



Manuscript room

making use of furniture that had come from the offices of Grand Duke Ferdinand III's private secretary, and the shelves in the room dedicated to the consultation of manuscripts, drawings and prints and rare books were replaced with those formerly in the Medicea Palatina library of Palazzo Pitti.

A feature of the Marucelliana, unique to libraries in Florence's historic centre, is access to a garden where roses and hydrangeas grow in the shade of four cypress trees. At the Marucelliana it is thus possible to alternate study and reading with a pause or conversation outside amidst the greenery.

The library offers the following services: reading facilities on site, borrowing for local users and inter-library loans, consultation of rare and valuable material, reproductions, information service.

Exhibitions of bibliographic interested and other cultural initiatives are organised regu-

larly and are open to the public.

CONTACTS

b-maru.informazioni@cultura.gov.it

055-272 2200

HOURS

Reading room:

monday,wednesday,friday: 8.30 am – 14.00 pm

tuesday, thursday: 8.30 am – 17.00 pm

Consultation of rare materials:

monday,wednesday,friday: 9.00 am – 14.00 pm

tuesday, thursday: 9.00 am – 17.00 pm

Book loan service:

monday,wednesday,friday: 9.00 am – 14.00 pm

tuesday, thursday: 9.00 am – 17.00 pm

Guided tours are carried out on Thursday afternoons in two shifts, at 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm.

Reservations are required by sending the appropriate form found on the site, to the address

b-maru.informazioni@cultura.gov.it

Biblioteca Marucelliana

marucelliana.cultura.gov.it

Via Camillo Cavour 43-47

Firenze

@[bibliotecamarucelliana](https://www.instagram.com/bibliotecamarucelliana)



Biblioteca Marucelliana

The history



Francesco Marucelli
(1625-1703)

The Marucelliana Library was opened on 18 September 1752 in fulfillment of the last will of Canon **Francesco Marucelli** and thanks to the involvement of his nephew Alessandro. The building was designed by the Roman architect Alessandro Dori whose wooden presentation model still exists and is displayed in a designated space.

The site the library currently occupies was originally the garden of the palace of the same name that opened onto Via San Gallo, the street parallel to what today is Via Cavour. Thus the library was created ex novo, not as the result of adaptations or changes in function to existing buildings.

The inscription on the façade displays the motto and aim of the library "**Maxime Pauperum Utilitati**" for the use above all of the poor: those who frequented the library were to be those who through lack of resources were not able to purchase books of their own,



Reading room

and it was with this in mind the future acquisitions were made.

The reading room thus also functioned as a first large scale 'reservoir' of books and was provided with two storey of walnut bookshelves with a gallery, eight large windows above the shelving, and three rows of long tables for readers. In memory of his role as founder, a busto of Francesco Marucelli, the work of Pietro Bracci, was placed above the door at far end of the room, and a portrait by Davide Canoniche was hung in the smaller room beyond. The books on the lower storey were arranged by subject, indicated on the cartouche above, while the upper storey held smaller books and more recent acquisitions. The room is 21 metres in length and 8 metres wide.

The popularity of the library grew in the 19th century when, thanks to the increase in the general level of education and thanks also

to its position, close to several institutions of higher education in the city and to the seat of the Institute of <higher Studies that later became the university, the library became a popular venue for a diverse and lively reading public such that it was kept open in the evenings until 11 o'clock at night.

In the first half of the 20th century an exhibition space was created in a small room by



Wooden model