

**THE GEOMINERALOGICAL SECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE
SCIENCE LIBRARY: HISTORY, COLLECTIONS, CATALOGS AND SERVICES**
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Key terms: University of Florence; Science library; collections; catalogs; services

The Science library was established by an act of the University of Florence in 1999 and includes all libraries pertaining to physical and natural scientific teachings: Anthropology, Animal Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Geomineralogy, Mathematics. These are small to medium sized libraries mostly located inside Departments, in different areas of town with a community of about 3000 FTE users. The Geological library, established in 1870, was joined in 1979 with the library of the Mineralogy, Petrography and Geochemistry Institute. In 2000 this union became physical too, giving birth to the actual library.

Collections. Its collections widely covers the Earth Sciences area including: geology, mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, geophysics, seismology, physical geography, geomorphology, glaciology, oceanography, meteorology, climatology, natural resources, natural hazards, paleontology.

The collection of more than 95.000 items includes many catalogued books, serials and other print materials. The library owns several archives (De Stefani, Cocchi), some historical miscellaneous (Carobbi, Manasse, Aloise), a consistent number of ancient books, some rare manuscripts and a large collection of geological maps.

Catalogs. From 1991 the catalogs of the library are part of the University of Florence OPAC and at present most of the collections acquired before that date have been integrated into the OPAC. The card catalog, for those documents for which retrospective conversion has not yet been completed, is still a meaningful instrument of search. In addition to these catalogs, an online catalog of theses is also available.

Services. Open stacks reading room, with a wireless access network, offers three workstations for consulting OPACs and searching the Internet. Loan service, also tailored for disabled, allows the reservation or renewal of books by web or phone. From the OPAC the user has also the possibility to check the availability of full-text journals, by SFX link resolver, or to forward a document delivery request to his library. An electronic document supply service by Ariel© is available for internal users. A reference service, with expert librarians, helps users in retrieving documents from a wide range of print or electronic resources.

The document delivery service (DD) and the interlibrary loan service (ILL) are offered to students and professors of the University of Florence or to other Italian or foreign libraries, and are supplied free or for fee, depending on the agreements signed by the University of Florence Library System (SBA). The SBA takes part in SDIAF, Libri in Rete, NILDE and SBN, that are local, regional or national document exchange systems, aimed at facilitating the exchange of documents.

The Science library web pages offer a range of services inside or outside the SBA:

- the access to thousands of e-journals;
- the metasearch of many multidisciplinary databases or other free resources, through Metalib
- a selection of annotated lists of resources
- some online modules to suggest purchasing, useful links, or to request DD or ILL services.