



Ranganathan's Legacy in Italy (2009-2023)

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To the best of our knowledge, Ranganathan never physically visited Italian libraries. However, records studied by Alberto Petrucciani confirm his communication with a select group of Italian librarians. Notably, his influence extended beyond mere correspondence, as evidenced by his pivotal role in the decision to host the 1951 IFLA congress in Rome, Italy, instead of Copenhagen, The Netherlands (as reported by Enrico Ardolino). For an extended period, Ranganathan's life and contributions remained overlooked in Italy. Recognition finally dawned on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Ranganathan's passing, marked by a commemorative tribute published in the *Bollettino AIB*, the journal of the Italian Library Association, in 1992. The turning point in introducing Ranganathan to the Italian literary landscape came with the publication of Italian translations of his seminal works: *Il servizio di reference* [Reference Service] (Florence, Le Lettere, 2009) and *Le cinque leggi della biblioteconomia* [The Five Laws of Library Science] (Florence, Le Lettere, 2010). These translations not only facilitated the dissemination of Ranganathan's ideas in Italy but also marked the beginning of a steadily increasing awareness of his legacy. This contribution aims to chronicle the presence and diffusion of Ranganathan's ideas in Italian LIS literature. It spans various events, including occasions, celebrations, conferences, and tributes dedicated to the esteemed Indian Librarian, from the initial publication of Italian translations to the contemporary landscape.

Keywords: SR Ranganathan, Ranganathan's legacy, Italy

Introduction

In an article entitled "Ranganathan in Italia" [Ranganathan in Italy] published over a decade ago, Alberto Petrucciani observed that, until 2010, "the presence of Ranganathan in our country seems to me to show [...] at least three major limitations: it is late and slow, it is limited almost only to the field of classification, and it is more indirect than direct"¹.

Accounts of Ranganathan's presence in Italy have hitherto stated that the father of Indian library science was never in Italy for a library science event, apart from meeting with some Italian librarians during airline layovers at the Rome airport^{2,3}. A recently revealed bibliographical source suggests that Ranganathan was a guest of the Italian library community at least once, on the occasion of the FID congress held in Rome from 15 to 21 September 1951, at which Ranganathan was a speaker for Section VI, General Problems of Classification, chaired by the Italian librarian and friend Vittorio Camerani⁴. However, it is probable that the author relied on a programme of the event and did not have first-hand information. In fact, the conference

proceedings published by the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche⁵, the Italian organiser of the conference, do not include Ranganathan in the final and official list of participants, whereas they document that his paper *General theory of classification* was distributed to all participants⁶.

Anyway, besides those sporadic meetings, Ranganathan's fame in Italy far exceeded knowledge of his works by Italian librarians for a long time. According to *BIB: The Italian Bibliography of Libraries, Books and Information* (1971-2004)⁷, the first Italian published tribute dedicated to the great Indian librarian was the *Omaggio a Ranganathan* [Tribute to Ranganathan] published in the December 1992 issue of *Bollettino AIB*, the journal of the Italian Library Association⁸. The tribute consisted of three essays: a memoir by Diego Maltese, who met Ranganathan at the Paris Conference; a translation of a few pages from *Reference service*, and a biographical sketch by Stefano Tartaglia. After this tribute, Petrucciani found that, until 2010, there were only 4 contributions appearing in Italian related to Ranganathan and his work and ideas⁹⁻¹², but he missed

at least four papers¹³⁻¹⁶, probably because he relied solely on the *BIB bibliography* that was only updated up to 2004.

In 2009 and 2010, two translations of Ranganathan's works were published in Italy: *Reference Service*¹⁷ and *The Five Laws of Library Science*, respectively¹⁸. The goal of this essay is to assess how much Ranganathan is known nowadays in Italy and how important these two translations were in spreading knowledge of Ranganathan in Italy. For this reason, the paper presents a chronologically organised discussion of the reception of Ranganathan and his work in Italy, followed by a small bibliographical investigation of Italian library science works citing Ranganathan, including a list of Italian publications pertaining to Ranganathan.

Presentations of the translation of Ranganathan's works

The translations of the two aforementioned Ranganathan's works had a twofold effect on the spreading of his ideas in Italy.

The first relevant outcome was the holding of four events – all titled *Leggere Ranganathan* [Reading Ranganathan] – presenting the Italian translations of Ranganathan's works in prestigious Italian venues: the University of Florence (May 25, 2010), the University of Rome La Sapienza (May 26, 2010), the University of Padua (June 18, 2010), and the University of Udine (November 26, 2010)¹⁹. During these meetings, a large public of Italian librarians started to become better acquainted with Ranganathan, his five laws, his ideas and his full and unique commitment to the world library movement.

The second relevant outcome was that the conference speeches held by scholars during the presentations of the Italian translations were collected into a booklet with a popular slant, published in 2011 and entitled likewise *Leggere Ranganathan* [Reading Ranganathan]²⁰ which contained 6 essays: Carlo Bianchini, *Un insegnante ispirato: appunti per una biografia di S.R. Ranganathan* [An Inspired Teacher: notes for a biography of S.R. Ranganathan]; Giovanni Solimine, *Le cinque leggi di una biblioteca in divenire* [The Five Laws of a Library in the Making]; Laura Toti, *Gli alberi giganti di baniano: l'importanza della cultura indiana di Ranganathan ne Le cinque leggi della biblioteconomia* [The Giant Banyan Trees : The Importance of Ranganathan's Indian Culture in The Five Laws of Library science]; Mauro Guerrini, *La biblioteca insegna. Il rapporto*

umano e personale come chiave di lettura della professione ne Il Servizio di reference di S.R. Ranganathan [The Library Teaches. The human and personal relationship as a key to understanding the profession in S.R. Ranganathan's Reference Service]; Carlo Bianchini, *Il caleidoscopio del bibliotecario* [The Librarian's Kaleidoscope]; and the aforementioned Alberto Petrucciani, *Ranganathan in Italia* [Ranganathan in Italy].

The translations of Ranganathan's works, the presentations to the Italian public, and the volume *Leggere Ranganathan* marked an effective turning point for the spread of knowledge about Ranganathan in Italy. The following two sections present the history of public events and of the scholarly publications that have focused on Ranganathan and his work in Italy since 2010.

Conferences, Meetings, Workshops and Working Group related to Ranganathan

After the publication of the Italian translations, the first paper at a conference on a Ranganathan-related topic was presented at the Fifth ISKO Italy conference, held at University of Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy on 1 April 2011. The paper was titled “Colon Classification. Five years of application in the Library of the Friuli Museum of Natural History in Udine”. As its title indicates, Bianchini presented the results of five years (2006-2010) of application of Colon Classification (CC), 6th ed., in the Library of the Natural History Museum of Udine, Italy, offered the results of the comparison of about 1500 class numbers of Colon Classification (CC) and Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) by means of an ad-hoc metric (called *resolution power*) to highlight that it is double in CC in comparison with DDC, and showed that the use of CC could greatly help Italian cataloguers using *Nuovo Soggettario*, the then newly published thesaurus developed and used at the Biblioteca Centrale Nazionale di Firenze, Italy. The half a decade-long experience of the Library of the Natural History Museum of Udine demonstrated that a faceted classification offers great advantages in organising documents in a modern library, even if CC is surely in need of updating and revision. The paper was selected by the scientific committee of the conference for publication in the journal *Knowledge organisation*²¹.

There were no other talks on topics related to Ranganathan until 2014, when Licia Sirch, lecturer at the Music Conservatory 'Giuseppe Verdi' in Milan and at Pavia University, gave a talk titled

Ranganathan in Conservatorio. Il reference nell'era digitale e la biblioteca musicale [Ranganathan in the Conservatory. Reference service in the digital era and music libraries] at the conference "La biblioteconomia musicale nell'era digitale tra specializzazione e servizi di pubblica lettura" [Music library science in the digital age between specialisation and public reading services], Venice, Italy, 1-2 December 2014, in which she discussed the application of the Five Laws of Library Science to digital reference in a music library²².

The following year, the first event of interest was a lecture on *S.R. Ranganathan e la nascita delle cinque leggi della biblioteconomia* [S.R. Ranganathan and the birth of the Five Laws of Library Science], as part of Angela Nuovo's teaching of Library Science at the University of Udine, on 29 September 2015²³.

The following day, during a meeting in the conference series "I mercoledì dei bibliotecari" [Librarians' Wednesday] in Imola, Dorotea La Faci and Roberta Turricchia presented Carlo Bianchini's work *I fondamenti della biblioteconomia. Attualità del pensiero di S.R. Ranganathan* [The Foundations of Library Science. The Continuing Relevance of S.R. Ranganathan's thought]²⁴, at the Imola Public Library, under the patronage of the AIB (Italian Library Association) Emilia Romagna section and Paola Cardicchia read excerpts from Ranganathan's work. The volume presented – published in June 2015 – is the only monograph entirely dedicated to Ranganathan and his thoughts ever published in Italy. In fact, for the first time in Italy, the volume presents the thought of the Indian librarian and scholar in a complete way – starting from his biography and his works, characterised by a general yet incisive overview, rich intertextual references, and a glossary of the technical terms that he used in his writings – and delves into a specific theme in each chapter: the Five Laws of Library Science, reference service, the organisation of libraries, and cataloguing and classification, with the aim of highlighting the far-sightedness of Ranganathan's thought and the strong topicality of the method he proposed. During 2015, this work on Ranganathan was also presented to the public in Florence, Italy (14 October 2015) as part of Mauro Guerrini's Library Science course at the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art and Performing Arts (SAGAS) of the University of Florence, and in Reggio Emilia, Italy (22 October 2015), at a meeting organised by the AIB Emilia

Romagna section and the Interdepartmental Library of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

The most important event for advancing knowledge of the Colon Classification in Italy took place in November 2015. It was the first course held in Italy on Ranganathan's bibliographic classification. The seminar, entitled "Elementi di Classificazione Colon" [Elements of Colon Classification] was organised by the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage of the University of Pavia and ISKO Italy, under the patronage of the AIB Lombardy section. This course was important because it was the first organic and complete presentation of the Colon Classification to a specialised Italian audience formed by ISKO Italia members, scholars, and students, and because it led to the establishment of an ISKO Italia working group that produced some results in the following years²⁵.

In fact, during the presentation of the Colon Classification it was pointed out that a cognitive bell-shaped model (Gaussian curve) of considerable interest was used in Ranganathan's classification. A research group²⁶ set out to research the origins and correspondences of the APUPA (Alien – Penumbra – Umbra – Penumbra – Alien) metaphor²⁷⁻²⁸ in the scientific and cultural context of the mid-20th century, in particular in sciences such as mathematics, physics, physiology, and cybernetics.

In 2016, the first results of the research group were published in the journal *Le cahiers du numérique*, pointing out that the structural model called APUPA can be visualised in the form of a bell curve²⁹. APUPA is commonly cited as an ideal shape resulting from the arrangement of works according to the principles of faceted classification, which should enable a reader browsing shelves to visually find "his book" as located in the middle of a sequence of related subjects on both its left and its right. The paper showed how this is but one application of a more general model of thought recurring throughout Ranganathan's works. The order of main classes in the Colon Classification (CC) and anteriorising common isolates, are two more features where the bell curve model can be observed. The presence of this concept in Ranganathan's work was analysed through excerpts from a variety of his works and was compared with models adopted in the works of other classificationists and with various ideas available in scientific literature, including Bernoulli numbers and the mathematical theory of communication. The conclusion was that the bell curve pattern is yet

another facet of the deep originality of Ranganathan's complex and rich classificatory thought.

During 2016, there was only one more event related to the dissemination of Ranganathan's knowledge in Italy: on 3 October 2016, an academic lecture titled "S.R. Ranganathan e le cinque leggi della biblioteconomia" [S.R. Ranganathan and the Five Laws of Library Science] was held as part of Mauro Guerrini's Library Science course at the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art and Performing Arts (SAGAS) of the University of Florence.

In 2017, the dissemination of Ranganathan's knowledge in Italy continued with regard to both the Five Laws of Library Science and its faceted classification. On 16 February 2017, a university lecture on "Ranganathan e le cinque leggi della biblioteconomia" [Ranganathan and the Five Laws of Library Science] was held within the Library Science course of Angela Nuovo, at the Department of Humanities and Cultural Heritage Studies of the University of Udine. On 22 May 2017, during the national conference of ISKO Italy, Luca Giusti – a member of the research group on APUPA – gave a paper entitled "Matematica, cibernetica e il pattern APUPA di Ranganathan" [Mathematics, cybernetics and Ranganathan's APUPA pattern], subsequently published in the Italian journal *Bibliotime*³⁰.

The course on Colon Classification was quite relevant for spreading knowledge of Ranganathan in Italy and prompted the organisation of other training opportunities. A first event took place over four days at the University of Udine, in collaboration with the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage of the University of Pavia and ISKO Italy and under the patronage of AIB Friuli Venezia Giulia section in February 2018³¹. The seminar was focused on bibliographic classifications and organised in two parts. The former dealt with the DDC, as the most widespread classification system in Italy; the latter dealt with a basic and full presentation of the CC. The workshop aimed to compare the main features of the DDC, 23rd edition, and those of the CC, 6th edition, to provide basic knowledge for the use of both systems and to highlight the advantages that the faceted approach makes available to a classification system. The intention of the course was to provide the trainees with the basic skills to start applying both bibliographic classifications and to highlight the advantages of using the CC in all or part of a collection (stock and open shelf).

The course was followed with interest and had a positive resonance, which prompted the AIB Lazio section to organise a new edition of the course in Rome on 20 April 2018, as part of a series of events dedicated to the dissemination of science through libraries³². A week earlier (13 April 2018), Luca Giusti's workshop "La penombra della conoscenza: classificazione e matematica in S.R. Ranganathan: conversazione con pillole video" [The penumbra of knowledge: classification and mathematics in S.R. Ranganathan: conversation with video pills], resulting from the work of the research group on APUPA, was held in Rome within the same series of events³³.

Later on, Luca Giusti presented the results of the research group's work also at the 15th International ISKO Conference, held 9-11 July 2018 in Porto with the paper "The penumbra-line: Ranganathan's journeys and the genesis of the APUPA pattern", later published in the ISKO International conference papers³⁴. An updated version of that paper was also presented at the International Conference on Exploring the Horizons of Library and Information Sciences: From Libraries to Knowledge Hubs on 7-9 August, 2018, organised by the Documentation Research And Training Centre (DRTC) of the Indian Statistical Institute³⁵.

The importance of the Colon Classification and the growing relevance of faceted classifications in the context of the semantic web were the reasons for a joint initiative between ISKO Italy and ISKO Poland, which led to the organisation of a seminar as part of professor Wieslaw Babik's Library Science course at the Institute of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. The course was held on 16 and 17 January 2019 and aimed to present and compare the main characteristics of DDC, 23rd edition, and CC, 6th edition. It also aimed to highlight benefits connected to the use of facets within the classification process. Finally, it had the objective to give participants the basics to start using both systems and to appreciate the advantages of using CC. The course, which was intended for more advanced students, was followed by a workshop aimed at lecturers from the Institute of Information and Library Science on the relevance of faceted classifications in the context of the semantic web. During the workshop, a research project on the automatic classification of works of literature using Colon Classification was presented in public for the first time³⁶.

2019 was an important year for the dissemination of Ranganathan's ideas in Italy because during the 9th ISKO Italia Meeting, Florence 11 April 2019, held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, two papers deal with the Indian scholar. The first one is by Luca Giusti, and deals with "APUPA: penumbra alle sorgenti di marketing e knowledge organisation" [APUPA: penumbra at the sources of marketing and knowledge organisation]³⁷, the second one by Carlo Bianchini, entitled "From semantic web to faceted classification: A case study and five lines of future research", introduces the theme of the relationship between the semantic web and faceted classifications, through the presentation of a case study based precisely on Colon Classification³⁸.

A case study about the automatic creation of faceted class numbers for special topics starting from data available on the semantic web was presented to the Italian ISKO community. The aim of the research was to investigate two questions: 1) Is the automatic, quick, cost-effective, large-scale production of a Schedule of Colon Classification class numbers for literary classics possible? 2) More generally: which are the requirements for the automatic production of class numbers of a faceted scheme of classification? What kind of research is necessary to develop such a process? The case study had focused on data extracted from *data.bnf.fr* – the bibliographic linked open data dataset produced and made available by the Bibliothèque nationale de France – and on their reuse to get correct and complete Colon Classification class numbers for a sample of Italian literature writers (born from 1800 to 1900). The process of creating class numbers starting from data identification and extraction, through their clean-up, transformation, and translation into classified notation by means of the software OpenRefine was presented. The results of the case study and their relevance for starting questions were discussed and research questions for possible future developments were identified.

As regards Ranganathan's reputation in Italy, the year 2019 was noteworthy also because the 24th edition of the *Stelline Conference* – the most popular Italian event dedicated to the world of libraries – was inspired in its title by Ranganathan's Fifth Law of Library Science, 'the library is a growing organism'. [<https://www.convegnostelline.it/stelline2019/>].

After a suspension of activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, events dedicated to the dissemination of Ranganathan's thought resumed in

2021. In the biennial conference of ISKO Italy held at the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage (Cremona), University of Pavia, Italy, two papers related to Ranganathan were presented: Mauro Bertani spoke on *Spiegare Ranganathan con la teoria dei reticoli* [Explaining Ranganathan with the theory of lattices] and Carlo Bianchini on *Classificazione automatica con i Linked Open Data. Un caso di studio su una classificazione a faccette e Wikidata* [Automated classification with Linked Open Data. A case study on a faceted classification and Wikidata].

The year 2022 was particularly significant because it was the 50-year anniversary of Ranganathan's death. It offered an important opportunity for promoting awareness of S.R. Ranganathan, his work and thoughts all over the world. Even in Italy, there was no lack of opportunities to commemorate the great Indian librarian. On 23 February 2022, ISKO Italy collaborated with the Department of Library and Information Science of the Central University of Haryana to organise a lecture on *What is living and What is dead in Ranganathan's contribution* in the context of the events *Commemorating 50 years since the passing away of Padma Shri Dr. S.R. Ranganathan*, with ISKO Italy member Luca Giusti participating online from Italy.

In Italy, the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage (Cremona) of the University of Pavia organised two separate initiatives to celebrate the famous librarian: an international conference in collaboration with Lucia Sardo (University of Bologna, Italy) and Ignacio Mancini (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina) and a play that staged the salient features of the great librarian's library science by means of a few excerpts from his own texts in collaboration with the SpazioMythos theatre company of Cremona, Italy³⁹.

The international conference *Ranganathan's multiple facets*, held in a mixed mode of both physical and virtual presence, aimed to bring out and deepen the lesser known themes of Ranganathan's thought. In fact Ranganathan, apart from being the author of the five laws and the creator of a new type of classification for which he is universally known, actually delved into all possible areas of library science, thanks to the publication of a number of monographs and articles in which he dealt with many other disciplinary topics, such as the disciplinary position of library science, library management, the national library system, his visits to, and impressions

of, European and American libraries, the school library, library acquisitions, the material aspects of books (physical bibliography), documentation, and so on.

The conference hosted 11 Italian and foreign experts in different topics coming from Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico, and Italy, who proposed an in-depth reading of particular original texts by Ranganathan with the dual aim of highlighting their topical aspects and comparing his thought with that of other 'classical' authors who had tackled that theme⁴⁰. The conference papers were published in the Italian scientific journal *Bibliothecae.it* in 2023⁴¹⁻⁴⁹.

The idea for the play — performed at the Teatro Monteverdi (Cremona) by the SpazioMythos theatre company of Cremona, Italy, on the same date of the international conference — came from excerpts from Ranganathan's *Reference Service*, in which the author describes, for educational and didactic purposes, real episodes of dialogues and interactions between readers and librarians in the library. The success of a previous 'acted reading' carried out by a group of librarians of the AIB Friuli Venezia Giulia section at the University of Udine in 2011 and the strength and freshness of the Indian librarian's text suggested a new re-elaboration of the texts for the stage by Enrico Tomasoni, which was performed on the evening of the same day of the international conference.

One last event took place in Udine on 21 October 2022: The Società Indologica 'Luigi Pio Tessitori' in Udine organised a conference entitled 'The Universe of Knowledge. Celebrating Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972)' in collaboration with the University of Udine⁵⁰.

Ranganathan's presence in Italian professional literature

The impact that Ranganathan's thought and work has had in Italy can also be described through an analysis of the professional literature published in Italy or submitted by Italian authors to international scientific journals. To this end, articles from six Italian library journals were analysed in search of references to Ranganathan in general, to his life, or to particular aspects of his works or thought. The journals that were analysed are: *AIB studi*, *Aidainformazioni*, *Biblioteche oggi*, *Biblioteche oggi trends*, and *JLIS.it*. The search method was twofold: first the search was carried out via the 'search' tool on each journal homepage, when available; then a search was carried out via Google's *site:* command (e.g.

"site:https://aibstudi.aib.it/ Ranganathan"). The five monographs that deal directly with S.R. Ranganathan were also taken into account: the two Italian translations, the collection of papers from the series of meetings entitled *Leggere Ranganathan*, a monograph dedicated to Ranganathan and the contemporaneity of his thought, and a monograph dedicated to book numbers, with an in-depth presentation of the book number in the Colon Classification. An in-print new translation of Ranganathan (see below) was also taken into account.

Other monographic publications and library science manuals were not included in the count, as they were not easily checkable.

A total of 100 publications were identified and the complete bibliography is included in Appendix 1; the graph below shows their quantitative distribution over the time span from 2009 to 2023 (Figure 1).

Each publication was analysed in detail to determine which topic it dealt with in relation to Ranganathan (e.g. his five laws, or his having been to Italy, or his participation in the International Cataloguing Congress in Paris in 1961, etc.). A total of 137 textual references to Ranganathan, his theories, and most original ideas were identified.

The three columns of Table 1 show the topics cited by Italian authors in relation to Ranganathan in alphabetical order, the number of articles citing the topic, and the short bibliographical references in Chicago Manual of Style, author-date to the articles containing the citation.

Table 2 shows the same data, but presents the topics in order of frequency.

The data of table 2 show that Ranganathan is not only famous in Italy, but also that his works are known through the citation of many specific aspects

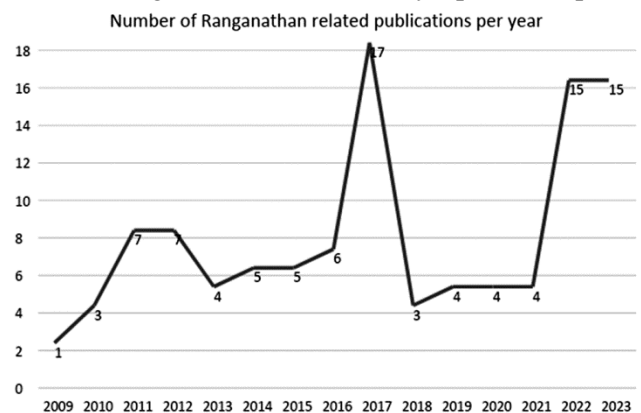


Fig. 1 — Number of Ranganathan-related Publications in Italy per Year, 2009-2023

Table 1 — Ranganathan-related topics in Italian literature listed in alphabetical order

| SRR cited or quoted in relation to | No. of publ. | Publications ⁵¹ |
|---|--------------|---|
| APUPA | 3 | Bianchini, Giusti and Gnoli 2017; Giusti 2017; Giusti 2018 |
| Bibliometry/Librametry | 2 | Lanzillo 2014; Baldacchini 2018 |
| Biography | 3 | Bianchini 2011b; Bianchini 2015; Calabresi 2017 |
| Book as a trinity | 1 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2015 |
| Book number | 5 | Bianchini 2010; Bianchini 2012a; Galeffi 2017; Themel 2017; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Classification Research Group | 3 | Viti 2010; Gnoli 2022; Iorio 2022 |
| Colon Classification/Analytico-synthetic classification | 15 | Bianchini 2015; Biagetti 2016; Bianchini 2017a; Bianchini 2017c; Calabresi 2017; Giusti 2017; Gnoli 2017; Vieira De Freitas Araujo 2017; Bonfietti 2019; Vivarelli 2020; Zanni 2021; Gnoli 2022; Bianchini and Bargioni 2021; Bianchini 2023a; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Documentation | 2 | Crippa 2023; Damus 2023 |
| Generic schema | 1 | Serrai 2013a |
| Holistic approach | 1 | Bianchini 2015 |
| Indian culture | 1 | Toti 2011 |
| Information literacy | 3 | Bianchini 2012b; Eleuteri 2019; Ranganathan 2023 |
| International library associations | 1 | Sardo 2023 |
| Italy and Italian librarians | 4 | Petruciani 2011; Traniello 2013; Ardolino 2020; Ardolino 2023 |
| Law, 1st | 3 | Minsenti 2013; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Solimine 2022 |
| Law, 2nd | 3 | Meschini 2019; Castro 2022; Mercanti 2022 |
| Law, 3rd | 3 | Arino Grau 2014; Meschini 2019; Mercanti 2022 |
| Law, 4th | 5 | Raieli 2014; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Bianchini 2017a; Ciaburri Scinto 2022; Riva 2022 |
| Law, 5th | 13 | Petroselli 2014; Vivarelli 2014; Vettore 2015; Calabresi 2016; Cauzzi et al. 2016; Neri 2017; Themel 2017; Galluzzi 2019; Ferrieri 2020; Caliri et al. 2022; Crupi 2022; Weston 2022; Faggiolani et al. 2023 |
| Law, 6th | 3 | Venuda 2017; Merenda 2021; Ciaburri Scinto 2022 |
| Laws, Five Laws of Library Science | 14 | Ranganathan 2010; Solimine 2011; Bianchini 2015; Revelli 2015; Vecchiet 2015; Trombone 2016; Calabresi 2017; Di Maio 2017; Venuda 2017; Zanni 2021; Dunsire 2022; Guerrini 2023; Serranti 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Library as a trinity | 1 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2015 |
| Library book selection | 1 | Vivarelli 2022 |
| Library catalogue/Cataloguing | 8 | Bianchini 2015; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Bianchini 2017a; Calabresi 2017; Nepori 2017; Sardo 2017; Buttò 2018; Vivarelli 2020 |
| Library manual for school | 2 | Bianchini 2017a; Bianchini 2017b |
| Library organization | 1 | Bianchini 2015 |
| Library science theory | 6 | Miccoli 2012; Musiari 2020; Ghiringhelli 2022; Bianchini and Sardo 2023; Saldanha 2023; Satija 2023 |
| Library tour | 1 | Sabba 2023 |
| Paris Conference 1961 | 3 | Genetasio 2012; Petruciani 2016; Maltese 2021 |
| Principle of local variation | 2 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2016; Escolano Rodriguez 2022 |
| Reference interview | 1 | Bianchini 2012b |
| Reference service | 15 | Ranganathan 2009; Bianchini 2011a; Guerrini 2011; Costa 2012; Bianchini 2015; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Vecchiet 2015; Bianchini 2017b; Bianchini 2017d; Calabresi 2017; Faggiolani 2017; Buttò 2018; Castro 2022; Guerrini 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |

(Contd.)

Table 1 — Ranganathan-related topics in Italian literature listed in alphabetical order (*Contd.*)

| SRR cited or quoted in relation to | No. of publ. | Publications ⁵¹ |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| School library | 2 | Marquardt e Bhardawaj 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Social bibliography | 2 | Bianchini 2015; Bianchini 2023b |
| SRR as superfluous | 1 | Serrai 2013b |
| Teaching | 1 | Cappelli 2012 |
| Three planes of subject indexing | 1 | Buizza 2011 |

Table 2 — Ranganathan-related topics in Italian literature listed in order of frequency

| SRR cited or quoted in relation to | No. of publ. | Publications ⁵² |
|--|--------------|---|
| Colon Classification/Analytic-synthetic classification | 15 | Bianchini 2015; Biagetti 2016; Bianchini 2017a; Bianchini 2017c; Calabresi 2017; Giusti 2017; Gnoli 2017; Vieira De Freitas Araujo 2017; Bonfiatti 2019; Vivarelli 2020; Zanni 2021; Gnoli 2022; Bianchini and Bargioni 2021; Bianchini 2023a; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Reference service | 15 | Ranganathan 2009; Bianchini 2011a; Guerrini 2011; Costa 2012; Bianchini 2015; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Vecchiet 2015; Bianchini 2017b; Bianchini 2017d; Calabresi 2017; Faggiolani 2017; Buttò 2018; Castro 2022; Guerrini 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Laws, Five Laws of Library Science | 14 | Ranganathan 2010; Solimine 2011; Bianchini 2015; Revelli 2015; Vecchiet 2015; Trombone 2016; Calabresi 2017; Di Maio 2017; Venuda 2017; Zanni 2021; Dunsire 2022; Guerrini 2023; Serranti 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Law, 5th | 13 | Petroselli 2014; Vivarelli 2014; Vettore 2015; Calabresi 2016; Cauzzi et al. 2016; Neri 2017; Themel 2017; Galluzzi 2019; Ferrieri 2020; Caliri et al. 2022; Crupi 2022; Weston 2022; Faggiolani et al. 2023 |
| Library catalogue/Cataloguing | 8 | Bianchini 2015; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Bianchini 2017a; Calabresi 2017; Nepori 2017; Sardo 2017; Buttò 2018; Vivarelli 2020 |
| Library science theory | 6 | Miccoli 2012; Musiari 2020; Ghiringhelli 2022; Bianchini and Sardo 2023; Saldanha 2023; Satija 2023 |
| Book number | 5 | Bianchini 2010; Bianchini 2012a; Galeffi 2017; Themel 2017; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Law, 4th | 5 | Raieli 2014; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Bianchini 2017a; Ciaburri Scinto 2022; Riva 2022 |
| Italy and Italian librarians | 4 | Petruciani 2011; Traniello 2013; Ardolino 2020; Ardolino 2023 |
| APUPA | 3 | Bianchini, Giusti and Gnoli 2017; Giusti 2017; Giusti 2018 |
| Biography | 3 | Bianchini 2011b; Bianchini 2015; Calabresi 2017 |
| Classification Research Group | 3 | Viti 2010; Gnoli 2022; Iorio 2022 |
| Information literacy | 3 | Bianchini 2012b; Eleuteri 2019; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Law, 1st | 3 | Minsenti 2013; Bianchini and Guerrini 2015; Solimine 2022 |
| Law, 2nd | 3 | Meschini 2019; Castro 2022; Mercanti 2022 |
| Law, 3rd | 3 | Arino Grau 2014; Meschini 2019; Mercanti 2022 |
| Law, 6th | 3 | Venuda 2017; Merenda 2021; Ciaburri Scinto 2022 |
| Paris Conference 1961 | 3 | Genetasio 2012; Petruciani 2016; Maltese 2021 |
| Bibliometry/Librarmetry | 2 | Lanzillo 2014; Baldacchini 2018 |
| Documentation | 2 | Crippa 2023; Damus 2023 |
| Library manual for school | 2 | Bianchini 2017a; Bianchini 2017b |
| Principle of local variation | 2 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2016; Escolano Rodriguez 2022 |
| School library | 2 | Marquardt e Bhardawaj 2023; Ranganathan 2023 |
| Social bibliography | 2 | Bianchini 2015; Bianchini 2023b |
| Book as a trinity | 1 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2015 |

(Contd.)

Table 2 — Ranganathan-related topics in Italian literature listed in order of frequency (*Contd.*)

| SRR cited or quoted in relation to | No. of publ. | Publications ⁵² |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Generic schematisms | 1 | Serrai 2013a |
| Holistic approach | 1 | Bianchini 2015 |
| Indian culture | 1 | Toti 2011 |
| International library associations | 1 | Sardo 2023 |
| Library as a trinity | 1 | Bianchini and Guerrini 2015 |
| Library book selection | 1 | Vivarelli 2022 |
| Library organization | 1 | Bianchini 2015 |
| Library tour | 1 | Sabba 2023 |
| Reference interview | 1 | Bianchini 2012b |
| SRR as superfluous | 1 | Serrai 2013b |
| Teaching | 1 | Cappelli 2012 |
| Three planes of subject indexing | 1 | Buizza 2011 |

of his thought (e.g. APUPA, principle of local variation), sometimes not frequently mentioned (e.g., library as a trinity, holistic approach, three planes of classification systems etc.) and that some of his lesser known works (e.g., *Library Tour*, *Library manual*, *Library book selection*) are read too.

The data in Table 3 show that Ranganathan's ideas with the greatest impact in Italy are those for which he is world famous: the Five Laws of Library Science and studies on bibliographic classification and cataloguing; however Italian scholars and librarians also particularly appreciate his vision of reference service (probably thanks to the Italian translation of his work) and the fifth law of Library science.

The graph in Table 1 shows that three events of the year 2015—the publication of the first monograph dedicated to Ranganathan, the first course held in Italy on Ranganathan's bibliographic classification, and the creation of a research group—had a significant impact on Italian professional production related to Ranganathan, which reached its highest peak in 2017. The impacts prompted by the commemorative event on Ranganathan in 2022 and the publication of the proceedings of the international conference were equally important, as they generated the other two highest peaks.

Prospects for the future

The third Italian translation of one of Ranganathan's works was published in Italy in October 2023. Unfortunately, due to copyright restrictions imposed by SRELS, it was published open access but only in digital format⁵³. It is the third edition of *The Organisation of Libraries*, which

Ranganathan published with the aim “to relate library organization to education and provide a description of library technique in brief”⁵⁴. As soon as published in India, the work immediately became the tool for promoting a constituted network of school libraries integrated into the Indian national library system. In Italy, the situation of school libraries is totally unsatisfactory and the Italian law does not provide for a permanent librarian in every school. This work therefore seemed the most suitable to be translated in Italy today, not only because it offers an excellent synthesis of Ranganathan's ideas for the organisation of a library which could be very useful to students and scholars, but also because it contains a list of Colon Classification numbers adapted to the Italian audience which is the most extensive ever published in Italy⁵⁵. Although the availability of the text in digital format only is very inconvenient and disadvantageous for promoting the use and application of classification schedules, the hope is that the new Italian translation will further spread knowledge of Ranganathan and use of its classification in Italy.

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APPENDIX 1

Bibliography of the publications related to SR Ranganathan and published in Italy or by Italian scholars (2009-2023)⁵⁶

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