

Libraries for Christmas

The Renaissance Library Calendar contains colour photographs of 12 wonderful old libraries, built between 597AD and 1838. They were selected from nominations by library and information professionals and book lovers in more than 40 countries.

The 2006 edition — the sixth — shows libraries from 11 countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy (2), Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the USA. It is published by ISIM of Stockholm, Sweden.

Two libraries in the calendar were honoured with UNESCO awards in July 2005. Biblioteca Palafoxiana, (the Palafoxiana Library) in Puebla, Mexico, and the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, Belgium.

Biblioteca Palafoxiana is the only surviving library in America from the colonial period. The library, built in 1646, has in its collection material from 1473 to 1910. It includes 42 000 volumes, 9 incunabula and over 5000 manuscripts. It was listed in the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' International Register.



Lilienfeld Abbey Library, Lilienfeld, Austria, 1202

The Plantin-Moretus Museum, in Antwerp, is a printing plant and publishing house dating back to the Renaissance and Baroque periods. It is named after the great printer-publisher, Christophe Plantin (c.1520–1589). The museum contains an extensive library, a large collection of old printing equipment, and invaluable archives and works of art. It is of outstanding architectural value.

Copies of the calendar can be obtained at the Renaissance Library website at <http://www.renaissancelibrary.com/calendars.htm>. Cost: for one copy US\$12.95 + US\$7.95 p+p

Online Information 2005

A blog has been developed to provide a dedicated forum for discussion on information industry issues as part of Online Information 2005, a conference and exhibition for online content and information management solutions, held from 29 November – 1 December 2005 at Olympia Grand Hall, London, UK. Read it at <http://blog.online-information.co.uk/>.

On Day 1 Michael Gorman (president, American Library Association and Honorary Fellow, CILIP, UK) and Arie Jongejan (CEO, Swets & Zeitlinger, The Netherlands) are the keynote speakers for Track 2, on library and publishing developments. They discuss the challenges of digitisation in light of the Google Scholar project as well as innovative library strategies to help keep your library a must-have information centre. New research into open access will be discussed, along with insights into new business models for publishers.

Conference site: <http://www.online-information.co.uk/>.

from Australia's Great Libraries
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