

Digital Resource Reviews / Comptes-rendus sur les ressources numériques¹

The British Library, with contributions from institutions worldwide.

Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC): The International Database of 15th-century European Printing. Database.

London: Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2016. Accessed 5 March 2019. data.cerl.org/istc/_search.

Begun in 1980, the *Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC)* seeks to record every item of European printing from movable type (not from engraved plates or woodblocks) to 1501. As of August 2016, the database contained records of 30,518 editions, which includes an unspecified number of sixteenth-century items that had been erroneously listed in previous incunabula catalogues as belonging to the fifteenth century. The audience for the *ISTC* is anyone interested in incunabula, the history of the book, the history of printing, the economics of the publishing industry or book trade in its infancy, the history of literacy, and any other field of study that relies in whole or in part on data concerning early printed books. The *ISTC* is part of the Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) database of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), which extends to the end of the hand-press era, ca. 1830.

The *ISTC* is exceedingly easy to use. Any search term or combination of keywords will gain the user access to the standard (and standardized) bibliographic information about each edition, including links to any digital online facsimiles available, as well as information on all known extant copies of that edition and their geographical location. The catalogue employs standard names for printers, authors, and places, which are referred to by their contemporary English names. Should a user wish to be more systematic in searching the *ISTC*, CERL via the help button at the bottom of the *ISTC* home page offers a brief introduction to the process and provides a list of additional terms that can be combined using Boolean operators. The terms run from the *ISTC* number to place and date of publication to publisher to language and the British Library shelf mark. Using these terms can improve the accuracy of the

1. These reviews are published in collaboration with *Early Modern Digital Review*. They also appear in vol. 2, no. 2 (2019) of *EMDR* (emdr.itercommunity.org).