Journals and monographs: An Italian perspective

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JOURNALS AND MONOGRAPHS

An Italian Perspective

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Our Research

The English Language in Italian Scientific Periodicals

- How many periodicals?
- Which language?
- What changes?
- On-line resources

- Academies
- Small specialised publishers
- Large specialised publishers
- University Presses
Academies

Accademia Nazionale di lettere, scienze e arti di Modena

- Annuals: 4
- Scientific and humanistic studies
- Texts in English and Italian
- Abstracts in English for all texts (also Italian)
- Until 1900 publications also in French and German, now only in English and Italian
- No on-line periodicals, none projected
Academies

Istituto Lombardo dell’Accademia di scienze e lettere

- Periodicals: 8
- Scientific and humanistic studies
- Texts in European languages, mostly in English and Italian
- Abstracts in English for Italian texts
- Abstracts in Italian for texts in other European languages
- Predominance of English language in scientific publications
- Also articles in non-European languages (e.g. Arabic) with facing English text
- On-line periodicals in preparation
Academies

Considerations

- Italian academies tend to produce journals with texts in the original language.
- Humanistic studies are more influenced by the traditional style of the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Scientific studies follow a contemporary line of communication, and are generally published in English.
- No interest in on-line resources.
Specialised publishers

Small publishers

**Tecniche Nuove**
- A variety of periodicals, mostly general interest
- In some cases two editions (in Italian and other languages)
- Texts generally in Italian
- No periodicals on-line

**Il Pensiero Scientifico**
- Scholarly medical journals
- Texts in English and Italian
- Early periodicals previously only in Italian, now also in Italian
- Some periodicals on-line

**Folini**
- Medical journals
- All texts in English
- Some periodicals on-line

**Vevy Europe**
- Periodicals on chemistry
- All texts in English
- Some periodicals on-line
Specialised publishers 2/4

Small publishers: Considerations

• Even if not always preferred, the English language appears to be most appropriate
• English renders studies more exportable and therefore more widely diffused
• This trend follows both cultural and commercial dynamics
• Italian on-line publications are mostly in English
### Specialised publishers 3/4

#### Large publishers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Other Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masson</strong></td>
<td>Scholarly medical journals</td>
<td>English and Italian</td>
<td>Increasing number of Italian titles now produced in English. No periodicals on-line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIC Edizioni Internazionali</strong></td>
<td>Scholarly medical journals</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Generally Italian content but with English title. All periodicals will be in English soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minerva Medica</strong></td>
<td>Scholarly medical journals</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Periodicals mostly in English. Some multilingual periodicals are now only in English. Many periodicals on-line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edizioni Universitarie Romane</strong></td>
<td>Periodicals on science</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>All texts in Italian, with English abstracts and key-words. Some journals also on-line.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specialised publishers 4/4

Large publishers: Considerations

- Large publishers’ production follows common trends
- Authors gain more respect by publishing studies in English
- Intermediate solutions exist (only abstracts and key-words in English)
- This conservative line is university-based, but large scholarly publishers need to internationalise their products
- Consequent flattening of communication and loss of language specificity in favour of making texts more easily available
- On-line resources are decisive
University Presses

Vita e Pensiero
- Periodicals on science and humanities
- Journals mostly in English, with abstracts and key-words
- ToC on-line

Firenze University Press
- Scientific and humanistic periodicals
- Some completely in English, some completely in Italian
- Periodicals mostly on-line

Egea
- Journals on economics
- Texts in English, or in both English and Italian
- All abstracts in English
- No periodicals on-line

LUISS University Press
- New publishing reality
- University press + publisher
- Scholarly periodicals
- 3 periodicals in hard copy only
- 2 periodicals on-line only
- On-line content will be in English only
University Presses 2/2

Considerations

- No tradition of university press in Italy with a few exceptions such as Vita e Pensiero and Egea
- Large quantity of university material diffused between various publishers
- LUISS: Italian university press evolved from Anglo Saxon model
- University presses mostly publish in English
- Future is on-line (Firenze University Press)
On-line Resources

Does e-publishing in English only make sense?

• Ever expanding field
• Great benefits
• World-wide diffusion
• Direct access

• On-line only vs enhanced editions (paper+on-line)
• Slow to become established
• Lack of standards
• Reliability problems
• Impact factor
On-line Resources

Our Experience

- A system to publish and manage texts electronically
- Continually updated census of Italian electronic publishing
- Academic publishing
- Commercial publishing
- On-line periodicals
On-line Resources

Considerations

- E-publishing represents a turning point in cultural communication
- Need to standardise resources
- Need to plan the development of e-publishing
- Rediscovery of original languages
- E-publishing as an instrument in maintaining the identity of each language
Conclusions

• A dominant language has always existed for scholarly communications
• Today non-Anglophone scholars publish in English for major visibility and diffusion of their studies
• English is a valuable language of exchange
• Safeguard wealth and diversity of other languages
Conclusions 2/2

Italo Calvino, *Six memos for the next millennium*

- Lightness
- Quickness
- Exactitude
- Visibility
- Multiplicity
- [Consistency]
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This speech was written in collaboration with:

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