

# Early European Books Enables Primary Source Exploration of Life and Culture

The definitive resource in its category, Early European Books (EEB) provides unlimited access to nearly 50,000 books and other rare incunabula printed in Europe from 1450-1700. Spanning two-and-a-half centuries, the collection follows Gutenberg's invention of movable type in the mid-15th century, sparking unprecedented proliferation and dissemination of literature throughout Europe.



“Using the resources of EEB, one can gain as closely as possible the benefits of working directly with a book in-hand: not only as text, but as a material object, situated in the commercial, social and political context of its period.”

— Arthur der Weduwen

Developed and produced in collaboration with scholars, rare book librarians, bibliographers, and other experts, Early European Books offers millions of high-resolution, full-color, searchable pages scanned directly from the original printed resources. Each item is captured in its entirety, complete with binding, edges, endpapers, blank pages, and any loose inserts. The result is a wealth of information about the physical characteristics and histories of the original materials.

ProQuest's partnership with the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) further improves access and discoverability of resources essential to researchers of the early modern era with enhanced metadata.

**Look inside to learn how Arthur der Weduwen from University of St. Andrews is using Early European Books in research.**



Arthur der Weduwen is a PhD student at the University of St. Andrews. He has a first class degree in History and International Relations from the University of Exeter and an M.Litt. in Book History with distinction from St. Andrews. He is an associate editor of the Universal Short Title Catalogue (<http://ustc.ac.uk/>).

In 2015, he won the Gray prize for the best postgraduate performance in the Humanities at the University of St Andrews. His first book, *Dutch and Flemish Newspapers of the Seventeenth Century, 1618-1700*, will be published in two volumes by Brill in May 2017.

His recent articles on the early periodical press and media have been published in *Quaerendo*, *Media History*, *Tijdschrift voor Tijdschriftstudies* and edited collections.

On these two pages, he tells us about how he uses *Early European Books* in his research.

## Digitized materials are designed especially for scholars

"For the scholar of early printed books, researching away in archives and libraries, handling documents, turning over pages, and inspecting paper quality are irreplaceable experiences." But the pleasures of archival research are not afforded to us all year round. Online resources play a major role in following-up on research, re-reading a particular text, comparing different editions of a published work, gathering more information on a specific publisher or publishing house, and collecting visual reproductions.

EEB full-color images are available of each entire work. This includes, importantly, scans of bindings, cover boards and inner pages. This is complemented by a scale drag: one can place a moveable ruler across any part of the work, measuring the length and width of woodcut initials, illustrations, typefaces and paper.



The presentation of the digital scans are completely tailored to the scholarly user. One can browse through all scans of a book on a single page, gaining a brief overview of the size, layout, and structure of the work. The scan of the entire book is downloaded as a pdf with a single click of a button.

The quality of the scans on EEB are consistently excellent. One is not faced by the poorer quality of scans available on digital resources elsewhere. The high-quality scans make for great use in presentations or other teaching material – students can engage with the visual subtleties of the typefaces, illustrations, and bindings."

– Arthur der Weduwen, University of St. Andrews

## Early European Books at a Glance

200  
years of  
Early European  
print

Content from  
years  
1450-1700

Curated in  
partnership with  
5 leading European  
research libraries

Art & Architecture



Education



Geography



Law



Literature



Mathematics

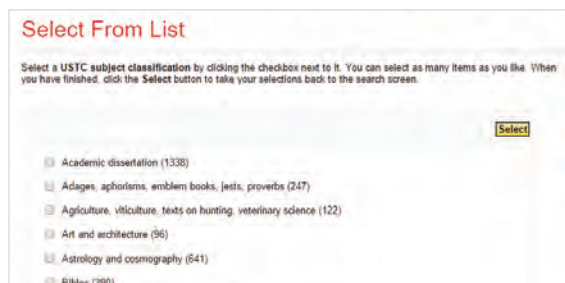




## How Arthur der Weduwen from University of St. Andrews made profound discoveries:

### Visual and typographic changes can be observed over centuries

"Early European Books contains many filters, which allow one to search or browse through a particular set of data. One such filter is a classification set, developed by the Universal Short Title Catalogue.



This filter offers unique insights into particular genres of printed works across geographical and linguistic boundaries. Thanks to Early European Books, I can browse through more than 800 printed ordinances and edicts from the beginning of the 16th century right up to the end of the 17th century. This puts me in a hitherto unthinkable position: I am able to gain impressions of the typographical and visual developments of this genre of print across two critical centuries of change."

### A more complex perspective emerges with more complete data

"Most research on Broer Jansz has concentrated on his weekly newspaper, one of first published in Europe. But what remains relatively neglected is the role of Broer Jansz in the wider book trade. Throughout his long career, the newshound also published dozens of plays, wedding pamphlets, works of Contra-Remonstrant devotion, and ordinances for the city of Amsterdam.

Searching for the works of Broer Jansz on Early European Books, I can capture fully his career through scans of many titles which

are not available elsewhere. This wealth of material, all brought together on one platform, provides typographical comparisons with Broer Jansz's news publications; exposes his sophisticated use of illustrations; and highlights the richness of the bindings of some of his ephemeral works."

### Detailed metadata + accessible platform = broad overview of subject

"Using the keyword and title fields to search Early European Books, I was able to generate the perfect introduction to the varied fortunes and legacy of a controversial statesman of the early modern period, Johan van Oldenbarnevelt.



One of the most important statesmen of the Dutch Republic, I was able to find some of his early justifications and ordinances; attacks on his position, and role in the religious crisis of the 1610s; accounts of his execution and later that of his son (who conspired to kill the Prince of Orange in 1623); and later glorification and memorialisation in Remonstrant and Republican literature of the later seventeenth century."

"Early European Books presents this material on an accessible platform that allows the user to dive into the texts and read them almost as if they were in hand."

– Arthur der Weduwen, University of St. Andrews

50,000+  
titles

Organized in a  
series of  
10 collections

Spanning  
12+  
subject areas

Medical Science



Music



Philosophy



Politics



Religion

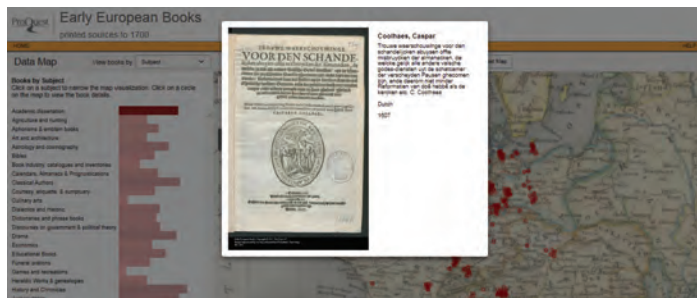


Science



## Technology that empowers more profound discovery

- Simplified search, retrieval, and investigation are enabled with bibliographic metadata that covers a wide range of subjects, including agriculture; art and architecture; astrology; bibles; medical texts; political tracts; and more – within fields such as place, date, and language of printing.
- Exploring content is an interactive, immersive experience with the use of scatter maps powered by advanced metadata, allowing researchers to make connections within materials that might have otherwise gone unrealized – helping to expand, validate, and clarify research results.



## Leading European research libraries trust ProQuest to safely digitize their historic material for inclusion in Early European Books

Our premier partner institutions include:

**Det Kongelige Bibliotek (KBDK)/The Royal Library, Copenhagen** – Early European Books' first partner library, the KBDK is Denmark's national library and holds an almost complete collection of all Danish books printed in 1482.

**Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF)/National Central Library, Florence** – Early European Books' second partner library, the BNCF is one of the two central libraries of Italy, originally founded in 1714 to become the repository for all published works in Tuscany.

**Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBNL)/National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague** – Founded in 1798, the library has a collection that contains nearly the entire literature of the Netherlands, from early manuscripts to recent publications.

**Wellcome Library, London** – Founded on the private collection of Sir Henry Wellcome (1853-1936), the library's rich holdings encompass the history of medicine and include works on alchemy, anthropology, and ethnology.

**Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)/National Library of France, Paris** – Intended as the national repository of everything published in France, the origins of the library go back to 1368 and establishment of the royal collection.

## Our Legacy of Preserving Content for Scholarship and Research

During World War II, Eugene Power directed the microfilming of thousands of rare books in the British Libraries, ensuring their preservation, and making them more accessible to scholars regardless of their location. That collection became the flagship product of his company, University Microfilms, Inc.

That company is now known as ProQuest, and the collection, now available in digital form under the name Early English Books Online, remains one of our most sought-after resources.

Early English Books Online is one of the many additional resources we offer to the complement and expand upon the historic print materials included in Early European Books.

With ProQuest, you have a partner dedicated to making libraries a source of unparalleled information, insight and inspiration.

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