

FIND OUT MORE

July 2024

The collections and services of the Library of the Parliament of Catalonia

- Origins
- Main collection and special collections
 - Historical collection and posters of the Republic
 - Collection of books written by or about Members of Parliament
 - Collection of electoral programmes and posters
- Online document resources
- Cooperation
- Access, users and opening hours

ORIGINS

The Library of the Parliament of Catalonia was officially opened in 1984 to serve mainly the parliamentary community (art. 19 of the [Statute of internal regime and governance of the Parliament of Catalonia](#)). The Library is part of the Records Management and Information Resources Department.

The Republican Parliament (1932-1939) also had a [library](#), which, unfortunately, has not been recovered.

MAIN COLLECTION AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Library of the Parliament's collections are specialized in public law, specifically in parliamentary law. It also includes collections related to social sciences, the contemporary history of Catalonia and other subjects on which Parliament has the power to legislate.

The [complete catalogue](#) consists of more than 50,900 (2024) records, including more than 198 (2024) titles of current general and specialized journals and more than 7,000 (2024) extracts of journal articles and chapters from books. A wide variety of documents can be found on different documentary media:

- Specialized monographs on parliamentary topics.
- Magazines.

- Legal databases, journal and press summaries.
- Local, national and international press.
- Reference works.

The [Eurovoc thesaurus](#) is the description tool used by the Library to index bibliographic collections. It has been used since 1985 from the first edition of the thesaurus in Spanish and since 2001 with the Parliament's own development in Catalan. It uses the universal decimal classification (UDC) for classification purposes.

The Library also has a variety of electronic resources that expand and complement the collections, the most important of which are the following:

- The Parliament's [digital library](#), a platform that facilitates the lending and reading of electronic content.
- The bibliographic and doctrinal contents provided by legal databases.
- The [iQuiosc](#), the platform for magazines and press in Catalan.

Special collections

[Historical collections and posters of the Republic](#)

It consists of documents from the mid-16th century to the mid-20th century. Most of the collections come from the donation made by Josep Fornas, who was a member of Parliament during the first legislature. This donation contains documentation on the political history of Catalonia from the First Republic to the post-war years and is made up of 6,691 books, 2,356 pamphlets, 2,400 loose sheets, 300 posters and 1,203 newspapers and periodicals from the 19th century. In view of its historical value, it is being digitized for preservation and dissemination purposes.

The digitized part of the newspaper library can be consulted through the [Archive of Old Catalan Journals](#) (ARCA).

The digitized part of the loose sheets and pamphlets can be consulted via the [Digital Memory of Catalonia](#) portal.

[Collections of books written by or about Members of Parliament](#)

It is made up of works written by Members of Parliament, referring to the subject matter of the Library's specialization, or books containing biographies of Members of Parliament.

[Collections of electoral programmes and posters](#)

This is a collection of the electoral programmes and posters relating to the Parliamentary elections of the political parties that have obtained parliamentary representation from the first legislature to the present day.

[Wikipedia](#)

The library collaborates with Wikipedia by adding sources and information on topics related to the Parliament of Catalonia or parliamentary issues.

ONLINE PRODUCTS AND DOCUMENT RESOURCES

The Library of the Parliament promotes and produces various products that are accessible online, in the [documentary resources](#) section of the Parliament's website. Firstly, you can find products for the dissemination of the collections:

- Summaries newsletter.
- Bibliographical new arrivals.
- New parliamentary bibliography.
- Exhibitions.
- Posters from the Fornas Donation.
- Bibliography of the Members of Parliament of the 1st Legislature (1932-1939).

In addition, products to support parliamentary activity:

- Thematic dossiers.
- Legislative dossiers.
- Resource guides.
- Thematic bibliographies.
- Documentation areas for committees, working groups and intergroups.
- Legal news newsletter.

COOPERATION

The Library of the Parliament, in cooperation with other institutions, carries out the following projects:

[Collective catalogue of Catalan universities \(CCUC\)](#)

Since 2015, the Library's catalogue has been integrated into the CCUC and is also available through the interlibrary loan scheme.

[Red Parlamenta](#)

The Library is part of the Red_Parlamenta project, the cooperation network in the sphere of parliamentary documentation and information of the autonomous parliaments of Spain.

[Dialnet](#)

In 2012, the Library entered into an agreement and since then has been a participant in the Dialnet database of summaries, involving the introduction of summaries of parliamentary and public law journals.

[Archive of Old Catalan Journals \(ARCA\)](#)

The Library cooperates with ARCA, the cooperative portal of digital preservation and open access that includes archived periodicals that have been representative in Catalan culture and society. The titles provided by the Library are *La Publicitat*, *Renaixement* and *Catalunya Ràdio*.

[Digital Memory of Catalonia \(MDC\)](#)

The Library participates in the MDC portal with the collection of the pamphlets and loose sheets from the Josep Fornas Collection (18th - 20th century) and a selection of monographs.

[GEPA cooperative repository](#)

The GEPA facility, which stands for Guaranteed Space for the Preservation of Access in Catalan, is a cooperative deposit service managed by the Consortium of University Services of Catalonia (CSUC) for the storage and preservation of low-use documents and to guarantee their future preservation and accessibility. The Library has produced monographs and journals.

[Autonomous Entity of the Official Journal and of Publications \(EADOP\)](#)

The Library has collaborated in the digitization and dissemination of the publications published by the Generalitat of Catalonia during the period 1931-1939, within the framework of Government Agreement 20/2022, of 8 February, which provides for the digitization, preservation and dissemination of the publications of the Generalitat of Catalonia during the period 1931-1939, which entrusts EADOP with the task of identifying the collections of the publications and preparing and disseminating the catalogue.

[Library of the Barcelona Bar Association \(ICAB\)](#)

Since 2013, through an agreement, the two libraries have been mutually benefiting from each other's bibliographic resources, especially with regard to the collections of journals and the loan and retrieval of documents.

USERS, ACCESS AND OPENING HOURS

The users of the Library of the Parliament are the parliamentary community (members of parliament, staff of parliamentary groups, services and bodies of the chamber); members of other parliaments, institutions and public bodies; researchers; and citizens in general for specialized consultations.

The loan service is reserved for internal users.

External users who wish to borrow a document must apply for it through their institution's library.

Requests for information should be sent to the following e-mail address consultes@parlament.cat.

The reading room is on the ground floor of the Palace of the Parliament. External users may access it for specialized consultations. To do so, they must make an appointment by sending a message to the same e-mail address and indicating the reason for the consultation.

Opening hours: from Monday to Thursday, from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. On Fridays and days outside ordinary session periods, from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. The reading room will be closed during August.