

History

The Chamber of Deputies of the Kingdom of Sardinia, elected after the granting of the Albertine Statute, decided at its very first sitting to establish a library. Thus, on 8th May 1848, the House approved a provisional regulation providing for the establishment of a **Library to be headed by a librarian-archivist, who was appointed by the House on 7th June 1848.**

At the time, the seat of government was in Turin, and the Library was housed on the ground floor of Palazzo Carignano. When Florence became the capital of Italy in **1865, the Library was transferred to Palazzo Vecchio** in that city.

In **1871, with a collection numbering 22,000 books, the Library was moved to the second floor of Palazzo Montecitorio** in Rome, seat of the Chamber of Deputies of the new Kingdom of Italy, where it remained until **December 1988, when it was opened to the public and transferred to its present location in the Palace on Via del Seminario**, in the complex of buildings making up the ancient Dominican convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva.



Sala delle Capriate (Truss-roofed Hall)

In **February 2007**, following the transfer of the Senate Library to the adjacent Palazzo della Minerva, the **Joint Parliamentary Library** was set up so as to closely integrate the services of the Libraries of the two Houses of Parliament and avoid duplications in the development of their holdings. Users of the Joint Parliamentary Library may freely pass from one Library to the other, and continue to avail themselves of the services of both, which are governed by the same set of rules.

On 2nd April 2019, the Library of the Chamber of Deputies was named after Nilde Iotti, the President of the Chamber who decided to move the Library to its present location and open it to the public.

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Camera dei deputati
19th Parliament

“Nilde Iotti” Library

Address
Via del Seminario, 76
00186 Rome

Secretariat
+39 06.67.60.34.76

Relations with the public
+39 06.67.60.36.72

Opening hours
(closed in August)

From Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Access to the Library

The Library is open to any person who is at least 16 years old and presents a valid ID. A library visitor card is valid for six months and allows admission also to the Senate Library, which forms part of the Joint Parliamentary Library. Those who wish can book a computer workstation via the App Biblio (prenotazionibiblioteca.camera.it).

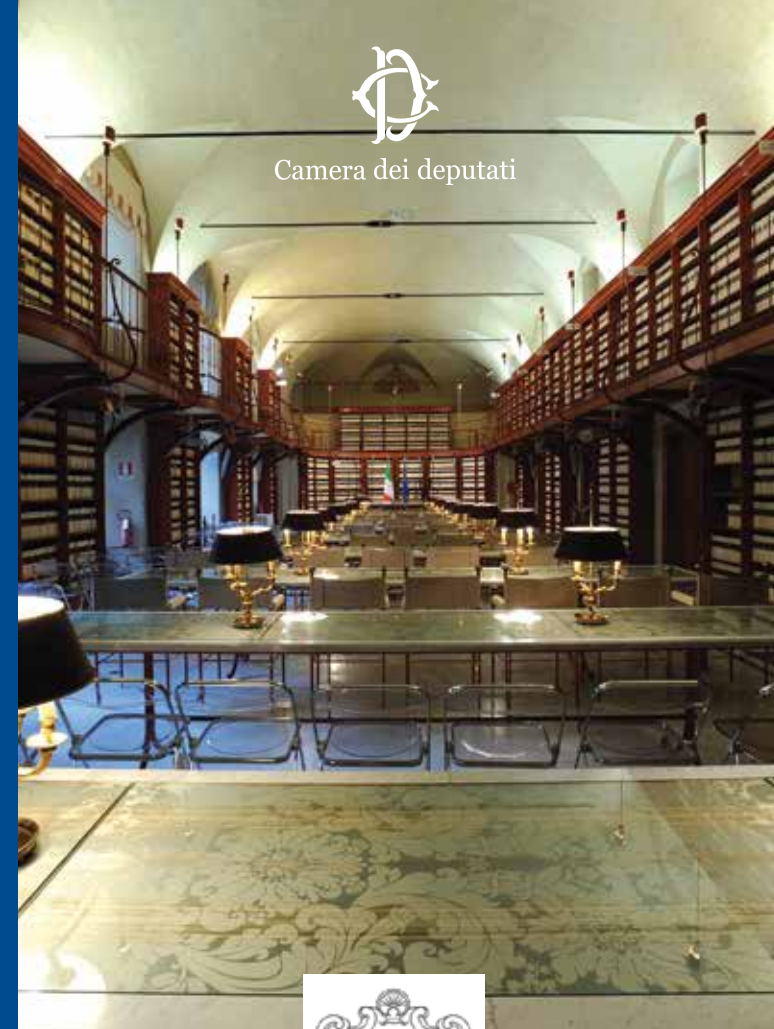
The Rules of admission are published on the Library website under the section “Access, opening hours, contacts”.

Ask the Library

Institutions and citizens not resident in Rome may request information – via the website or at biblioteca@camera.it - on the Library's holdings, existing legislation and parliamentary activities as well as bibliographical references relating to political and parliamentary subject matters.



Camera dei deputati



The “Nilde Iotti” Library of the Chamber of Deputies



biblioteca.camera.it

Functions

The Library offers assistance and guidance to institutional and external users (including remote users) researching its bibliographical resources, documents pertaining to doctrine and case-law, Italian and foreign legislation as well as parliamentary and constitutional history, based on the online catalogues and digital resources of the Joint Parliamentary Library.

It also supports the work of parliament and MPs by providing documentation and research services in the subject matters mentioned above, notably foreign and comparative legislation.

It manages several bibliographical and parliamentary databases and coordinates the project for the digitalisation of all the parliamentary records of the Chamber of Deputies since its foundation. The Library also contributes materials to the History Portal of the Chamber of Deputies (storia.camera.it) and to the websites of the Chamber of Deputies related to each parliamentary term. It provides information, communication, research and documentation on the work of Parliament, also through a number of publication series (e.g. Parliamentary Speeches and Parliamentary Activities).

It carries out numerous educational activities and organises courses and visits for institutional and external users, also as part of the Joint Parliamentary Library.

It organises periodic bibliographical exhibitions and, in partnership with the other entities involved, arranges visits to the "Insula sapientiae", the complex of buildings making up the Dominican convent of Santa Maria sopra Minerva.



Foreign Legislation Room



Periodicals Room

Reading rooms

The Library has numerous reading rooms, with computer workstations, which are organised either according to subject matter (e.g. Italian law, foreign and comparative law, the Italian parliament, history, international relations) or according to document type (e.g. parliamentary records, periodicals, encyclopaedias and bibliographies, antique and rare books). Some rooms offer Wi-Fi connectivity.

Electronic resources

The computer workstations are connected to the intranet of the two Houses of Parliament, from which users may access a wide range of databases to which the Joint Parliamentary Library subscribes, as well as magazines and newspapers in digital format. The Library runs the "BPR" database (bpr.camera.it), which contains bibliographical references to books and periodical articles about the Italian Parliament and parliamentary elections since 1848 until today, with numerous full-text reproductions.

The catalogues of the Joint Parliamentary Library and other digital resources are available for perusal at: opac.parlamento.it

Collections and holdings

Boasting more than **1,440,000 volumes**, the Library of the Chamber of Deputies is one of the most important parliamentary libraries in the world. The development of the collections has focussed on subjects of relevance to parliamentary affairs, namely: Italian and foreign law, history, politics, economics and other social sciences.

1,440,000 volumes

The Library has a large hard-copy collection of current and discontinued periodicals (respectively around 1,500 and 5,700) the complete collections of the parliamentary records of the two Houses and a large collection of foreign legislative and parliamentary sources.

1,500 printed paper copies of current periodicals

5,700 printed paper copies of discontinued periodicals

Since 1910, the Library of the Chamber of Deputies, along with the Library of the Senate, has served as the repository of the publications of the State and public bodies.

Some important collections such as nineteenth-century pamphlets and the section on fascism, are closely associated with the history of the Library itself. Over the years, the Library has added numerous special collections to its holdings, including the Bianchi Collection on the First World War, the Collection and Archives of political columnist Gaetano Natale, and a collection on brigandage. Among the most noteworthy of the antique and rare books are those of the Kissner Collection, from the private collection of American bibliophile Franklin H. Kissner (1909-1988). It was purchased at Christie's Auction House in London at the behest of President Iotti and includes around 2,000 books and sets of engravings from between the 16th and 19th centuries.

In recent years, the Library has acquired book holdings from scholars and politicians, including Lucio Colletti and Gabriele Giannantoni.