

THE PRE-1820 RARE BOOK COLLECTION: OVERVIEW AND ACCESS

Rare Books Homepage: <http://lib.slu.edu/special-collections/collections/rare-books>

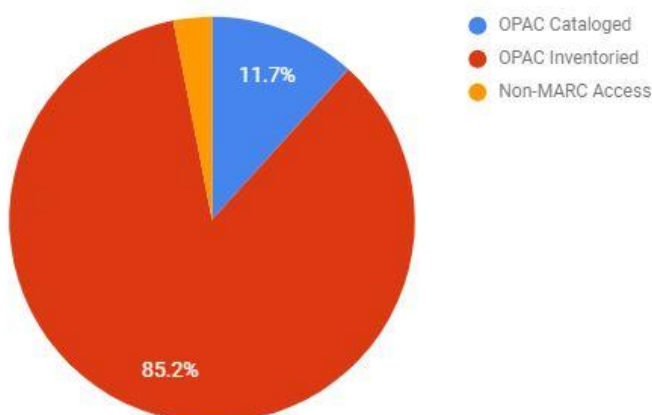
Quick Profile

- Extent of pre-1820 collection: 11,866 titles in 17,708 volumes
- Strengths
 - Jesuitica
 - Recusant History
 - Theology
 - Philosophy
 - Church History
 - Emblem Books
 - Works of Athanasius Kircher
 - Works of Peter Ramus
 - Rhetoric
- Major Sources of Rare Book Collection:
 - Early SLU faculty members' scholarly libraries
 - The library of an Augustinian monastery in Belgium (1830s)
 - Acquisitions by Walter, J. Ong, S.J. (author of *Orality and Literacy*) (mid-20C) –mostly Jesuit rhetoric and education, Jesuit emblems, Peter Ramus, Omer Talon
 - Recusant Collection purchased by Library Associates group (1977)
 - A Jesuit library in Toulouse (1999)
 - Individual donations

Cataloging Status

- All books through **1790** are represented in the library catalog
- 88% of books are represented in the library catalog
 - 12% fully cataloged
 - Records include subject and genre analysis; collation; multiple access points for added authors, translators, illustrators, printers, booksellers, former owners, etc.; references; summary of contents; local collection tracings; copy-specific notes on provenance, condition, completeness, binding, ephemera
 - Grouping includes important and valuable books; oldest books; books used in past 10 years of exhibits, teaching, and research; emblem books; Kircher; Ramus
 - 85% inventoried
 - Complete to 1790
 - Minimal inventory records include author, title, imprint, date, number of pages
 - Some records are copied from OCLC and are fuller
 - The Rare Book Inventory Project progresses chronologically by printing date, except when directed at recent acquisitions
- 3% of books are not listed in library catalog—listed by **author and date only** in Rare Books Database binders
 - The majority of books printed from 1791–1820 do not have electronic records except for some works in English and those that have been fully cataloged

Access to Pre-1820 Titles



Using the Library Catalog

- For searching Special Collections or other physical library holdings, use the **SLU Libraries Catalog** located at <http://libcat.slu.edu/>, or found under the “Books” tab on the libraries’ homepage
- Select “Advanced Keyword Search” located at <https://libcat.slu.edu/search/X> from upper right-hand corner
 - Limit your search to the location “Pius Special Collections”
 - Sort by date or limit the date range
 - Limit by language
 - If you do not have a search term, but wish to view all books within a date range or language, use an asterisk (*) in place of the search term
 - Use an asterisk (*) to replace any string of characters in a search (e.g., byzant*)
 - Exclude microfilms if desired by selecting “and not” and typing “microform”
- You can also limit your results to Special Collections materials *after* performing a search by using the “Modify Search” link on the results page

Subject Profiles in Catalog Records

The following broad subject profiles have been added to relevant inventory-level and full records up to the year **1790**. Retrieve results through a title search. More than one profile may be attached to a single title.

Profiles in Progress

- Art and architecture in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Bibles in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Classical authors in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Economics in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Education-related works in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Emblem books in the pre-1820 printed book collection

- Geography, Exploration, and Travel in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Jesuitica in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Law in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Medicine in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Music in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Philosophy in the pre-1820 printed book collection
- Science and technology in the pre-1820 printed book collection

Some profiles, such as theology and Church history, describe too many works in the collection to be considered useful, and are not traced in the catalog.

Subject Access to the Toulouse Collection

The Toulouse Collection, a library of rare books from a Jesuit residence in Toulouse, France, comprising 3,800 titles, is still shelved according to its original subject classification scheme. The entire collection has been inventoried, and some of it has been cataloged, so you will get results from author and title searches. In order to search by subject, you must select "Other Call Number" and type "Toulouse" and the letter group for the broad subject area you are interested in. This is the classification scheme for the collection:

- A Church fathers, patristics
 - B Papal bulls, apologetics
 - C Bible and commentaries
 - D Christian ethics, canon law, ecclesiastical law, liturgical texts, pontificals, missals, prayers, psalters, books of hours, breviaries, manuals and handbooks on confession and forgiveness
 - E Asceticism and monasticism
 - F Theological and spiritual works by Jesuits
 - G Saints and martyrs
 - H Jesuit biography and history including history of Jesuit missionary activities grouped by geographical location; also some poetry, drama, rhetoric
 - K Church history
 - L Bibliography, historical chronology, natural history, geography
 - M Philosophy
 - R Dictionaries, lexicons
 - S Natural science
- } *very few books in L-S*

A sample search under “Other Call Number” would be Toulouse H. This would bring up many screens of Jesuit history and biography, including works on missionary activities. You might notice that works on China, for instance, are classified around Toulouse H.400 and narrow your search to that grouping.

When titles are selected from this collection for full cataloging, they are given Library of Congress (LC) call numbers and are no longer searchable by this method.

Ask a Librarian

Jenny Lowe

Rare Books Librarian

977-5070

jennifer.lowe@slu.edu