam and with a branch in Paris (Librairie Erasmus) dedicated to the distribution of French publications, the company is now a leading name for libraries worldwide.

@CULT SRL

A software company based in Rome, specialising in the design and development of solutions for information management and knowledge sharing among libraries, archives and museums. @Cult is an international leader in the field of cultural heritage and offers specialist expertise in bibliographic cataloguing; it provides advanced services to libraries and publishers, supporting them in their digital transformation processes.

The logo for Erasmus Boekhandel BV, featuring the word "ERASMUS" in a highly decorative, black, calligraphic script font.The logo for @Cult SRL, featuring a stylized black icon of a person with arms raised, followed by the word "cult" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

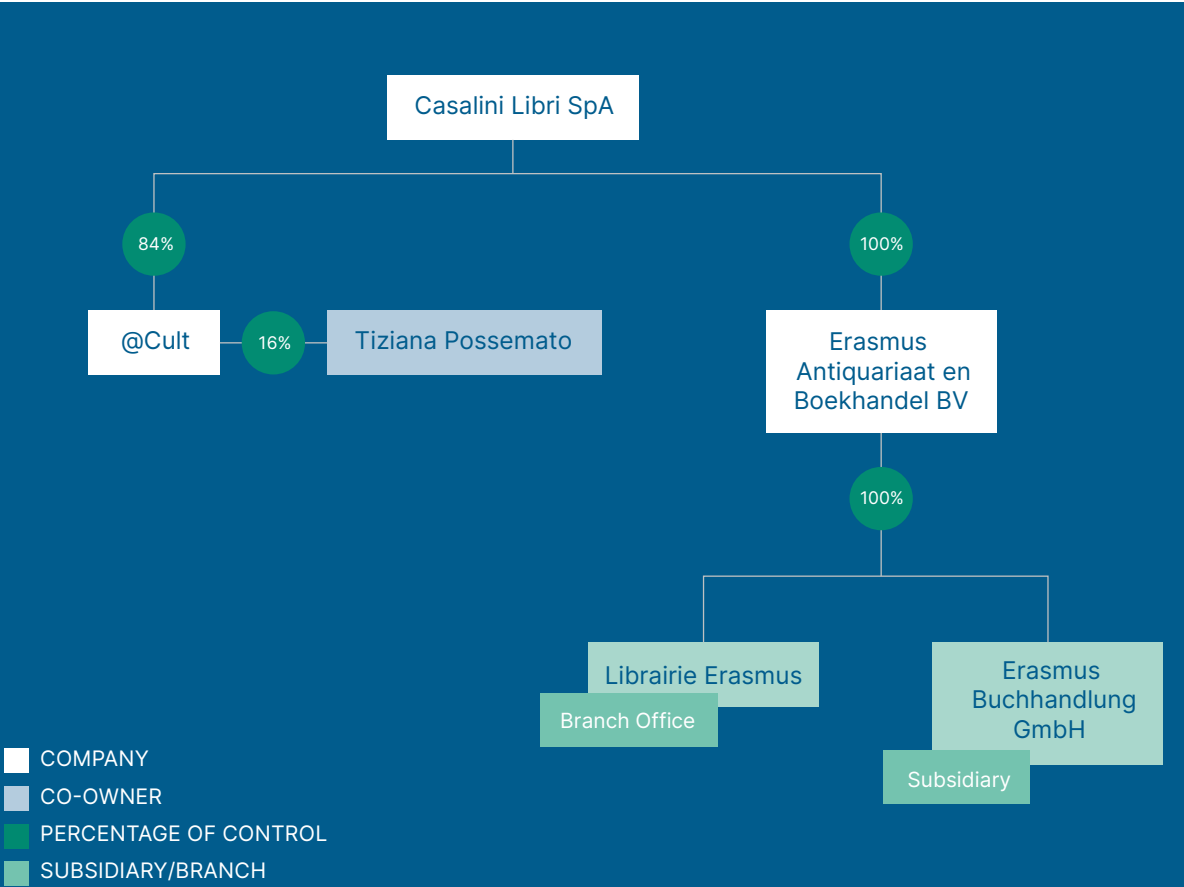
As international bibliographic agencies operating on the market since the mid-20th century, Casalini Libri and Erasmus have worked side by side for years, supplying overseas libraries with books and academic texts in the humanities and social sciences, with one key distinguishing feature: Casalini Libri promoted and distributed works by Italian and Southern European publishers; Erasmus promoted and distributed publishers from Central and Northern Europe. The idea of actively collaborating, and later merging into a single organisation, arose from a desire to streamline services, standardise best practices and provide libraries with a single point of contact capable of responding to a wide range of requests and guaranteeing the level of quality, expertise and care typical of two organisations with a long history behind them.

Casalini's decision to acquire 100% of Erasmus, a similar yet complementary company, is a clear

reflection of its desire to offer a comprehensive service to its clients, positioning itself as a strategic supplier capable of covering the entire European bibliography.

@Cult is the software company that joined Casalini Libri in 2020 as a technological partner: with over 20 years' experience in the fields of cultural heritage and bibliographic cataloguing, it works to support the two companies in providing services of great technological value and innovation.

In order to ensure strategic, organisational and corporate alignment between Casalini Libri, Erasmus and @Cult, it is important to identify clear internal governance: the three companies are interconnected via the parent company Casalini Libri, which holds 100% of Erasmus and 84% of @Cult, as shown below.



INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

The three companies are governed through two different corporate governance systems. Casalini Libri and Erasmus have adopted the **Board of Directors (BoD)** as their governing body.

At Casalini Libri, the team consists of Barbara Casalini, Michele Casalini, Sofia Dilaghi and Piero Niccolò Casalini, with the first two serving as President and Chief Executive Officer respectively. As required by Italian law, the company has also appointed a **Board of Statutory Auditors**, whose responsibility is to ensure compliance with the law and the articles of association, as well as to audit the financial statements and assess the company's going concern.

At Erasmus, the Board of Directors consists of Michele Casalini and Dirk Raes, both of whom serve as Chief Executive Officers.

@Cult, on the other hand, is a smaller company with a Sole Director, namely Michele Casalini. The day-to-day management of the company is entrusted to the other founding partner, Tiziana Possemato, who holds a 16% stake.

The Board of Directors of Casalini Libri and Erasmus, as well as the Sole Director of @Cult, are responsible for determining the company's strategy and monitoring its results over time, ensuring strategic and vision alignment, assessing business-related risks to ensure continuity and reliability, as well as allocating annual budgets, managing human resources, and deciding on investment policies and extraordinary transactions. Their responsibility also includes approving the sustainability strategy, reviewing performance over time, and reviewing the information reported in this report covering the period 01/01/2025–31/12/2025, which includes data from all Group companies.

STAKEHOLDERS

A company's stakeholders are identified as individuals, groups or organisations that have an interest in, an impact on, or are affected by the activities, projects or success of a company or one of its initiatives. As part of its ISO 9001-certified quality management system, the parent company Casalini Libri carries out an annual analysis of its

stakeholders and their needs and expectations in order to define its strategic direction. The stakeholders include:

- Institutional clients
- Private clients
- Publishers
- Service providers
- Technology partners
- Company staff
- Subsidiaries
- Company ownership/management

These stakeholders, in particular clients and the company's management, have been involved over the years in identifying the most important actions to be taken. The Group's focus is on strengthening this engagement process, with a view to aligning its strategy – including in the area of sustainability – with the needs and expectations of its various stakeholder groups.

CODE OF ETHICS

Casalini Libri has adopted a Code of Ethics that sets out the standards of corporate conduct and is based on fundamental values such as honesty, professionalism and transparency. The document consists of eight sections:

1. Code of conduct
2. Clients, suppliers and consultants
3. Community
4. Authorities
5. Transparency
6. Internal control system
7. Privacy policy
8. Methods of implementation

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to elevate corporate governance and professional conduct beyond mere compliance with legislation, by seeking to establish and promote a standard of behaviour that has a positive impact on the workplace.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The story of Casalini Libri

Not all business stories begin with a plan or a mission statement. Some are born from listening, from a question. The Casalini Libri story did not begin with the creation of a company, but with an underlying question: **how do books truly become part of our knowledge?** Towards the end of the 1950s, the Italian publishing industry was wide-ranging, multifaceted and vibrant. But for those viewing it from the outside – such as libraries, universities and research centres – it was, and still can be, also difficult to interpret, select and consolidate into coherent collections. Books were and are not always accompanied by the bibliographic information needed to make them truly usable.

Mario Casalini recognised this gap long before it became apparent. An avid reader and keen expert in the arts and classical disciplines, accustomed to navigating different languages and contexts, he viewed books not as isolated objects, but as part of a wider system comprising relationships, catalogues, choices and cultural responsibilities. For him, publishing was never just about production: it

was about mediation. It also entailed **managing the data and bibliographic information** that accompany publications.

A chance encounter helped to transform this idea into reality. Towards the end of the 1950s, in a bookshop on Via Tornabuoni in Florence, Mario Casalini encountered some officials from the Library of Congress in Washington. At first glance, their request seemed straightforward: they were not just looking for Italian books; they were looking for a reliable partner, one who could navigate the publishing landscape and provide them with sound, consistent and useful information over time. It is at that moment when it became clear that true value lies not only in the availability of the titles, but in the **attention to detail in the information that makes them searchable and integrable into library systems**. At the heart of this initial dialogue lay **Italian culture**, viewed not only as a heritage to be shared, but as a complex system that needed to be made accessible. Literature, arts, humanities and social sciences together form a rich and multi-layered



fabric that requires linguistic skills, an understanding of the publishing landscape and a keen eye for content. Since its inception, Casalini Libri's work has focused on this: ensuring that Italian publications are understood, selected and promoted within international library collections.

This insight was reinforced shortly afterwards, during a trip to the United States on behalf of the publishing house La Nuova Italia. A comparative analysis with the American library system shows that access to knowledge is the outcome of rigorous and ongoing processes that have been developed over time. **Libraries do not demand efficiency for its own sake, but rather reliability, consistency and a willingness to listen.** The result is a way of working that stems not from a business plan, but from an approach: to observe, to understand, and to respond.

In the mid-1950s, this approach led to the founding of **Casalini Libri**. The first bibliographic information and supply service for hard-to-find titles was initially designed for Harvard and Toronto, and later for the **Library of Congress**, but it quickly grew because it met a need shared by many other institutions. The increase in demand led to an expansion of the workforce and the relocation of the headquarters to Via Leopardi in Florence. Rather than simply scaling up, this marked the dawn of a new approach: developing services based on the actual needs of libraries, whilst maintaining a direct and ongoing relationship.

In the 1960s, this approach became firmly grounded: bibliographic research was refined, information became more structured, **and dialogue with libraries became a regular feature.** In the 1970s, the business branched out into managing journal subscriptions, meeting a practical, day-to-day need of cultural institutions: to ensure that their collections were comprehensive and up to date. Once again, the development of services stemmed **from a focus on the work of libraries**, rather than from the introduction of new services. As part of this same process, the focus that was initially on Italian publishing naturally extended beyond national borders. The culture of Southern Europe – particularly **Spain, France, Portugal and Greece** – was steadily entering Casalini Libri's remit as a logical extension of an approach rooted in an understanding of publishing contexts and a strong tradition in the humanities and social sciences.

The 1980s marked a decisive turning point. The creation of a **bibliographic database** and the distribution of records in MARC format positioned Casalini Libri among the leading European biblio-

graphic agencies to interface directly with library cataloguing systems. In the 1990s, the publication of catalogue records online further expanded these possibilities, promoting libraries' autonomy in developing their collections and strengthening an already well-established collaboration.

In 1999, the **Fiesole Retreats** were launched: annual meetings dedicated to the role and future of libraries. Designed as spaces for discussion and listening, they remain places where people can share experiences, discuss transformations underway and reflect, together, on the changes taking place in the world of knowledge.

At the turn of the millennium, Casalini Libri embarked on a seamless transition to digital. The EIO – Editoria Italiana Online collection of electronic publications and, thereafter, the **Torrossa** platform did not represent a change of direction, but rather the logical evolution of an approach based on the careful curation of information.

The technological revamp of the Torrossa platform in 2011, the adoption of RDA standards, participation in the Programme for Cooperative Cataloguing, a focus on Linked Data, recognition as an ISNI agency in 2017, and involvement in the international debate on BIBFRAME all reflect a vision in which





technology is always a tool at the service of libraries, never an end in itself.

Today, under the leadership of **Barbara and Michele Casalini**, and with two offices in Fiesole, Casalini Libri continues to develop its business based on the same principles that shaped its origins. In a landscape characterised by an ever-increasing volume of information and increasingly complex systems, this experience remains highly relevant. What began over sixty years ago as a solution to a specific need has now evolved into services, platforms and partnerships that support libraries in their work of selecting, organising and promoting their collections. The consistent approach, founded on listening and attention to bibliographic details, enables Casalini Libri to engage with the present in a coherent and recognisable manner.



ALMOST A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO LIBRARIES

The origins of Erasmus

Erasmus was established in Amsterdam in 1934 as an antiquarian bookshop founded by the art historian **Dr Abraham Horodisch**. Specialising in art and art history, it distinguished itself from the outset through its expertise and careful selection of titles. A direct relationship with academics and institutions contributed to building a reputation based on in-depth knowledge of the catalogues and the quality of service.

Over time, the business expanded naturally. From a specialist bookshop, Erasmus has evolved into a well-established provider for academic, research and professional libraries. Experience gained in the antiquarian market has become a method: knowing what is being distributed, maintaining long-term relationships with publishers, and providing continuity for institutions that build and update their collections. In the 1990s, the opening of the Paris office, **Librairie Erasmus**, further reinforced this direction. Having a direct foothold in the area strengthens the company's relationships with French and Franco-Swiss publishers and enhances its ability

to meet the needs of international libraries. Over time, the range of services has expanded: individual orders are now complemented by subscriptions, standing orders and approval plans, all with the aim of ensuring reliability and consistency over time.

The integration with **Houtschild Internationale Boekhandel**, a long-established Dutch supplier, brought together complementary expertise and strengthens an already well-established presence in the European market. Joining the **Casalini Group** (2020) marked a further step forward in our growth. Working with Casalini Libri, Erasmus contributes to an integrated model in which publishing expertise, bibliographic services and digital infrastructure operate in a coordinated manner. The geographical areas covered by the group's various entities complement one another, expanding coverage and enhancing service efficiency. Today, Erasmus remains true to its historical roots – which lie in the Netherlands and France – within a broader framework built up over almost a century of activity, where tradition and innovation go hand in hand.

WHERE TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARIES COME TOGETHER

The @Cult journey

@Cult was established in Rome in 2001 as a software development company specialising in the GLAM sector (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums), focusing its expertise on processes and technologies for data management, conversion and exploration. Right from the start, the company created a digital ecosystem capable of organising, structuring and making information assets accessible, thereby promoting their sharing, understanding and use. One of the founding partners is Tiziana Possemato, who remains a key figure in the company to this day and is an expert in library and information science and the technologies applied to this field.

Thanks to its consolidated experience, including at an international level, as early as 2010 @Cult was among the first Italian SMEs to develop expertise, methodological practices and technological solutions in the Semantic Web and Linked Open Data (LOD), establishing itself as a leader in the cultural heritage sector. This journey has given rise to a number of significant projects, all united by a commitment to preserving and enhancing the future of catalogues, creating efficient digital environments for the cataloguing, identification and enrichment of bibliographic records in Linked Data. From the first SHARE Catalogues, which involved universities in

southern Italy, to SHARE-VDE, the **Share Family** – an innovative and constantly evolving international community – has gradually developed.

This process of growth reinforces the relationship with Casalini Libri, an existing client for whom @Cult develops management systems and platforms for delivering digital services. The partnership is steadily evolving, transforming from a supplier-client relationship into an ongoing dialogue about projects, strategies and long-term vision.

Through joint initiatives, including the development of the technology platform underpinning the Share Family projects, a shared path is being consolidated. With its international presence and long-standing ties to the academic world, Casalini Libri facilitates access to high-profile sectors; @Cult contributes specialist expertise in technological development and the implementation of solutions.

@Cult's arrival in the Casalini Group in 2020 was a natural progression: the acquisition formalised an existing partnership and strengthened the operational integration that was already in place. Its history is closely intertwined with that of Casalini Libri, through convergence rather than overlap: technology, services, bibliographic data and engagement with the professional community come together in a practical synergy that continues to evolve.

The Casalini Group's
social dimension

Relationships
that build services



2.1 LISTENING TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES



“For years, Erasmus and Casalini Libri have been offering the Approval Plan to help libraries build targeted collections quickly and efficiently, relying on a service that really works.,”

Dirk Raes,
Director of Erasmus Boekhandel

For the Casalini Group, listening is a core competence and a working method. This is what enables us to transform the complexity of the European publishing landscape and library requirements into coherent, responsible and sustainable decisions over the long term.

This approach is driven by the need to gain a thorough understanding of the contexts in which libraries operate: their collections, subject areas, research practices, financial constraints and institutional priorities. It is about understanding the needs that are explicitly stated, but also those that emerge over the years through dialogue, and then

transforming them into personalised services. In this sense, the **Approval Plan** is one of the most visible manifestations of a broader approach. It is not an automated selection process, but the result of a structured listening process that takes shape in profiles developed and refined over time. Every profile reflects a thorough understanding of the library and an ability to adapt as disciplines, collections and research needs evolve. The same philosophy guides our subscription management and the search for new titles: services in which our attentiveness translates into timely delivery, relevant recommendations and a commitment to identifying publications that are hard to find but relevant to specific fields of study.

The quality of our listening is reflected in the qual-

ity of our choices: over time, this approach has yielded such a high level of consistency that our return rate has remained **consistently below 1% since 2019**, confirming our proven ability to make targeted and responsible choices. This result arises from mutual trust and a deep understanding of our customers, rather than from automated processes. Ultimately, listening in order to make better choices means taking on a **shared responsibility**: streamlining the complexity of libraries' work, supporting them in their decision-making, and working together to build collections that truly fulfil their cultural and scientific mission.

2.2 BEING THERE TO TAKE CARE

For the Casalini Group, cultivating relationships does not end with the content selection phase, but takes the form of daily engagement with libraries. This approach is reflected in structured, ongoing customer support, designed to assist libraries in using digital tools, managing operational workflows and resolving the complexities that arise in their everyday work. The focus is not solely on responding promptly to requests, but on building a lasting dialogue that can anticipate needs and help people make choices.

The quality of the service is also reflected in the design of the interfaces and the clarity of the

processes. Databases, platforms and tools are designed to integrate seamlessly with librarians' professional workflows, cutting out unnecessary steps and making the user experience smoother and more efficient. Likewise, logistical and practical aspects (from the preparation of the volumes to the packaging) are also part of a comprehensive approach designed to simplify the work for libraries and ensure high standards.

Alongside remote support, direct contact is a key part of this model: in 2025, this commitment resulted in **399 meetings and visits across 15 countries**, demonstrating a connection that is not just

theoretical, but tangible and put into practice. Similarly, a team of native-speaking professionals constantly monitors the publishing landscape to stay in close touch with the publishing world and further enhance the quality of our dialogue with libraries. They do this by analysing catalogues, industry newsletters and specialist journals, attending international trade fairs, and visiting publishing houses in person. Ultimately, being present involves nurturing relationships over time, building trust through direct interaction with people.



“We always strive to prioritise face-to-face meetings and discussions, giving our clients and stakeholders all the time they need for a meaningful and genuine exchange.”

Patricia O’Loughlin,
Director of Casalini Libri

2.3 SUPPORTING BIBLIODIVERSITY

For the Casalini Group, being attentive to the publishing world means recognising its complexity and richness. In a European landscape consisting of thousands of publishers, many of which are small or medium-sized, the selection of content cannot be limited to what is most visible or immediately available. Instead, it calls for cultural mediation based on a thorough understanding of the publishing landscape and the needs of libraries.

Our search for and selection of titles includes independent, specialist and sometimes hard-to-find publications. It is a laborious and time-consuming task, involving direct contact with publishers, keeping a close eye on the publishing landscape, and listening to the research needs expressed by libraries. It is here that bibliodiversity takes shape: a wealth of diverse voices, interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives which, although sometimes marginalised in traditional commercial circles, are essential for research and academic debate.

This careful research enables libraries to build collections that are broader, more diverse and better reflect the complexity of European thought. But it is also a distinctive feature of the Casalini Group that sets it apart from other operators in the sector. The services offered are not based purely on industrial or scaled logic,

but stem from actively listening to libraries and a desire to support their cultural and scientific mission.

The Casalini Group operates as a commercial business, but with an ethos more akin to that of cultural institutions: it exists because it meets a need articulated by libraries and because it acts as a reliable partner for publishers as well. By supporting and promoting high-quality academic publications, whether from large publishing groups or small independent publishers, we are thus assuming responsibility for the entire knowledge ecosystem.

2.4 PEOPLE AS THE FOUNDATION OF THE SERVICE

The attentive approach and willingness to listen that shape the Casalini Group's relationship with libraries and publishers are also reflected within the organisation itself. The people and employees are not separate from the services; rather, they form the operational and relational foundation of those services.

The Casalini Group is characterised by a robust and long-standing structure, with a significant **female presence, accounting for 58% of the company's workforce**, and a high degree of cultural and professional diversity, aligning with the international scope of its activities. This composition reflects an organisation that values skills, career paths and a diversity of perspectives – all essential elements for operating in complex publishing and library environments.

Flexible working arrangements and careful management of time contribute significantly to a healthy work-life balance. Within the Group, **36% of employees work on a part-time basis**, while flexible working is an integral part of the way work is organised, thereby promoting operational continuity and employee well-being. This structure has a significant impact on the organisation's stability: low staff turnover helps to retain expertise, institutional knowledge and long-term relationships with libraries and publishers.

This stability has made it possible for the Casalini

Group to invest systematically in employee training and professional development. The numbers show steady growth in training and professional development, confirming the focus on developing specialist, language and technological skills.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CASALINI GROUP



177

EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING

58%
WOMEN



42%
MEN

88%
WITH A PERMANENT
CONTRACT



12%
WITH A FIXED-TERM
CONTRACT

64%
ON FULL-TIME
CONTRACTS



36%
ON PART-TIME
CONTRACTS

AGE OF EMPLOYEES

46%
> 50 YEARS OLD



14%
18-30 YEARS OLD

20%
30-40 YEARS
OLD

21%
40-50 YEARS
OLD

66%
OF EMPLOYEES HAVE SIGNED
A
REMOTE WORKING
AGREEMENT

80% OF EMPLOYEES
ATTENDED
AT LEAST ONE **TRAINING**
EVENT IN 2025

CASALINI AND SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Casalini Libri maintains a close relationship with the local community, actively supporting **artists from the local territory in Fiesole**. This is where the company's publishing house, Cadmo, comes into its own, publishing academic essays in the fields of philosophy, literature, linguistics, history and the arts, including catalogues of painters and sculptors such as Paolo della Bella, Aldo Frangioni and Raffaele Bueno. Their collective work "Triografie" has been on display for a long time at the company's headquarters in Via Faentina, which serves as a space open to the public, offering local artists a significant opportunity for visibility and encouraging intercultural dialogue with the community.

At present, the Caldine offices house, in addition to the aforementioned "Triografie", Paolo della Bella's work "*100 disegni per centuria*" and "*Nel nostro prossimo destino*", a striking collection of graffiti by Aldo Frangioni.

This small selection of visual art on display is designed to demonstrate the value the company places on creative expression in its many forms, which enrich our shared heritage of cultural diversity. In May 2026, to mark the publication of a new book by Aldo Frangioni and with the involvement of Antonio Natali, former director of the Uffizi, works from the Palli Collection were also exhibited, including three tondos by Paolo Masi and two silkscreen prints by Umberto Buscioni.



The Casalini Group's commitment to the environment





Sustainability
as a process

The Casalini Group has always been committed to protecting the environment: over the years, the companies within the group have implemented a number of practices, both large and small, to reduce the environmental impact of their operations. This focus is now more evident than ever, given the decisions made in 2025. Indeed, the companies have decided to:

- calculate their GHG emissions and draw up a corresponding decarbonisation plan for 2028;
- obtain an ISO 14001 certification in 2026 by developing its own environmental management system.

These two initiatives allow the Group to identify the most significant opportunities for improving efficiency and reducing its environmental impact, whilst at the same time broadening the cross-functional skills of its teams.

With reference to three key environmental issues, the following section outlines the measures already implemented by the company, the performance and data measured for 2025, and future objectives, which will be developed and explored in greater detail during the year as part of the ISO 14001 certification process.

3.1 CONSUMPTION AND EMISSIONS



Over the years, the Casalini Group has implemented a number of measures aimed at improving and optimising energy consumption and efficiency. The following are undoubtedly among the most significant initiatives implemented by Erasmus in this area:

- exclusive use of one all-electric vehicle and one hybrid vehicle;
- encouraging the use of public transport by covering the cost of public transport for employees on their commute to and from work through the use of a company travel card;
- implementation of a green approach to digital technology through the use of "Green Hosting Providers", database optimisation via migration to ElasticSearch to reduce computational load, and eco-friendly UX design to reduce device energy consumption;
- improving energy efficiency in offices through the installation of LED lighting, motion sensors and hybrid heating systems;
- adopting travel policies that encourage virtual meetings, remote working and travel by train;
- use of our main courier, which is Carbon-Neutral certified (DPD);
- sustainability consultancy for institutional clients, offering advice on ordering models, consolidation strategies and packaging preferences to reduce emissions.

At the same time, Casalini Libri has made clear efforts to optimise its energy consumption and reduce its emissions, such as:

- installation, as early as 2011, of a solar power generation system on the roof of the headquarters;
- programming of lights and thermostats to reduce energy consumption;
- the purchase of a first fully electric car and a hybrid vehicle for the company fleet;
- replacement of the gas boiler with a new electric heating system;
- adoption and promotion of remote working policies and the provision of appropriate tools for employees (e.g. laptops, video-conferencing software, etc.) in order to reduce commuting;
- purchasing goods and services from local artisans, businesses and professionals, whether for outsourcing processes or for the procurement of supplies, thereby also supporting local businesses in Fiesole;

In 2025, Casalini Libri also invested in measuring its emissions and drawing up a decarbonisation plan. Using its 2024 operational consumption data, Casalini Libri was able to calculate the associated emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) in accordance with the GHG Protocol, which amounted to 99.03 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Scope 1 emissions refer to direct emissions calculated on the basis of the natural gas consumed by the company for office heating and the combustion of fuel used by company vehicles; Scope 2 emissions refer to indirect emissions resulting from the consumption of purchased electricity. The calculation for 2024 was the starting point for drawing up the company's decarbonisation plan, which set out clear targets up to 2028.

The following table summarises these objectives and their progress:

TIMELINE	TARGET	STATUS
2026	Switch to 100% renewable energy at our head office (Caldine)	Completed
2026	Switch to a "green logistics" option for at least one of our main couriers (DHL)	Completed
2026	Obtain ISO 14001 certification	Ongoing
2027	Switch to 100% renewable energy at our original site (Torrossa)	To do
2028	Replace a company car with an electric vehicle	To do

As illustrated, the company has already switched to 100% renewable energy for its headquarters, which has led to a significant reduction in GHG emissions for the year 2025. In fact, these emissions, calculated using new emission factors (no longer from the Simapro database but from ISPRA), amount to 26.82 tonnes of CO2 equivalent for 2025, representing a **73% reduction compared with the previous year.**

In addition to the initiatives described, the Casalini Group is currently exploring the opportunity to launch reforestation projects to partially offset its carbon emissions.

The following provides details of Casalini Libri’s Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions, together with the 2025 consumption figures for both companies.

CASALINI LIBRI – 2025 MISSIONS					
Scope 1					
ITEM	VALUE	EMISSION FACTOR	EMISSIONS	RELEVANCE	NOTES ON EMISSION FACTOR (EF)
METHANE CONSUMPTION	8.805 smc	2,06672 kg CO2 eq/Scm	18.197 kg CO2eq	67.84%	2025 - UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting - Natural Gas
FUEL CONSUMPTION (PETROL)	2,359 litres	2.06916 kg CO2 eq/litre	4.881 kg CO2eq	18.20%	2025 - UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting - Petrol (average biofuel blend)
			23.078 kg CO2eq	86.03%	
Scope 2					
ITEM	VALUE	EMISSION FACTOR	KG CO2eq	RELEVANCE	NOTES ON EMISSION FACTOR (EF)
GRID ELECTRICITY (Torrossa)	17,424 kWh	0.215 kg CO2 eq/Kwh	3.746 kg CO2eq	13.97%	ISPRA (https://emissioni.sina.isprambiente.it/)
ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES	205,891 kWh	0 kg CO2 eq/ Kwh	0.00	0.0%	ISPRA (https://emissioni.sina.isprambiente.it/)
			3.746 kg CO2eq	13.97%	
TOTAL EMISSIONS 2025			26,825 kg CO2eq		
			26.82 t CO2eq		

ERASMUS - CONSUMPTION 2025	U.M.	AMSTERDAM	PARIS	TOTAL
Electricity purchased from the grid (non-renewable sources)	kwh	\	6,521	6,521
Electricity purchased from the grid (renewable sources)	kwh	56,021	\	56,021
Natural gas	scm	6,910	3,461	10,371
Water	cubic metres	293	\	293

CASALINI LIBRI - CONSUMPTION 2025	U.M.	HEAD OFFICE	BRANCH OFFICE	TOTAL
Electricity purchased from the grid (non-renewable sources)	kwh	\	17,424	17,424
Electricity purchased from the grid (renewable sources)	kwh	185,082	\	185,082
Electricity self-generated using a solar power system	kwh	20,809	\	20,809
Natural gas	scm	\	8,805	8,805
Water	cubic metres	996	694	1,690
Fuel (company vehicles)	litres	2,359		2,359

3.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Casalini Group is committed to minimising the waste generated by its operations, always favouring reuse and recycling, and encouraging all employees and partners to be mindful and aware of these practices.

The Group's companies manage their waste in accordance with European regulations and implement measures to improve their performance and expertise, such as:

- separate waste collection at all offices;
- recording and measuring the volumes generated;
- reusing packaging material where possible;
- eliminating single-use plastic and introducing measures to discourage its use by employees,

- such as providing free water dispensers and phasing out plastic cups and tableware;
- phasing out paper towels from toilets.

Listed below are the detailed figures for the waste produced by the two companies in 2025; some of these figures are given in kilograms and others in litres, depending on the specific procedures of the organisations responsible for collection.

WASTE GENERATED by CASALINI LIBRI - 2025	Kg	Litres
Paper and cardboard	4,500	65,570
Waste electrical and electronic equipment	500	
Toner	240	
Mixed materials (plastic, cans, Tetra Pak cartons, etc.)		39,645
Organic waste		9,897
Non-recyclable waste		22,650
Total	5,240	137,762

WASTE GENERATED BY ERASMUS - 2025	Kg	Litres
Paper and cardboard	12,836	50,000
Toner	20	10
Total	12,856	50,010

3.3 MATERIALS AND PACKAGING

A book distribution company such as the Casalini Group requires a significant quantity of packaging to ensure that books and journals are transported safely to customers all over the world. The selection of suppliers is also a key activity for companies, which carry out regular assessments: Casalini Libri does this in the context of ISO 9001 certification, whilst Erasmus bases its assessment on environmental performance, respect for human rights and regulatory compliance. The Group favours the purchase of sustainable, Ecolabel-certified materials. Over the years, the Group's companies have also identified various ways to use materials with a lower environmental

- impact, such as:
- recycled paper boxes;
 - FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified paper;
 - biodegradable or paper tape;
 - paper inner packaging, with polystyrene removed;
 - reuse of suppliers' materials;
 - optimisation of box volume in relation to contents;
 - inclusion of instructions for responsible reuse and recycling of the material in the boxes.

In addition to these measures, Erasmus has invested in a specialised in-house machine that

converts 100% recycled paper into packaging material, replacing all other materials (e.g. bubble wrap), and performs annual internal audits to identify opportunities for improvement in waste

management and reduction. The following is a breakdown of the packaging materials purchased by Erasmus and Casalini Libri in 2025.

PACKAGING PURCHASED BY CASALINI LIBRI - 2025	% RECYCLED CONTENT	KG PURCHASED	INCLUDING KG OF RECYCLED MATERIAL
Tissue paper for packaging	100%	2,400	2,400
Cardboard boxes	60%	22,011	13,207
Libropack	60%	3,290	1,974
Cardboard shelves	60%	2,144	1,286
Bubble wrap	\	1	\
TOTAL Kg		29,846	18,867

PACKAGING PURCHASED BY ERASMUS - 2025	% RECYCLED CONTENT	KG PURCHASED	INCLUDING KG OF RECYCLED MATERIAL
Cardboard boxes	98%	34,772	34,077
Cardboard boxes	70%	636	445
Libropack	80%	408	326
Libropack	\	42	\
Cardboard shelves	100%	2,395	2,395
Bubble wrap	60%	264	158
TOTAL Kg		38,517	37,402

CO-WORKING, A SUSTAINABLE OPTION

The software company @Cult, the technological heart of the Casalini Group, has a specific environmental profile that is aligned with the nature of its business and with a key strategic decision regarding its internal organisation.

In fact, @Cult has chosen to operate from a shared workspace, the "Talent Garden" co-working space in Rome: this allows the company not only to make use of a flexible space that is conducive to smart working – a concept well suited to the digital sector – but, more importantly, to optimise the use of resources and reduce the environmental impact of its operations. The costs of lighting and heating, as well as waste management and disposal in compliance with applicable regulations, are managed by the facility and included in the monthly rent paid by the company.

How technological innovation,
research and cross-border
collaboration can help shape
new models of access to knowledge



A shared
future

4.1 INVESTING IN TOOLS TO IMPROVE WORKFLOW

Tiziana Possemato, Director of @Cult



From the very beginning of our work in the digital field, the development of tools and platforms has been guided by listening to the needs of libraries and by a focus on clear interfaces and integrated processes, designed to simplify day-to-day work without disrupting established practices.

Part of this vision is the strategic decision to invest in **@Cult, the Group's software company**, which is the heart of Casalini's digital innovation. Through @Cult, the Group has complete autonomy in designing technological solutions, combining bibliographic expertise, software development and in-depth knowledge of library contexts to support the evolution of services.

The Casalini Group's platforms and services are evolving according to **multi-year roadmaps agreed** with the library community. A real-life example of this approach is the new version of the Library Services platform, due to be launched in 2026, and designed to improve the user experience. Its aim is to make navigation more intuitive and to strengthen the integration between selection, management and discovery tools, thereby reducing the operational complexity of day-to-day workflows.

This technological investment also focuses on making the most of bibliographic data throughout its entire lifecycle. Enrichment, reconciliation and interoperability tools allow libraries to work

with more reliable information and facilitate the exchange of data between different systems, thereby enhancing the visibility and accessibility of their collections.

Thanks to these developments, the Casalini Group is transforming innovation into tangible results: more effective tools for librarians and richer, more coherent and intuitive search experiences for end users.

4.2 SHARE FAMILY: SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR CATALOGUES

Share Family is the project through which the Casalini Group, leveraging the technological expertise developed in-house by @Cult, is reimagining the future of library catalogues. Share Family is a research and experimental initiative focused on transitioning catalogues to models based on **Linked Open Data**, with the aim of making bibliographic information more interconnected, accessible and reusable. The project originated from **Share-VDE (Virtual Discovery Environment)**, launched in 2016 as the first linked data discovery environment created in collaboration with national and research libraries in Europe and

North America. This experience led to a broader vision, which in turn resulted in the creation of the Share Family ecosystem.

Today, Share Family combines various initiatives that share a common approach: transforming catalogues into interconnected knowledge bases capable of revealing relationships between works, authors, subjects and contexts that often remain hidden in traditional catalogues. This is accomplished through data enrichment, the reconciliation of entities and the formation of a shared Cluster Knowledge Base, developed and maintained by @Cult as the project's central infrastructure.



A distinctive feature of Share Family is its **community-driven** nature. Libraries actively participate in defining development models, tools and priorities, whilst retaining full control over their own data. The Casalini Group's role in this process is to provide a solid technological infrastructure, using international standards such as BIBFRAME and IFLA LRM, and to guide the community through this journey of shared innovation. Share Family is therefore a concrete vision of the future of bibliographic services: an open and collaborative environment where technology is a tool at the service of libraries, data quality and access to knowledge.

4.3 INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS: A COMMUNITY THAT INNOVATES TOGETHER



For the Casalini Group, innovation is also about creating opportunities for dialogue, where the future of bibliographic services can be discussed and shaped together with the international professional community. As well as developing tools and platforms, for many years the Group has been promoting opportunities for dialogue that bring together libraries, research institutions, publishers and other stakeholders in the sector, encouraging a shared reflection on the changes currently unfolding.

Established in 1999, the **Fiesole Retreat** is one of the longest-running and most recognised examples of this commitment. Born as a space for informal, cutting-edge discussion, the Retreat has grown over time to become an international touring event. Over the course of more than twenty-five years, it has passed through cities and cultural contexts across Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, remaining steadfast in its aim to provide a forum for strategic reflection on issues relating to access to knowledge, the evolution of libraries and academic communication. Alongside the Fiesole Retreat, the Casalini Group also promotes the **Torrossa Retreats**, events specifically designed for publishers and focusing on digital research, academic publishing and access models for content. These opportunities for discussion allow us to explore developments in study and research practices, share experiences and

contribute to the development of services that are ever more attuned to the needs of the academic community.

Another area of international collaboration is the **BIBFRAME Workshops in Europe**, events that bring together an ever-growing community engaged in the transition from traditional cataloguing formats to models based on Linked Data. Recent editions have seen the participation of hundreds of professionals from scores of countries, confirming the global significance of the topic and the role of

the Casalini Group in facilitating this dialogue. By co-organising these meetings, the Casalini Group is contributing to the creation of an international network for dialogue, where different experiences, models and perspectives can come together and give rise to shared visions. Within this framework of openness and dialogue, innovation takes the form of a collective process: a future that is not determined from above, but built together with publishers, libraries and the international professional community.

THE MOST RECENT EVENTS ORGANISED

BIBFRAME Workshop in Europe 2025

596
PARTICIPANTS

OF WHICH **480** PARTICIPATED ONLINE AND **116** IN PERSON, FROM **55** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTING **345** DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

Fiesole Retreat 2025

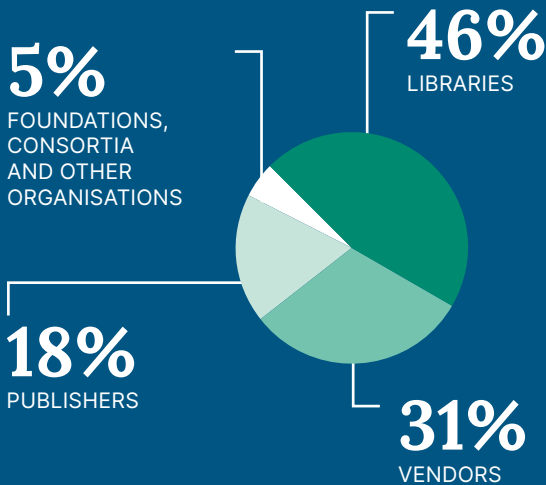
102
PARTICIPANTS

FROM **17** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTING **88** DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

Torrossa Retreat 2024

68
PARTICIPANTS

REPRESENTING **47** DIFFERENT ITALIAN PUBLISHERS



4.4 TORROSSA OPEN AND TORROSSA READER: SUPPORTING THE EVOLUTION OF ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE



Within the contemporary academic publishing landscape, access to knowledge no longer follows a singular model. Alongside the traditional sale of content and digital distribution, the **open access** model is becoming increasingly prevalent, whereby content is made freely available thanks to the support of institutions, research bodies, funders or academic consortia. The **Casalini Group** operates within this challenging environment, recognising the coexistence of different models and working to integrate them in a coherent and sustainable manner.

Torrossa Open was established with this objective: to provide an infrastructure dedicated exclusively to the distribution of open-access research content, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. The platform is designed to be a reliable environment for publishers and institutions that choose to make research results freely available, whilst ensuring high-quality metadata, indexing in major discovery systems, long-term preservation and interoperability with library ecosystems. In this way, Torrossa Open is fully engaged in the international debate on "open science" helping to bring a model to fruition where the cost of access no longer falls on the end user, rather it is borne by those who produce or fund the research.

Torrossa Reader is also responding to changes in the way digital content is consumed. Designed for

individual use, the Reader allows students and researchers to access texts flexibly across a range of devices. In this sense, the Reader acts as a bridge between the institutional infrastructure and the individual user's everyday experience, enhancing accessibility and ensuring continuity of use over time. Torrossa Open and Torrossa Reader therefore fit into a broader vision where **different economic**

models coexist: from the traditional supply of books and resources, to digital models based on purchase or subscription, right through to open access. The Casalini Group's objective is not to promote a single economic model, but to build infrastructure and tools capable of adapting to this diversity.

4.5 DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY: INNOVATING FOR INCLUSION

For the Casalini Group, innovation is also about making knowledge truly accessible by designing digital platforms and services that can be used by everyone. This commitment is an integral part of the Group's vision and takes the form of practical, long-term initiatives that go beyond mere regulatory compliance.

The partnership with the LIA Foundation (Libri Italiani Accessibili), launched in 2021, marks a decisive step in this process. Founded in 2014 by the Italian Publishers Association and the Italian Union of the Blind and Partially Sighted, the LIA Foundation is internationally recognised for its expertise in digital content accessibility and in setting standards for metadata and inclu-

sive reading solutions. The collaboration stems from the urgent need to ensure that the Torrossa platform complies with European accessibility guidelines, in anticipation of the European Accessibility Act, which will come into force in 2025. The Casalini Group has opted not to limit itself to mere regulatory compliance, but to view accessibility as an opportunity to significantly enhance the experience for all users.

The partnership also involves providing direct training to the Casalini Group's technical teams on assistive technologies, ensuring that future developments are designed from the outset to be fully accessible to people with visual impairments and a range of reading needs. This project is an



investment in the quality experienced by all users, not just those with disabilities, and strengthens Torrossa's ability to respond to the needs of an increasingly broad and diverse audience.

More than just an adaptation, this accessibility project is a key element of the Casalini Group's digital strategy: it brings together technology, services and inclusion, and brings to life the vision of open, accessible knowledge free from barriers. It is a tangible example of how innovation and social responsibility can come together to create shared value, not just for libraries and cultural institutions, but for everyone who accesses knowledge.

Innovation is an endless process, based on dialogue with libraries, the international community and technology partners. Encouraging collaboration between people, safeguarding data, and ensuring access to knowledge are choices that define a long-term vision. It is within this balance between publishing tradition and technological advancement that the Casalini Group continues to shape the future of bibliographic services.

GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI)

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DECLARATION OF USE	Casalini Libri Spa has reported the information listed in this GRI content index for the period 01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025 in accordance with the GRI Standards.	
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This Sustainability Report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Standards.

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