

Printers' devices, the illustrative elements usually found on the title page or the colophon, serve to identify the printing house where the book was produced or the editor or bookseller who funded its production.

The term "printers' devices", then, is a generic one, as it does not distinguish between the marks of printers, editors or booksellers.

The complexity of this feature is evident in the use of different devices by a single printer, as well as in the use of a single device by different printers. Moreover, the devices used by one printer may feature completely different motifs or present variations on a single design.

The 'Printers' devices' database contains information on all of these aspects, making it an invaluable tool for those interested in the subject. It is also a very useful resource for book agents as it provides extensive information related to their field of activity.

We also recommend the '[Former Owners](#)' database, which provides information about the former owners of books in the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library.

[RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT CRAI LIBRARY](#)

[FORMER OWNERS DATABASE](#)

[PRINTERS' DEVICES DATABASE](#)



Rare book and manuscript CRAI Library

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PRINTERS' DEVICES

CRAI

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BARCELONA

crai.ub.edu/sites/default/files/impressors/home_eng.htm

The *Printers' devices* database details the printers and devices of the books catalogued in the Rare Book and Manuscript CRAI Library at the University of Barcelona.

The database was launched at the beginning of 1998 and is updated on a weekly basis from the printers' authority records in the [UB CRAI catalogue](#).

On March 2020, the database lists more than 1,840 printers and holds more than 3,330 images of printers' devices.

The chronological scope ranges from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century, with a small number of examples from the nineteenth century. The collection is eminently European, representing in particular printing from Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands and reflects the intrinsic characteristics of the collection.

The database links the printers' records to the bibliographic entries in the UB catalogue, under which the records appear as secondary entries. It also links to the bibliographical record from which the image has been extracted.

It incorporates a [timemap](#) for pinpointing records spatially and temporally.

The database can be browsed in three languages: Catalan, Spanish and English.

The Source field contains the bibliographic references used to make the printers' records.

All the records are included in the [CERL Thesaurus](#).

Search fields

The following field-specific searches can be performed:

- Printer
- Motto
- Ensign
- City (in Catalan)
- Country (in Catalan)
- Term (in the chosen browsing Language: Catalan, Spanish or English)
- Keyword

Searches can be performed for all words (AND), for any word (OR), for the exact phrase or from the selected index.

For printer, city, country and term searches we recommend the index option. For motto, ensign and keyword searches we recommend the "all words" or the "exact phrase" options.

[Timemap](#) searches can be performed for cities and/or specific years of a printer's activity. Search by period is not available. Results are displayed on the right of the map while at the bottom you can see the resulting set, with the link to the database.

Display fields

General printers' fields:

- **Search in catalogue:** link to the catalogue for records of the selected printer
- **Persistent link**
- Standardized **printer's name**
- **Alternative names** not accepted (repeatable field)
- **See also:** other related printers' entries (repeatable field)
- **Country** (repeatable field)
- **City** (repeatable field)
- **Years of activity** (repeatable field)
- **Note:** biographical note
- **Ensign:** phrase that accompanies some printers' names, related to the device
- **Source:** citation of the consulted bibliography (repeatable field)

Specific device fields:

- **Device:** description of the device
- **Motto:** if applicable
- **Note:** if necessary
- **Term:** keyword of the image (repeatable field)
- **Image** (repeatable field)
- **Dates** (in some devices)
- **Catalogue Bib. Rec.:** link to the bibliographic record from which the image is taken
- **ID:** Identification number