

2B. LOCAL COLLECTION (MATERIALS ON GENOA AND LIGURIA)

The local collection, the largest specialized collection in the region on topics related to Genoa and Liguria, preserves a wide range of publications with both contemporary and historical perspectives. Indeed, the volumes include books related to territories that once belonged to the ancient Republic of Genoa, that are now located in Piedmont, France or on the Black Sea coast

The topics covered are very diverse, ranging from geographical, historical, and environmental topics to economic, urbanistic, and folkloristic ones. A particular sector includes catalogues of exhibitions set up in our region, while another is dedicated to novels, stories, and poetry collections by Ligurian writers.

The shelving of books, rather than being determined by the specific subject of the work, is primarily defined by a geographical indication, with an alphanumeric code that specifies the area covered in the volume. This is followed by an alphanumeric string that reflects the Dewey Decimal Classification.

When Genoa was bombed during World War II, the Library was severely damaged and the entire Local Collection, which was rich in ancient editions, was destroyed by a fire. It was later rebuilt thanks to the donations of many citizens, who wanted to demonstrate the close bond between the people of Genoa and the Berio Library. Many of the donated volumes still bear the ex libris label with the wording 'for the reconstruction of the Library'