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University Press

Printed Private Library Catalogues as a Source for the History of Reading in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Europe

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To paraphrase a common saying: 'Show me your bookcase and I will tell you who you are'. The situation is a little more complex for the researcher interested in historical readers and the contents of private libraries from the past. If some historical collections survived in their original form for a few generations, old and inherited libraries were often dismantled, collections broken up, and books deemed worth preserving scattered across many new libraries. Yet there are several ways to discover what historical libraries contained and, by studying them, to understand who their owners were. Various sources can allow us to explore the interests of historical readers and former reading cultures: traces of provenance, ego-documents, probate inventories and catalogues all contain information on books, collections and their owners.¹ This chapter discusses printed catalogues of private libraries as historical sources. Our leading question will be: to what extent and in what capacity can printed catalogues of private libraries contribute to the history of reading and, in particular, the history of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European readers?

The first ground-breaking scholarly use of printed private library catalogues dates from 1910, when Daniel Mornet published his article 'Les enseignements des bibliothèques privées (1750–1780)'.² His quest to reassess the influence of Enlightenment writers traditionally accepted as the forefathers of modernity led him to consider the utility of a corpus of 500 Parisian printed catalogues kept in Toulouse.³ In 1917, following Mornet, Dutch researcher Sophie A. Krijn looked at 100 Dutch catalogues compiled between 1700 and 1750 in order to analyse the spread of French books in the Dutch Republic.⁴ Around the same time, Harold Mattingly and Ian Burnett drew up a list of

all the book sale catalogues kept in the British Museum, including many for private libraries.⁵ Although interest in private libraries led to sporadic publications in the decades following Mornet's article, only a handful of researchers made extensive use of printed catalogues of private libraries to study the history of ideas.⁶ The more general question of the contents and uses of different kinds of book lists and catalogues as historical sources and bibliographical aids was developed from the 1950s onwards through numerous publications. The most influential among the early ones were those of Archer Taylor in the United States, Graham Pollard and Albert Ehrman in England, and the team of François Furet in France.⁷ When much work was undertaken on probate inventories in the broader context of social history and the history of mentalities in the 1960s and 1970s, the books in those inventories became the subject of an increasing number of separate studies.⁸ Some researchers explicitly stated that the information contained in probate inventories constituted a better base for the analysis of historical book ownership and reading cultures than printed catalogues, because the latter would have been drawn up only for larger collections considered to hold a substantial value. Dominique Varry, for example, reduced the utility of sale catalogues of private libraries to the study of bibliophilia.⁹

Yet thanks to a renewed interest by historians in reception studies and book cultures in the 1980s, studies of printed catalogues of private libraries as well as book sale catalogues gained wider traction. Besides new contributions to methodological discussion on the use of book lists as a (book) historical and bibliographical source, a wide range of conferences and publications on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century private libraries and their (printed) catalogues have seen the light in recent decades.¹⁰ In general, these studies and digital projects are regionally or nationally oriented, but their authors have chosen diverse angles of research in which quantitative or qualitative aspects play roles of varying importance. Some of them focus on book ownership and prosopographical research.¹¹ Others are primarily interested in the role sale catalogues played in the book trade.¹² The subject of classification and the ways in which printed catalogues were used in the long eighteenth century regularly resurfaces.¹³ Also at the heart of several articles and projects is the synchronical and/or diachronical study of the presence of certain authors, and types of texts and books.¹⁴ Over the last few years, numerous projects concerned with the virtual reconstruction of libraries have been initiated. While most of them focus on medieval monastic libraries and handwritten inventories, some pay attention to early modern collections and envisage

using different types of sources to reconstruct private collections and make their contents virtually accessible.¹⁵ The tradition of establishing inventories of published catalogues of private libraries continued after the 1910s; however, studies on the material really took off from the 1970s onwards, driven by librarians and researchers alike.¹⁶ The advent of digital humanities has opened new possibilities for large-scale research based on printed catalogues of private libraries. Our own project, *MEDIATE* (Measuring Enlightenment: Disseminating Ideas, Authors and Texts in Europe), aims to bring to light new perspectives on readers and reading cultures in eighteenth-century Europe, and especially on the circulation of books associated with the Enlightenment, using purpose-built digital tools.¹⁷

Although the research of the last decades has shown the usefulness of private library catalogues in reception studies and for the history of reading, the caveats formulated by Dominique Varry have not lost their relevance, because they are inherent to the source. Printed catalogues of private libraries are part of a larger body of texts whose main purpose is to list books. This corpus includes all sorts of lists: catalogues designed by or for individual library owners, probate inventories, inventories of trade stock, satirical catalogues, catalogues of public libraries, indices of forbidden books and bibliographical repertoires. Lists of books come in different shapes and sizes, with notable distinctions regarding their form, purpose, content and use.¹⁸ As far as the form is concerned, one could for example distinguish between handwritten, printed and digital lists of books. One could also look at the bibliographical format, whether the list appeared as a separate publication or whether it was inserted in another book. Some lists were compiled for commercial reasons, including lists of newly published books, auction catalogues and catalogues of circulating libraries. Others might have served legal purposes (probate inventories) or domestic ones, such as catalogues compiled for the personal use of book owners. Some were published to honour the life achievements or memory of the possessor of the books listed, or were intended to publicise the collection. We can also categorise these catalogues by their content, the nature of the collections, the way they are organised, or the presence of paratextual elements. The pluriform properties of the genre lead to many questions. Do the books compiled together describe existing/real collections or do they refer to some imagined ensemble, such as catalogues of ideal libraries and satirical catalogues? Do the catalogues describe an entire collection, a selection from it, or perhaps several collections put together? Do they list any other material besides books? Indeed, paintings, prints, curiosities and even

sometimes a complete set of household belongings may be recorded alongside the content of libraries. Finally, book catalogues were used in multiple ways, not only as a means to manage the contents of personal or public libraries, but also as bibliographical reference works, guides on the formation of the ideal private library or (more practically still) as an early version of the *Bookman's Price Index*.¹⁹

There have been several attempts to categorise printed catalogues of private libraries and to create typologies of book lists, but the results have been at times confusing and conflicting. For example, Bert van Selm's project 'Book Sales Catalogues of the Dutch Republic' is vague about the reasons behind its choices. Some of the categories might overlap, like 'auction catalogue private library', 'catalogue private library', 'manuscript private library' and 'memorial catalogue'. Similarly, the terms 'ventes publiques' and 'catalogues de vente' are used by Bléchet and in the database 'Esprit des livres' to describe a corpus that includes catalogues that were not intended to have a commercial purpose.²⁰ With regard to French catalogues, Nicole Masson has demonstrated that, depending on the approach and factors taken into account (that is, analytical bibliography, presentation, classification, sales conditions, and others), different typologies of these 'catalogues de vente' can be elaborated.²¹ In fact, comparing data from different regions is a delicate if not impossible task. For instance, if we take a look at the available data for France, the Dutch Republic and the British Isles (Figure 12.1), we find that the methodologies used by the main studies in the field and the type of catalogues included or excluded from their union lists differ substantially for each national context. This complicates any attempt to comprehend the development of private library cataloguing at a European level.

A typology referring to commercial purposes should in any case differentiate between auctions and fixed-price sales (*ventes à l'amiable*), as well as between retail sale (*vente au détail*) and bulk sale (*vente en bloc*). While this differentiation has been attempted by Alan Munby and Lenore Coral with categories such as 'auctions' and 'lower fixed prices', their list does not differentiate between private and booksellers' collections. It is the highly permeable character of the book list itself that complicates attempts at a definition and categorisation of the material: the nature of private library catalogues is such that they tend to serve different purposes and mutate from one type to another. For instance, one might print a catalogue privately for one's personal use, aim at the same time to promote the collection and perhaps hope that someone will be interested in buying it. Also, a handwritten domestic catalogue or probate inventory can at some point be turned

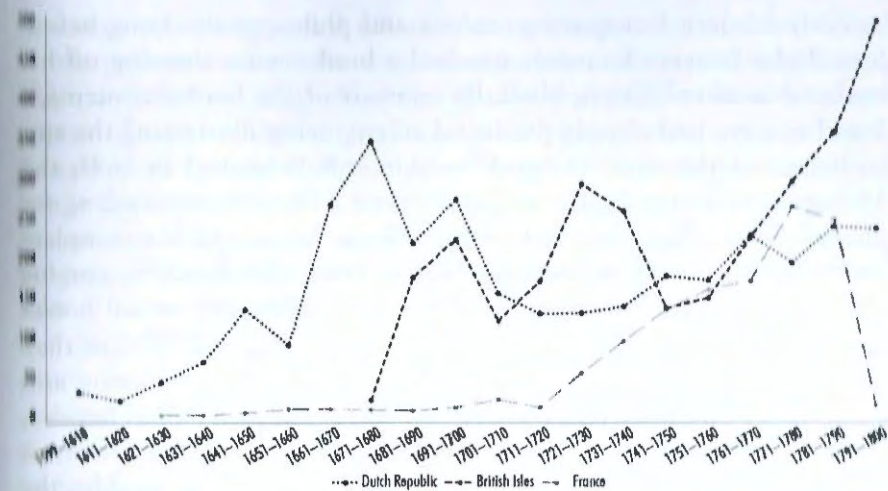


Figure 12.1 Numbers of surviving editions of catalogues published between 1599 and 1800, as recorded by Gruys for the Dutch Republic, by Bléchet and then Marion for France, and by Munby and Coral for the British Isles

Sources: J. A. (Hans) Gruys, 'Rijklof Michael van Goings. Het mysterie van de 24.200 verdwenen catalogi', in Ton van Uchelen and Hannie van Goinga (eds), *Van pen tot laser: 31 opstellen over boek en schrift* (Amsterdam: De Buitenkant, 1996), pp. 150-6; Françoise Bléchet, *Les ventes publiques de livres en France, 1630-1750: répertoire des catalogues conservés à la Bibliothèque Nationale* (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 1991); Michel Marion, *Collections et collectionneurs de livres au XVIII^e siècle* (Paris: H. Champion, 1999); Alan N. L. Munby and Lenore Coral (eds), *British Book Sale Catalogues 1676-1800: A Union List* (London: Mansell, 1977)

into a printed sale catalogue, and the latter can later serve as a bibliographical manual. In fact, sale catalogues of private libraries often appear as items in printed sale catalogues, thus indicating a change in purpose. For instance, lots 1137 to 1165 of the library of English clergyman Michael Lort, sold in 1791, contain no less than fifty-five catalogues, forty-six of which refer to private libraries.²² Finally, the term 'private' itself hides the reality of the widespread public use of private libraries, which their owners frequently opened to relatives, friends and other casual visitors.²³ This was the case not just for elite libraries but also for genteel and bourgeois private libraries.

Previous research has pointed out that difficulties in using catalogues do not solely lie in defining a typology of catalogues: there are further pitfalls in trying to analyse and interpret their contents, in particular a potential confusion between book ownership and reading culture. Early critics of Morner's study of catalogues pointed out that a book owned is not necessarily a book read.²⁴ Several studies of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century libraries containing thousands of books relate book ownership to consumerism, following observations

by early modern European moralists and philosophers. Long before Jean de La Bruyère famously mocked a book owner showing off his leather-bound collection, blissfully unaware of the books' contents,²⁵ Jean Lepautre had already produced an engraving illustrating the embodiment of this type of 'mad' booklover.²⁶ Published in 1693, the *Menagiana* contain a juicy anecdote about a French *surintendant des finances* who allegedly asked Gilles Ménage to purchase a complete library on his behalf: he worried that people would discover upon his death that he didn't own one.²⁷ While some collectors owned books they had never read or even opened, others read books that they didn't own. They borrowed books from friends and circulating and subscription libraries, and listened to them being read aloud. Besides, books in libraries were not all necessarily purchased by the owners themselves: some were gifts, others were inherited. This troubles the question of whether a library (catalogue) reflects the reading interests of the owner.

Printed catalogues of private libraries were not designed to give an inventory of all titles actually read by the owner, but nor do they always list all the books possessed by an individual. It is important to acknowledge that printed catalogues represent an image of the library frozen in time. Often they were compiled at a turning point in the life of a collection: the death of an owner, a (forced) sale due to bankruptcy, a departure, a loss of interest. Sometimes they were used as a way to clean up or restart a collection. Even manuscript domestic catalogues, offering better perspectives on the dynamics of book collecting and the management of libraries by individual owners, are limited in their capacity to testify to the totality of the books that were part of owners' (previous and subsequent) collections. Books that were actually present in the library of an individual might not appear in a published catalogue for numerous reasons. They might have been given away or kept aside for other purposes. A comparative study of inventories and printed catalogues of the same collection certainly shows that there can be important discrepancies between the ways books are listed in the two sources.²⁸ Another reason for this kind of discrepancy is the fact that booksellers, at least in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, would sometimes add part of their stocks to what was presented as a private collection, despite legal restrictions on the practice.²⁹ This is perhaps why Ann Middleton had a page inserted in the sale catalogue of her husband's library (1750–1) stating: 'I take this opportunity to assure the Public, that this *Catalogue* contains the genuine Library of Dr. Middleton, without any Alteration, and is sold for my Advantage'.³⁰ Because of censorship laws in eighteenth-century

France, booksellers issued official catalogues that omitted forbidden books present in the collection for sale, but at the same time found ways to advertise and sell these clandestine publications. In some copies of eighteenth-century French catalogues we find handwritten lists of items that were part of a '*vente secrète*' that took place in the fringe of the official sale.³¹ One should also keep in mind that wealthy owners could divide their book collection between different residential properties. The catalogue produced after the passing of Sir William Burrell in 1796 states that only his 'town-library' (811 lots) was up for sale.³² In 1791, following an illness, Burrell had moved permanently to his country estate of Deepdene in Sussex, where he owned a second library. While some sale catalogues inform the buyer that the collection they describe is a complete library or only part of it, such assurances are often difficult to verify. The commercial character of sale catalogues also led booksellers to ignore cheap print and old volumes. Instead of listing these works in the catalogues, they thought it sufficient to inform the public that, at the beginning of each session, they would sell a number of unidentified books. This practice was so common in France that in 1792 the editor of the catalogue announcing the sale of the library of Laideguive de Becheville explicitly warned interested buyers that each session would start immediately with the sale of the lot numbers indicated in the printed order of sale.³³

Another important pitfall relates to the way titles were recorded in catalogues. Certainly catalogues are in general more detailed than inventories. Yet despite the larger number of details given in catalogues, the description of an item does not always allow the researcher to know which work is presented, let alone the particulars of its edition.³⁴ Titles can be shortened, authors' names omitted, and it can be difficult to know which title or edition was owned in the absence of a year or place of publication. Then there are the obvious mistakes made by the compiler or the printer. These issues often come together. It is possible that mistakes of this kind happened during the compiling of the inventory of books, as compilers often worked in pairs, with one transcribing the titles read out by the other. Catalogues can also be vague about the titles and the number of books contained in certain lots. Expressions like 'packet' and '*volumes dépareillés*' were commonly used to refer to collections of smaller books, ephemera and books deemed less interesting.³⁵ The note in the inventory of the library of Cardinal de Richelieu saying that a description of the contents of a bundle of mixed titles '*eust excédé le prix de leur valeur*' ('would have exceeded their value'), probably reflected a principle that guided the work of many compilers.³⁶

One of the main objections made to using catalogues as a source to study the history of reading is the fact that printed catalogues represent only the collections of a learned readership among the social and financial elites of a particular period. The question of the representativeness of any corpus of printed catalogues of private libraries is a complex one, because it is closely related to questions of survival rates. A study by Hans Gruys shows that the survival rates of catalogues printed in the eighteenth-century Dutch Republic oscillates between 6 and 21 per cent, depending on the city.³⁷ In the Dutch Republic it was compulsory to publish a catalogue for every book sale. Hence, these figures are based on the discrepancy between the number of book sales given in local registries of book auctions and that of surviving catalogues. We cannot extrapolate from Gruys's study to other European contexts any assumptions concerning the survival rates of catalogues, however. Survival rates depend on several factors. Voluminous catalogues as well as those of prestigious libraries and famous individuals stood better chances of being preserved. Catalogues of larger libraries, especially professional libraries and encyclopaedic ones, were sometimes preserved to be used as reference works.³⁸ Chance often plays an important part in the preservation of individual copies: the Herzog August Bibliothek (Wolfenbüttel, Germany) put together by famous collectors Julius (1528–89) and August II (1579–1666), Dukes of Brunswick-Lüneburg, still contains a large collection of catalogues sent over by several European book agents in charge of buying books for each collector. After the end of a sale, used catalogues could sometimes be archived by collectors and librarians and hence preserved.

There is also a clear discrepancy between the number of catalogues ascribed to male and female owners. As David Allan states:

At the same time the nature of heritable property ordinarily descending under primogeniture also meant that documentary records tended by default to ascribe ownership to men even where female family members might in practice have been the most frequent users, even the original acquirers, of certain books.³⁹

The case of the Bodleian copy of the catalogue of the library of Charles-Nicolas Huguet de Sémonville (died 1729) is quite extraordinary in this respect: unlike other known copies of this catalogue published in Paris in 1732, it also includes a supplement listing those of Huguet's widowed daughter, Charlotte-Madeleine, who died three years after her father.⁴⁰

Printed catalogues of private libraries further present the problem of anonymity, as the name of the library owner is not always (fully) stated on the catalogue. Initials, personal details and handwritten annotations (as far as these can be trusted) can nevertheless give indications of his or her identity. This can be problematic for the history of reading, as it seems that some of these catalogues were purposefully attributed to private collectors when in fact they were composed of bookseller's stocks.

Linking books listed to specific owners can also be difficult in catalogues advertising more than one library. In France and the Dutch Republic, catalogue compilers usually divided collections according to ownership. In the British Isles, however, the contents of multiple libraries were often rearranged in one list. London bookseller James Buckland mixed several libraries when he compiled a sale catalogue of the libraries of Dissenting ministers John Killinghal and Edward Bentley along with those of 'several other eminent persons deceased'.⁴¹ None of the descriptions of the 1,089 lots indicates who the actual owner of each item was.

Despite all these shortcomings, pitfalls, problems and exceptions, printed catalogues of private libraries remain a unique and rich source for the study of the history of books and readers, thanks to several interrelated factors:

1. *Numbers.* Thousands of catalogues of private libraries were printed in France, the Dutch Republic and the British Isles in the long eighteenth century. Although no surviving copies have (yet) been identified for a large proportion of them, the corpus of catalogues at our disposal is extremely rich. It is biased towards large catalogues and prestigious collections, but we can find records of smaller and more humble collections, especially from the mid-eighteenth century onwards, when the population of book owners became increasingly heterogeneous.⁴²
2. *Accessibility.* Unlike most manuscript catalogues and probate inventories, printed catalogues were generally produced in multiple copies, increasing their chances of being preserved.⁴³ Thanks to the recognisable template of their titles and because they are books, printed catalogues of private libraries are easier to track down in catalogues of public collections than manuscript lists of books hidden within probate inventories, the latter not often being itemised in notarial archives. Further, many printed library catalogues from the seventeenth century onwards are now available online in specialised repositories like BSCO and the Philosophical

- Libraries project and in databases such as Google Books, EEBO, ECCO or Gallica.
3. *Density of the information provided.* Taking into account the other factors, private library catalogues provide a quick and unique overview of what individual collections probably looked like at a certain point in time. Admittedly, ego-documents give an insight into which books were actually read and convey a better idea of reading experiences and practices. But these sources are rare and generally focus on few specific titles. Meanwhile, catalogues of stocks and new publications of booksellers do not provide information on buyers.
 4. *Bibliographical detail.* Library catalogues generally give more detailed descriptions of the editions that were owned than probate inventories and ego-documents. Besides specifications regarding the format, number of volumes, place and date of publications of some books, private library catalogues often indicate special characteristics of individual copies, noting their physical appearance, such as the type of binding or the type of paper, and recording whether pages or volumes are missing.
 5. *An insight into the second-hand book trade.* Sale catalogues of private libraries give us an insight into the recirculation of books. They offer information about the provenance of certain copies, especially those that were annotated or owned by famous persons, and thus enable us to follow the footsteps of particular books.⁴⁸ Further, the practice of naming the retailers of the catalogue illuminates (trans)national networks of booksellers and other book agents.
 6. *Annotated prices.* The first thing scrawled prices can reveal is whether a specific book of the collection was actually bought or not. The handwritten prices in the margins of a copy of the catalogue of the collection of Balthazar Boreel (1673–1744) given to his widow as proof of the auction results clearly show that not all the books were sold.⁴⁵ The study of the variation of prices for similar editions and titles over a long period of time and in different countries could also help estimate the fluctuating demand for certain works and editions. There is, however, considerable difficulty in interpreting any price.⁴⁶ The fact that some catalogues display two sets of manuscript prices, on the left and right margins of the text, only adds to this problem. When the catalogue itself does not provide further information, one can only speculate what both sets represent. Moreover, comparison of several copies of the same catalogue can bring to light inexplicable differences between the prices recorded.⁴⁷

7. *Named purchasers.* Margins of commercial catalogues sometimes display handwritten names or scribbled initials. These could refer to the people who bought the lots advertised or to the commissioners representing them.⁴⁸ If the names of those identified as individual buyers reappear several times during a sale or in different catalogues, the catalogues can help us to get an idea of specific reading interests.
8. *Further studies.* Catalogues contain (mostly anonymous) comments that provide valuable bits of information for the study of the history of the book and reception studies. These annotations can pertain to the state or rarity of a certain copy, the quality of a particular edition, the description of the item or the withdrawal of an item from the sale. The unknown owner of numerous eighteenth-century catalogues published in Lille apparently used them as a checklist, crossing out titles he already possessed himself (or didn't want?) and indicating those he could find elsewhere, for example in the collection of his brother Joseph.⁴⁹ Lastly, bored readers and children seem to have left existential questions and 'artistic' doodles in catalogues.

To conclude, catalogues of private libraries are a rich source in spite of their pitfalls. With the right methods, they can be used successfully to study questions such as the developing composition of readerships, bestselling literature and the existence of shared reading interests. In this context, we want to point out that the history of reading does not necessarily have to be limited to the actual act of reading. Indeed, researchers like Philippe Martin and Pierre Bayard have noted various and differing levels in the 'appropriation' of books.⁵⁰ The starting point of our own research has been a long-debated question: what did people read in the eighteenth century, or, more accurately, what did people actually read in a period that we now call the Age of Enlightenment? Earlier uses of catalogues were limited in scope due to practical difficulties mostly related to a time-consuming manual approach. The ongoing digitisation of historical library catalogues and the democratisation of digital tools allow for large-scale studies of catalogues. With its purpose-built digital database, a data-driven project like MEDiate has the potential to confirm or challenge traditional narratives of the reception of books, readership composition and readers' tastes in Europe.⁵¹ Full transcriptions of catalogues of private libraries will allow us to map the presence of books and authors in thousands of eighteenth-century homes across Europe.⁵² This bottom-up approach first will allow us to identify works that

were commercially successful at the time but have since been almost forgotten. Second, prosopographical studies of groups of owners defined by location, gender, profession, religious denomination, political and other affiliations might bring to light unexpected shared affinities for certain authors, books and genres. Meanwhile, each discrepancy and deviation might indicate a personal reading interest. Finally, bringing together and analysing data from several regions will provide us with a solid base for the study of transregional phenomena in the history of reading.

Notes

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 682022. We would like to thank Alicia Montoya, Joanna Rozendaal, Anna de Wilde and Evelien Chayes for their comments on earlier versions of this chapter.

1. For a typology of relevant sources, see István Monok, *Könyvkatalógusok és könyvjegyzékek Magyarországon, 1526–1720, Forrástipológia, forráskritika, forráskiadás* (Szeged: Scriptorum, 1993), pp. 93–5 (summary in German).
2. Daniel Mornet, 'Les enseignements des bibliothèques privées (1750–1780)', *Revue d'histoire littéraire de la France*, 17 (1910), pp. 449–96. Our chapter does not aim to give an exhaustive list of all publications related to printed catalogues of libraries used as a book historical source. However, it offers an overview of the work undertaken in the field of early modern private libraries that complements István Monok's 'Les bibliothèques privées et la lecture à l'époque moderne: un aperçu des orientations de la recherche en Europe, 1958–2008', in Dominique Varry (ed.), *50 ans d'histoire du livre: 1958–2008* (Lyon: Enssib, 2014), pp. 140–56.
3. Mornet, 'Les enseignements', pp. 492–6.
4. Sophie A. Krijn, 'Franse lectuur in Nederland in het begin van de 18e eeuw', *De Nieuwe Taalgids*, 11 (1917), pp. 161–78.
5. Harold Mattingly and Ian A. K. Burnett, *List of Catalogues of English Book Sales, 1676–1900, now in the British Museum* (London: British Museum, Department of Printed books, 1915). See also Martinho da Fonseca, *Lista de alguns catálogos de bibliothecas públicas e particulares de livreiros e alfarrabistas* (Lisbon: Libanio da Silva, 1913).
6. For example: George L. McKay, *American Book Auction Catalogues, 1713–1934* (New York: New York Public Library, 1937); Antonio Rodríguez Moñino, *Catálogos de librerías españolas, 1661–1798: intento bibliográfico* (Madrid: Tip. de los Sucesores de J. Sánchez Ocaña,

1942); *Catálogos de librerías españolas, 1661–1840: intento bibliográfico* (Madrid: Langa, 1945); and Walter Gobbers, *Jean-Jacques Rousseau in Holland. Een onderzoek naar de invloed van de mens en het werk (ca. 1760–ca. 1810)* (Ghent: Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie voor Taal- en Letterkunde, 1963).

7. Archer Taylor, *Book Catalogues: Their Varieties and Uses* (Chicago: Newberry Library, 1957); Graham Pollard and Albert Ehrman, *The Distribution of Books by Catalogue from the Invention of Printing to A.D. 1800: Based on Material in the Broxbourne Library* (Cambridge: Printed for presentation to members of the Roxburghe Club, 1965); François Furet (ed.), *Livre et société dans la France du XVIII^e siècle* (Paris: Mouton, 1965). See also Émile Dacier, 'Des livres précieux sans en avoir l'air: les anciens catalogues de vente', *Bulletin du bibliophile*, 3 (1952), pp. 117–42; Sears Jayne, *Library Catalogues of the English Renaissance* (Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1956).
8. For example: Michel Marion, *Les Bibliothèques privées à Paris au milieu du XVIII^e siècle* (Paris: BnF, 1978); Jean Quéniart, *Culture et société urbaines dans la France de l'Ouest au XVIII^e siècle* (Paris: Klincksieck, 1978); Elisabeth S. Leedham-Green, *Books in Cambridge Inventories: Book-Lists from Vice-Chancellor's Court Probate Inventories in the Tudor and Stuart Periods* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986); Robert J. Fehrenbach and Elisabeth S. Leedham-Green (eds), *Private Libraries in Renaissance England: A Collection and Catalogue of Tudor and Early Stuart Book-Lists* (Binghamton: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 1992–2004, and online <<https://plre.folger.edu>>, accessed 15 August 2019); Henrik Grönroos and Ann-Charlotte Nyman, *Boken i Finland. Bokbeståndet hos borgerskap, hantverkare och lägre sociala grupper i Finlands städer enligt städernas boupp-teckningar 1656–1809* (Helsinki: Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland, 1996); Karin M. P. Strengers-Older Kalter, 'Boeken in Bossche boedels. De belangstelling voor lectuur in de achttiende eeuw', *Noordbrabants Historisch Jaarboek*, 14 (1998), pp. 143–79; José de Kruif, *Liefhebbers en gewoontelezers: leescultuur in Den Haag in de achttiende eeuw* (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 1999); Ruud Lambour, 'Het boekenbezit van Amsterdamse doopsgezinden uit de Gouden Eeuw', *Doopsgezinde Bijdragen Nieuwe Reeks*, 40 (2014), pp. 135–60; Federica Dallasta, *Eredità di carta. Biblioteche private e circolazione libraria nella Parma farnesiana (1545–1731)* (Milan: Franco Angeli, 2010); Gina Dahl, *Book Collections of Clerics in Norway, 1650–1750* (Leiden: Brill, 2010); and Mari Tarvas (ed.), *Bibliothekskataloge der Tallinner Literaten des 18. Jahrhunderts. Quellenedition aufgrund überlieferter Nachlassverzeichnisse, herausgegeben, kommentiert und mit einer Einführung und einem Index versehen* (Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann, 2014). See also Günter Berger, 'Inventare als Quelle der Sozialgeschichte des Lesens', *Romanistische Zeitschrift für Literaturgeschichte*, 5 (1981), pp. 368–80.

9. Dominique Varry, 'Aperçu sur les bibliothèques privées de l'Europe conquises sous la Révolution', *Annales de Normandie*, 45:3 (1995), pp. 327–8.
10. For works dealing primarily with questions regarding methodology and the source material itself, see, among others: Reinhard Wittmann (ed.), *Bücherkataloge als buchgeschichtliche Quellen in der frühen Neuzeit* (Wiesbaden: O. Harrassowitz, 1984); Sears Jayne, *Library Catalogues of the English Renaissance*, 2nd edition (Godalming: St Paul's Bibliographies, 1983); Archer Taylor, *Book Catalogues: Their Varieties and Uses*, 2nd edition, revised by Wm. P. Barlow Jr (Winchester: St Edmundsbury Press, 1986); Yann Sordet, 'Une approche des "catalogues domestiques" de bibliothèques privées (XVIIe–XVIIIe siècle), instruments et miroirs de collections particulières', *Bulletin du bibliophile*, 1 (1997), pp. 92–123; Malcolm Walsby, 'Book Lists and Their Meaning', in Malcolm Walsby and Natasha Constantinidou (eds), *Documenting the Early Modern Book World: Inventories and Catalogues in Manuscript and Print* (Leiden: Brill, 2013), pp. 1–24; Frédéric Barbier, Thierry Dubois and Yann Sordet (eds), *De l'argile au nuage: une archéologie des catalogues (2e millénaire av. J.-C. – 21e siècle). Catalogue de l'exposition* (Paris: Bibliothèque Mazarine/Bibliothèque de Genève, Éditions des Cendres, 2015); Anja Dular, 'Problematika raziskovanja zgodovine zasebnih knjižnic – zanke in uganke [Problems Arising When Researching the History of Private Libraries – Traps and Puzzles]', *Knjižnica*, 59:3 (2015), pp. 17–32; Flavia Bruni and Andrew Pettegree (eds), *Lost Books: Reconstructing the Print World of Pre-Industrial Europe* (Leiden: Brill, 2016); Hartmut Beyer, Katrin Schmidt, Jörn Münkner and Timo Steyer, 'Bibliotheken im Buch: Die Erschließung von privaten Büchersammlungen der Frühneuzeit über Auktionskataloge', in Hannah Busch, Franz Fischer and Patrick Sahle (eds), *Kodikologie und Paläographie im digitalen Zeitalter* (Norderstedt: Books on Demand, 2017), vol. IV, pp. 43–70. With regard to conferences, the 'Invitational Conference on Book Catalogues: Their Collecting, Preservation, Cataloguing and Use', held at the Grolier Club in New York City in January 1995 (see 'Book Catalogues, Today and Tomorrow: Reports and Presentations from the 1995 BSA Conference', *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (PBSA), 89:4 (1995)), was the first of many gatherings of academics and librarians around the subject of printed catalogues and book sales. See for example: Annie Charon and Élisabeth Parinet (eds), *Les ventes de livres et leurs catalogues: XVIIe–XXe siècle. Actes des journées organisées par l'École nationale des chartes (Paris, 15 janvier 1998) et par l'ENSSIB (Villeurbanne, 22 janvier 1998)* (Paris: École nationale des chartes, 2000); Robin Myers, Michael Harris and Giles Mandelbrote (eds), *Under the Hammer: Book Auctions since the Seventeenth Century* (New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press; and London: British Library, 2001); 'Book Catalogues, Tomorrow and Beyond: Proceedings of the 2008 Conference Sponsored by the Grolier Club and the Bibliographical Society', *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (PBSA), 102:4 (2008), pp. 541–80; and the conference 'Selling and Collecting: Printed Book Sale Catalogues and Private Libraries in Early Modern Europe', University of Cagliari, 20–21 September 2017.
11. For example: Michel Marion, *Collections et collectionneurs de livres au XVIIIe siècle* (Paris: H. Champion, 1999); Annie Charon, *Esprit des livres* (Paris: École nationale des chartes, 2015) – édition électronique at <<https://elec.enc.sorbonne.fr/cataloguevente>> (accessed 15 August 2019); the Philosophical Libraries project (Pisa) at <<http://picus.unica.it>> (accessed 15 August 2019); David Pearson's project on English book owners in the seventeenth century at <http://www.bibsoc.org.uk/content/english-book-owners-seventeenth-century> (accessed 15 August 2019); David Pearson, 'The English Private Library in the 17th Century', *Library*, 14:4 (2012), pp. 379–99; and the Early Modern Scholars' Libraries Project (Wolfenbüttel) at <<http://www.hab.de/de/home/wissenschaft/forschungsprofil-und-projekte/fruehneuzeitliche-gelehrtenbibliotheken.html>> (accessed 15 August 2019). There has also been a flood of micro-studies using published catalogues to investigate early modern book collections owned by individuals or specific groups (women, scholars, writers, medical doctors, clergymen, members of different religious denominations, aristocrats). For two early national overviews see: Wolfgang Adam, 'Privatbibliotheken im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert. Forschungsbericht 1975–1988', *Internationales Archiv für Sozialgeschichte der Deutschen Literatur*, 15:1 (1990), pp. 123–73; and Henk W. de Kooiker and Bert van Selm, *Boekcultuur in de Lage Landen, 1500–1800: bibliografie van publikaties over particulier boekenbezit in Noord- en Zuid-Nederland, verschenen voor 1991* (Utrecht: HES, 1983).
12. This is for instance the case for: Hans Dieter Gebauer, *Bücherauktionen in Deutschland im 17. Jahrhundert* (Bonn: Bouvier, 1981); Bert van Selm, *Een menigte treffelijke boecken: Nederlandse boekhandelscatalogi in het begin van de zeventiende eeuw* (Utrecht: HES, 1987); Myers, Harris and Mandelbrote (eds), *Under the Hammer*; Lis Byberg, *Brukte boker til bymann og bonde: bokauksjonen i den norske litterære offentlighet 1750–1815* (Oslo: Det Humanistiske Fakultet, Universitetet i Oslo, 2007); Pedro Rueda Ramírez, 'Libros venales. Los catálogos de los libreros andaluces (siglos XVII–XVIII)', *Estudios Humanísticos. Historia*, 11 (2012), pp. 195–222; Iwona Imánska, *Per medium auctionis: aukcje książek w Rzeczypospolitej (XVII–XVIII w.) [Per medium auctionis: Book Auctions in the Polish Commonwealth (17th–18th Centuries)]* (Toruń: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UMK, 2013); and Pedro Rueda Ramírez and Lluís Agustí (eds), *La publicidad del libro en el mundo hispánico (siglos XVII–XX): Catálogos de venta de libreros y editores* (Barcelona: Calambur, 2016). See also Cynthia Wall, 'The English Auction: Narrative of Dismantlings', *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 31:1 (1997), pp. 1–25.
13. For example, in: Friedhelm Beckmann, *Französische Privatbibliotheken:*

- Untersuchungen zu Literatursystematik und Buchbesitz im 18. Jahrhundert* (Frankfurt am Main: Buchhändler Vereinigung, 1988); Valérie Neveu, 'L'inscription de la classification bibliographique dans le champ des sciences (fin XVIIe-début XVIIIe s.)', November 2010, Angers, France, at <<https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00599276>> (accessed 15 August 2019); Emmanuelle Chapron, 'Circulation et usages des catalogues de bibliothèques dans l'Europe du XVIIIe siècle', in Frédéric Barbier and Andrea De Pasquale (eds), *Un'istituzione del Lumi: la biblioteca. Teoria, gestione e pratiche biblioteconomiche nell'Europa dei Lumi* (Parma: Museo Bodoniano, 2013), pp. 29–49; Emmanuelle Chapron, 'Monde savant et ventes de bibliothèques en France méridionale dans la seconde moitié du XVIIIe siècle', *Annales du Midi*, 283 (2013), pp. 409–29.
14. See, for example: Anne François, 'Les collections privées de livres et d'instruments de musique au travers des catalogues de vente bruxellois, durant les règnes de Marie-Thérèse et Joseph II d'Autriche (1740–1790)', *Études sur le 18e siècle*, 19 (1992), pp. 79–82; Helwi Blom, 'La présence de romans de chevalerie dans les bibliothèques privées des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles', in Thierry Delcourt and Élisabth Parinet (eds), *La Bibliothèque bleue et les littératures de colportage* (Paris: École des Chartes/La maison du boulanger, 2000), pp. 51–67; Alicia C. Montoya, 'French and English Women Writers in Dutch Library Catalogues, 1700–1800: Some Methodological Considerations and Preliminary Results', in Suzan van Dijk, Petra Broomans, Janet F. van der Meulen and Pim van Oostrum (eds), *I Have Heard About You'. Foreign Women's Writing Crossing the Dutch Border: From Sappho to Selma Lagerlöf* (Hilversum: Verloren, 2004), pp. 182–216; Paul J. Smith, 'La présence de la littérature française renaissante dans les catalogues des ventes aux enchères en Hollande au XVIIIe siècle. Bilan et perspectives', *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Réforme*, 34:3 (2011), pp. 185–202; Charon, *Esprit des livres* (manuscripts); the Philosophical Libraries project (philosophical works).
 15. For example, the Bibliothèque Mazarine en ligne at <<http://www.bibliotheque-mazarine.fr/fr/evenements/projets/bibliotheque-de-mazarine-en-ligne>>; Montesquieu. Bibliothèque & éditions at <<http://montesquieu.huma-num.fr/bibliotheque/introduction>>; and the project Bibliothèques Privées à l'Âge Moderne (BIPrAM) at <<https://cahier.hypotheses.org/bipram>> (all accessed 15 August 2019).
 16. See Antonio Rodríguez Moñino, *Historia de los catálogos de librería españoles (1661–1840): estudio bibliográfico* (Madrid: Artes Gráficas Soler, 1966); Christian Péligry, *Les catalogues de bibliothèques du XVIIe, XVIIIe et XIXe siècles, jusqu'en 1815: contribution à l'inventaire du Fonds ancien de la Bibliothèque Municipale de Toulouse* (Toulouse: Bibliothèque municipale de Toulouse, 1974); Elizabeth Webby, 'A Checklist of Early Australian Booksellers' and Auctioneers' Catalogues and Advertisements: 1800–1849' (in three parts), *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand*, 3 (1978), pp. 123–48; 4:1 (1979), pp. 31–66; 4:2 (1979), pp. 95–150; Alan N. L. Munby and Lenore Coral (eds), *British Book Sale Catalogues 1676–1800: A Union List* (London: Mansell, 1977); Jeanne Blogie, *Répertoire des catalogues de ventes de livres imprimés* (Brussels: Fl. Tulkens, 1982–2003); Frans Vandenhole, *Inventaris van veilingcatalogi 1615–1914 met topografische, alfabetische en inhoudsindexen* (Ghent: Rijksuniversiteit te Gent, 1987); Maria G. Ceccarelli, *Vocis et animarum pinacothecae. Cataloghi di biblioteche private dei secoli XVII–XVIII nei fondi dell'Angelica* (Roma: Istituto poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, 1990); Françoise Bléchet, *Les ventes publiques de livres en France, 1630–1750: répertoire des catalogues conservés à la Bibliothèque Nationale* (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 1991); Gerhard Loh, *Verzeichnis der Kataloge von Buchauktionen und Privatbibliotheken aus dem deutschsprachigen Raum* (Leipzig: Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig, 1995–); Gerhard Loh, *Die europäischen Privatbibliotheken und Buchauktionen. Ein Verzeichnis ihrer Kataloge* (Leipzig: Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig, 1996–); J. A. (Hans) Gruys and Henk W. de Kooker (eds), *Book Sales Catalogues of the Dutch Republic, 1599–1800: Guide* (Leiden: IDC Publishers, 1997). See also the database 'Book Sales Catalogues Online' at <<http://primarysources.brillonline.com/browse/book-sales-catalogues-online>> (accessed 15 August 2019); Pierre Delsaerd and Dries Vanysacker, 'Repertorium van Antwerpse boekenveilingen 1750–1800', *De Gulden Passer*, 75 (1997), pp. 5–119; the database of early modern sale catalogues conserved in Lyon and Grenoble hosted on the website of the Institut d'Histoire du Livre at <<http://ihl.enssib.fr/bases-de-donnees/catalogue-de-vente-de-livres-anciens>> (accessed 15 August 2019); Michael North, *Printed Catalogues of French Book Auctions and Sales by Private Treaty, 1643–1830, in the Library of the Grolier Club* (New York: Grolier Club, 2004); Harald Ilsoe, *Biblioteker til salg. Om danske bogauktioner og kataloger 1661–1811* (Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanums Forlag, København, 2007); Stefania Bergamo and Marco Callegari (eds), *Libri in vendita. Cataloghi librari nelle biblioteche padovane (1647–1850)* (Milan: Franco Angeli, 2009); Robin C. Alston, *Inventory of Sale Catalogues of Named and Attributed Owners of Books Sold by Retail or Auction 1676–1800: An Inventory of Sales in the British Isles, America, the United States, Canada, India* (Yeaton: privately printed for the author, 2010); Charon, *Esprit des livres*. Some of the studies of book owners and the nature of the collections also contain extensive bibliographical lists of catalogues. This is the case for: Mornet, 'Les enseignements'; Gebauer, *Bücherauktionen in Deutschland*; Beckmann, *Französische Privatbibliotheken*; Marion, *Collections et collectionneurs*. Printing auction catalogues of private libraries was mostly a Western European phenomenon, hence the scarcity of bibliographical lists of such publications for Eastern Europe.

- A large corpus of handwritten book lists and catalogues from the region covered by the ancient Kingdom of Hungary has, however, been made available by the team of István Monok, at <http://real-eod.mtak.hu/view/series/Adatt=E1r_XVI-XVIII=2E_sz=E1zadi_szellemi_mozgalmaink_t=F6rt=E9net=E9hez.html> (accessed 15 August 2019).
17. Alicia Montoya, 'Middlebrow, Religion, and The European Enlightenment: A New Bibliometric Project, MEDATE (1665–1820)', *French History and Civilization*, 7 (2017), pp. 66–79, at <<http://h-france.net/rude/vol7/montoya7>> (accessed 15 August 2019).
 18. In this chapter we use the word 'catalogue' in its broad sense as 'descriptive list'. On terminological issues regarding lists of books, see Marie-Renée Cazabon, 'Catalogue', in Pascal Fouché, Daniel Péchoin and Philippe Schuwer (eds), *Dictionnaire encyclopédique du livre* (Paris: Éditions du Cercle de la Libraire, 2002), vol. 1, pp. 469–79; and Concepción Rodríguez Parada, 'Los catálogos e inventarios en la historia del libro y de las bibliotecas', *BiD: textos universitarios de biblioteconomía i documentación*, 18 (2007), at <<http://www.ub.edu/bid/18rodri4.htm>> (accessed 15 August 2019). See also Yann Sordet, 'Pour une histoire des catalogues de livres: matérialité, formes, usages', in Barbier, Dubois and Sordet (eds), *De l'argile au nuage*, pp. 15–46.
 19. For an eloquent illustration, see the case of Pierre Adamoli studied by Yann Sordet, *L'Amour des livres au siècle des lumières. Pierre Adamoli et ses collections* (Paris: École des chartes, 2001).
 20. Bléchet, *Les ventes publiques de livres en France*; Charon, *Esprit des livres*.
 21. Nicole Masson, 'Typologie des catalogues de vente', in Charon and Parinet (eds), *Les ventes de livres*, pp. 119–27.
 22. *A Catalogue of the Entire and Valuable Library of the Late Rev. Michael Lort* (London: Leigh and Sotheby, 1791).
 23. See, for example: Abigail Williams, *The Social Life of Books: Reading Together in the Eighteenth-Century Home* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017).
 24. Alphonse Dupront, 'Livre et culture dans la société française du XVIII^e siècle. Réflexion sur une enquête', in Furet (ed.), *Livre et société dans la France du XVIII^e siècle*, pp. 185–238.
 25. Jean de La Bruyère, *Les Caractères* [. . .], ed. Louis Van Delft (Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1998), ch. 13, 'De la Mode', part 2, p. 416.
 26. Jean Lepautre, *La Folie du siècle* (Paris: Jollain, 1664), plate III, reproduced in Jean-Marc Chatelain, *La bibliothèque de l'honnête homme: livres, lectures et collection en France à l'âge classique* (Paris: BnF, 2004). The quatrain under the image says: 'C'est bien le plus grand fou qui soit dans la nature/Que celui qui se plaist aux livres bien dorez./Bien couverts, bien reliez, bien nets, bien époudrez/Et ne les voit jamais que par la couverture'. The word 'bibliomania' (in the French form 'bibliomanie'), in the sense of excessive love of books, oriented especially towards qualities other than their contents, such as special bindings or rarity, probably dates back to the seventeenth century. It appears in a letter written by Guy Patin in 1652 (dated 20 December), in which he refers to his 'capricieuse bibliomanie'. See *Correspondance française de Guy Patin*, ed. Loïc Capron (Paris: Bibliothèque interuniversitaire de santé, 2015). For a definition of the word see also Eliana Raytcheva, 'Bibliomane', in Fouché, Péchoin and Schuwer (eds), *Dictionnaire encyclopédique du livre*, vol. 1, pp. 279–80.
 27. *Menagiana* (Paris: Florentin et Pierre Delaulne, 1693), p. 257.
 28. Otto Lankhorst, 'Dutch Book Auctions in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries', in Myers, Harris and Mandelbrote (eds), *Under the Hammer*, pp. 65–88.
 29. Hannie van Goinga, *Alom te bekomen: veranderingen in de boek-distributie in de Republiek 1720–1800* (Amsterdam: De Buitenkant, 1999), pp. 185–9.
 30. *A Catalogue of the Entire Library of the Reverend Conyers Middleton, D.D.* [. . .] (London: Samuel Baker, 1750–1).
 31. For example: North, *Printed Catalogues of French Book Auctions*, nos 92, 97 and 99. See also the copy of the *Catalogue des livres, tableaux, estampes et desseins de feu M. Gersaint, dont la vente se fera en détail lundi 25 mai 1750* [. . .] *en sa maison Pont Notre-Dame* in the National Library of Florence at <<https://books.google.nl/books?id=ZEBfKfioKB4C&>> (accessed 15 August 2019). It contains a handwritten list of seventy-two books with the remark: 'Ces livres défendus n'étaient pas compris dans le catalogue de Mr. Gersaint et la vente en fut faite en cachette dans le souterrain de la maison' ('These forbidden books were not listed in Mr. Gersaint's catalogue and the sale was done secretly in the basement of the house').
 32. *A Catalogue of the Town-library of the Late Sir William Burrell* [. . .] (London, 1786).
 33. *Catalogue des livres de la bibliothèque de feu M.L.B.D.* [. . .] (Paris: Méquignon, 1792), p. 60.
 34. An item sold in 1706 and simply titled as 'New Inventions' could refer to dozens of books printed before it was sold. See *A Curious Collection of Choice Books, being the Library of Thomas Kirke* (Leeds, 1706).
 35. It is impossible to identify, for example, items listed as 'five books on British History' and 'Ten ditto on Foreign History' in *Catalogue of the Valuable Library . . . of the Late Holland Watson, Esq.* (Liverpool: Branch & Son, 1829), p. 8.
 36. Jean Flouret, 'La bibliothèque de Richelieu', *Revue française d'histoire du livre*, 24 (1979), 615.
 37. Gruys, 'Rijklof Michael van Goens', pp. 150–6.
 38. Dominique Varry, 'Grandes collections et bibliothèques des élites', in Claude Joly (ed.), *Histoire des bibliothèques françaises* (Paris: Electre, 2008), vol. II, pp. 295–323 (p. 302).
 39. David Allan, 'Book Collecting and Literature in Eighteenth-Century

- Britain', in *The Yearbook of English of English Studies*, 45 (2015), pp. 74–92 (p. 76).
40. 'Supplement au catalogue des livres de M. Huguet de Semonville, contenant Ceux de feuë Madame la Marquise de Costentin, sa Fille', in *Catalogus librorum ill. viri d. Caroli-Nicolai Huguet de Semonville, senatus parisiensis decani* (Paris: Gabriel Martin et Louis Guérin, 1732), pp. 141–56, also available at <<https://books.google.nl/books?id=4jJbAAAAQAAJ&c>> (accessed 15 August 2019).
 41. *A Catalogue of the Libraries of . . . Mr. J. Killinghal, of Southwark; Mr. E. Bentley, of Coggeshall; and Several Other Eminent Persons Deceased* (London: James Buckland, 1741).
 42. Among the owners of book collections advertised in catalogues printed in France during the second half of the eighteenth century we find numerous merchants, pharmacists, artists, a peddler and a painter.
 43. The scarce information we have on print runs of published catalogues indicates that they could vary considerably.
 44. On the subject of medieval works and works owned by famous collectors, see: Roger Middleton, 'Chrétien de Troyes at Auction: Nicolas-Joseph Foucault and Other Eighteenth-Century Collectors', in Peter Damian Grint (ed.), *Medievalism and 'manière gothique' in Enlightenment France* (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2006), pp. 261–83. In one particular case, a handwritten note on the title page of the catalogue seems to allow us to follow the journey of what appears to be a complete library from one owner to another. It claims that the books in the library of Lætitia Wiggett, sold in 1790, were those of William Anderson, 'who died a young man, and left them to Mr. Wiggett' in 1767. If Mrs Wiggett, a Norwich resident, was indeed a patron of the local arts according to lists of subscribers printed in some volumes of poetry, all the books listed in this particular catalogue pre-date the death of Anderson, bar four dated 1768, 1771 and 1773. The content of the library hence makes the claim plausible. *A Catalogue of All the Entire and Well-chosen Library of the Late Mrs. Letitia Wiggett* (Norwich: Edward Crane, 1790).
 45. *Catalogus Exquisitissimorum Librorum. Juridicorum, Historicorum, & Miscellaneorum* [. . .] Heer Balthazar Boreel (Amsterdam: Salomon Schouten, [1745]) (Amsterdam, City Archives, Bibliotheek F 526).
 46. On the tricky subject of interpreting early modern book prices, see for example: J. E. Elliott, 'The Cost of Reading in Eighteenth-Century Britain: Auction Sale Catalogues and the Cheap Literature Hypothesis', *English Literary History*, 77:2 (2010), pp. 353–84; Francesco Ammannati and Angela Nuovo, 'Investigating Book Prices in Early Modern Europe: Questions and Sources', *Italian Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science (IJLIS.it)*, 8:3 (2017), pp. 1–25.
 47. For example: the *Bibliotheca Cantiana* (Leiden: Johannes Verbeek & Hermanus Verbeek, [1724]). Copies in: London, British Library: SC 444 and Manchester, Chetham's Library, Cc.7.51(3).
 48. Marika Koblussek, 'Gekocht in Den Haag. Hertog August van Wolfenbüttel en de Haagse Elzeviers', in Berry Dongelmans, Paul Hoftijzer and Otto Lankhorst (eds), *Boekverkopers van Europa: het 17de-eeuwse Nederlandse uitgevershuis Elzevier* (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 2000), pp. 211–24.
 49. See the *Catalogue des livres curieux, qui se vendront dans la salle de l'Hôtel de Ville le 4 de Septembre 1713. delaissez par le Trépas de Mr. de Larre, vivant Pasteur de Verlenghem* (Lille, 1713), pp. 17, 21, 32, 34 (Lille, Méd. Jean Lévy, L8–564).
 50. Philippe Martin, *Une religion des livres: 1640–1850* (Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 2003), pp. 523–64; Pierre Bayard, *Comment parler des livres que l'on n'a pas lus* (Paris: Les Éditions de Minuit, 2007).
 51. For a project description, see <<http://www.mediate18.nl>> (accessed 15 August 2019).
 52. In the early stages of our project, our research material tends to confirm signs of an ongoing democratisation of book ownership. Based on our corpus, people named on the title pages of seventeenth-century catalogues were mostly well known scholars, rich lawyers and high-ranking clergymen. This changes in the eighteenth century, when we find book owners from increasingly varied backgrounds. See De Kruif, *Liefhebbers en gewoontelezers*. See also Rolf Engelsing, 'Die Perioden der Lesergeschichte in der Neuzeit', in *Zur Sozialgeschichte deutscher Mittel- und Unterschichten* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1973), pp. 112–54.