

The Berio Library is the largest public library in Genoa. It is located in the city centre and its book collection includes approximately 400,000 volumes. It was founded in the 1750s at the behest of Abbot Carlo Vespasiano Berio and today it represents one of the first private libraries open to the public. It was originally located in the Palazzo del Melograno, in Piazza Campetto, where Abbot Berio lived. Between 1823 and 1824 the city of Genoa acquired its collections and, in 1831, it transferred the library to the Palazzo dell'Accademia, designed by famous architect Barabino, which is located in the square that today is known as Largo Pertini. The Berio Library remained there until April 1998, when it was moved to the 17th century building that served as the ancient Seminary of the Clerics, following an impressive and targeted restoration. The Berio Library today can boast a prestigious location, in the heart of the city, with a large inner courtyard and a green area all around.

The Berio Library is important for the vastness and uniqueness of its collections and the size of its spaces. Over time, it has increased its book collections and the range of services offered to its users. Thanks to the professionals involved, the information technology used and its large study areas, today the Berio Library is a conservation and public reading library that, in addition to offering traditional services, also serves as a cultural centre. Indeed, in addition to on-site reading, lending and bibliographic information, it also offers educational and promotional activities, themed exhibitions, seminars and conferences.