

# RENAISSANCE WOMEN OF BOOK TRADE

THIS IS A TOPIC GUIDE FOR UIUC FIRST-YEAR MFA STUDENTS IN RESEARCHING LEADING WOMEN FIGURES IN EARLY BOOKMAKING, PRINTMAKING AND BOOK PUBLISHING IN RENAISSANCE EUROPE USING THE MAIN LIBRARY (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN). THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU RESEARCH YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER IN YOUR FIRST SEMESTER BOOK ARTS CLASS. IT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE RESEARCH TIPS, BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDANCE, INFORMATION ON CITING SOURCES AND HELP INTRODUCE YOU TO LIBRARY RESOURCES AND STAFF HERE TO HELP YOU FOR ALL FUTURE RESEARCH AS YOU MOVE ALONG IN YOUR PROGRAM!

For help determining the proper structure for citing & creating reference pages for your papers, check out this guide:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)

## Database Research Tips!

- For some databases, subject searching works better than keyword searching, which is usually the default. This may bring up fewer results, but you'll be searching with more precision. Use the results of a keyword search to discover subject headings (descriptors) used in the database
- Approach your research like a detective, looking for clues in all that you discover. Keep an eye out for the "big names" in your research area—for example, key people and organizations.
- Use your imagination & think of all the possible ways to express your topic. Brainstorm until you've exhausted all possibilities.
- To get the best results, use the word OR inside parentheses:  
(Renaissance or Sixteenth Century) and (women or booktrade)
- Searching the library catalog & getting the exact call number and location is almost always the most efficient way to find books on your topic or books by a particular author. Browsing the shelves is a great way to get familiar with the collections too! Our books are organized using the Library of Congress Classification system.
- When searching for books, use broader terms than when searching for articles.

- Don't limit yourself to just one database or one set of search results. The same search phrase entered in two different databases may bring up very different results. Try different phrases; try the same search across multiple databases. Don't be content with the results of one search.
- And of course, ask a librarian if you have questions! Don't spin your wheels & waste valuable time if you get stuck or encounter something confusing. The reference librarian is your friend! we can suggest the best databases for your topic. We can show you the most efficient way to search for articles by a particular author (HINT: usually not by keyword searching). We can advise you on search strategies & techniques tailored to your topic.

### Our Catalogue:

[https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CARLI\\_UIU:CARLI\\_UIU&lang=en](https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CARLI_UIU:CARLI_UIU&lang=en)

### The most useful Databases on this topic:

Iter Press: facilitates & supports scholarship on the Renaissance

<https://www-itergateway-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/iter-press/all>

Literary Print Culture: The Stationers' Company Archive: A resource for understanding the workings of the early book trade, the printing, bookselling & publishing

<https://www-literaryprintculture-amdigital-co-uk.proxy2.library.illinois.edu>

EBSCO Women's Studies International: is a bibliographic database for women's studies & feminist research

<https://web-p-ebscohost-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=2cdca308-da5f-4c5d-82d6-018a7be20062%40redis>

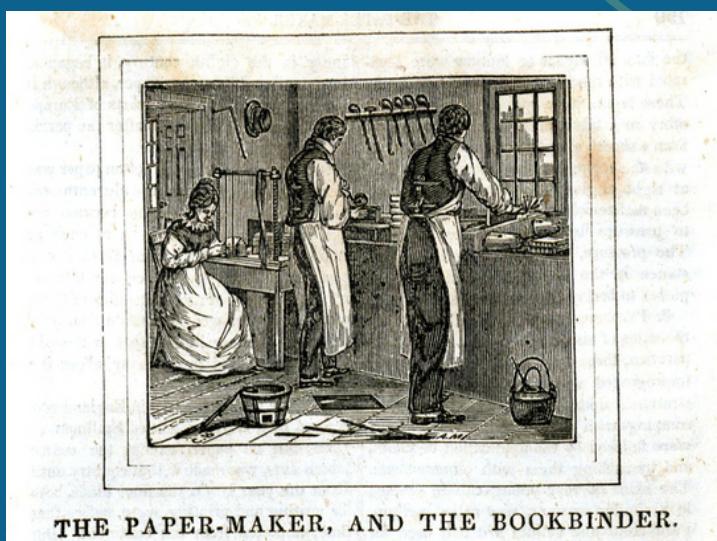


Figure I

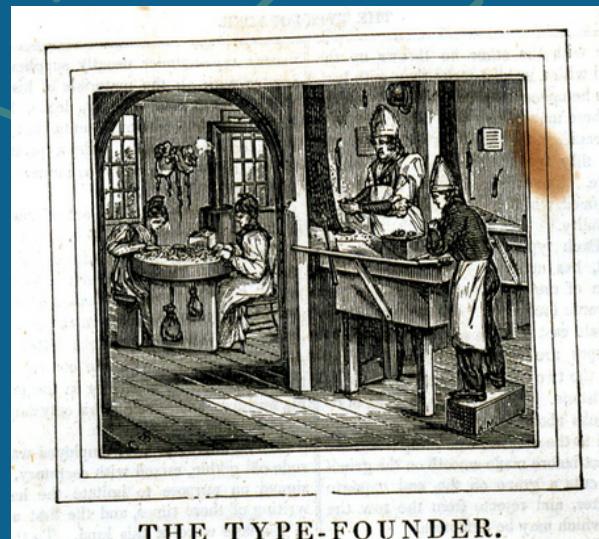


Figure II

# RENAISSANCE WOMEN OF BOOK TRADE

Bell, M. (1996). Women in the English Book Trade 1557-1700. *Leipziger Jahrbuch Zur Buchgeschicht*, 6, 13-45.

This book looks beyond the stereotypes of women as transmitters and caretakers of businesses by focusing on the career's women; widows who remarry, woman with no apparent family connection to the book trade, and the women who inherited their husbands or father's businesses and change the direction of the business and therefore book history.

<http://www.library.illinois.edu.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/proxy/go.php?url=https://search-ebscohost-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mzh&AN=2003030089&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Bell, M. (2014). Women and the Production of Texts: The Impact of the History of the Book. Oak Knoll Press, 107-131 .

This book examines the impact of printed material on gendered culture. It specifically looks at both the ways women in publishing and writing were objectified into tropes and but also their growing authority in Renaissance publishing and how that affected a shift in notions of emerging authorship.

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Broomhall, S. (2002). Women and the book trade in sixteenth-century France. Ashgate.

This book's focus is on women's roles in the life cycle of the Sixteenth-Century French book trade; from authors, to printers, copyists, publishers, dealers. The author takes us on a comprehensive look at women's contribution to printed material and asks the reader to consider how women's roles in publishing profoundly, in unique ways, changed the course of manuscripts and book circulation.

[https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI\\_UIU/gpjosq/alma99357858612205899](https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIU/gpjosq/alma99357858612205899)

Campbell, J. D. (2016). Early modern women and transnational communities of letters. , ROUTLEDGE.

This book is another valuable contribution on women's role in book culture of the Renaissance. It is a broad examination of women writers and publishers and the changing landscapes of early modern Europe: bilingualism, and multiculturalism and how this impacted both the polarity of identity of women and of the book.

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Goldsmith, E. C., & Goodman, D. (1995). Going public: Women and publishing in early modern France. Cornell University Press.

This book explores the public face of women in the book trade in the Renaissance, by their publications and how that influenced culture and public life. The focus of this book is the intersection of gender and publicity. There is particular attention given to Yolande Bonhomme, a French printer and seller of liturgical and devotional books in Paris during the Renaissance.

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Jimenes, R., & Chartier, R. (2017). Charlotte Guillard: Une Femme imprimeur à la renaissance. Presses universitaires François-Rabelais de Tours.

This book examines one women's life as a Sixteenth- Century book-trader, printer and publisher in Paris. It explores how women came to own publishing houses during this time, their life, how their unique lens might have impacted their business decisions and indelible impact on the printing world.

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Lupton, E., Kafei, F., Tobias, J., Halstead, J. A., Sales, K., Xia, L., Vergara, V., & Lupton, E. (2021).  
Extra bold: A feminist inclusive anti-racist Nonbinary Field Guide for Graphic Designers.  
Princeton Architectural Press.

This field guide contains critical essays that link feminism, gender and the publishing world. It is useful when linking contemporaneous points of view on gender to the infancy of publishing of Renaissance women. The Renaissance French printer, Jeanne de Marnef Pernette du Guillet is included in these essays of how women (and various gender identities) are still exploring ways to navigate power structures in publishing and thereof see themselves linked to the first women of print.

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Parker, D. (1996). Women in the book trade in Italy, 1475-1620. Renaissance Society of America.

This article examines the participation of women in the book trade during the Renaissance in Italy and the Counter Reformation. This book explores their neglected histories and how their male counterparts perceived their presence within the printing profession.

<https://www-jstor-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/stable/2863365>

Servedo, G. (2005). Renaissance woman. I. B. Tauris.

Here the author tracks the revolutionary invention of print (in 1456) and the book to the often-quoted year 1492 and links it to Renaissance women's lives., the education afforded to them, how books also shaped the lives of some privileged women. These women climbed the ranks of influencers of power within the book trade and thus, shaped the very existence of print and created new generations of women and print.

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Smith, H. (2012). 'Grossly material things': Women and book production in early modern England.  
Oxford University Press.

Here the author provides a scholarly commentary on the way women shaped books of the English Renaissance as: authors, editors, translators, patrons, printers, booksellers, and readers. She employs source material such as, court records, letters, diaries, medical texts, and the books themselves to tease out the neglected histories of textual labors of women. The author pays special attention to the supposed sister of Shakespeare, Judith as an example to help reshape our notion of gendered authorship, creation and movement of text, that had profound political, religious and cultural affects reverberating still today.

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Sterna, K. I. (2009). *Women and the Reformation*. Blackwell.

This book examines the life of Renaissance printer, Margarethe Prüss, a German woman, who managed her late father Johann Prüss' printing shop, Zum Thiergarten in Strasbourg. She published illegal religious material while managing the shop when her spouse was imprisoned. This book is especially focused on remarking the influence on gender and printing during the Reformation.

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van Elk, M. (2020). 'famed as far as one finds books': Women in the Dutch and English book trades. *Women's Labour and the History of the Book in Early Modern England*, xiv( 318), 115-142.

<https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350110045.ch-006>

This writing is a lens into stationers in England and the Netherlands during the Renaissance. There is particular attention given to their business strategies and handlings, how they networked, how they drew in a wider audience for their printing, specialization and expanded their businesses. An analysis of the differences between English and Dutch culture is given when looking at the title page, how some women initial their name, how some erase gender or how some's names were erased all together. There is a comprehensive list of nearly sixty women stationers included.

<https://eds-s-ebscohost-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/eds/detail/detail?vid=2&sid=3d1d0a81-3051-4a86-ad70-0ecefef893d1b%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=202225647720&db=mzh>

Wall, W. (1993). *The imprint of gender: Authorship and publication in the English Renaissance*. Cornell University Press.

Here the complex notions of authorship are explored through the lens of controversial notions of gender in Renaissance England. The author examines how courtly society influenced the publication world and the life of a book. Within this framework, male authors were gender-bending, coopting the feminine as women were attempting to gain influence during the advent of printing culture.

[https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI\\_UIU/gpjosq/alma99357858612205899](https://i-share-uiu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIU/gpjosq/alma99357858612205899)

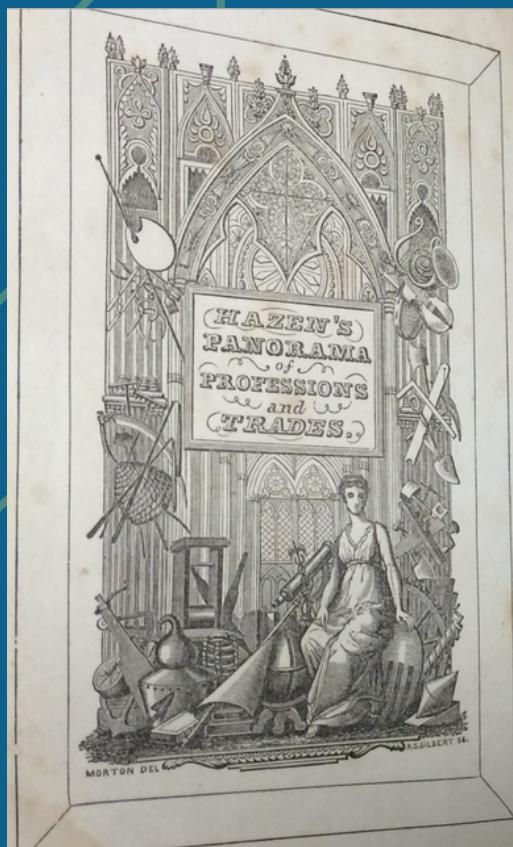
Women and conflict in the Iberian book trade, 1472–1700. (2019). Negotiating Conflict and Controversy in the Early Modern Book World, 129–141.  
[https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004402522\\_009](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004402522_009)

This article gives a glimpse of printing before 1701 by women in the Iberian region of Europe. Through examinations of imprints and colophons we are able to trace male lineage and authority, but often it negates the hand of women printers, editors and booksellers. By distinguishing women who grew into roles of authority, and bibliographical and legal records we can see a small window of how women transformed the direction of the print and vice versa.

<https://brill-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/view/book/edcoll/9789004402522/BP000010.xml>

Youngjin Chung. (2015). Women and the sixteenth-century English Book Trade. *Feminist Studies in English Literature*, 23(2), 171–209. <https://doi.org/10.15796/fsel.2015.23.2.007>

This essay looks at the extent women were engaged with Renaissance culture by tracing women printers, publishers, and booksellers. There is particular attention given to how ordinary women were involved in all stages of literary achievements. This text asks us to consider new ways to examine material cultural from a critical perspective with less bias. This essay gives bibliographic detail to specific figures, Catherine van Ruremund, Elizabeth Pickering/Redman, Joan Orwin, and Joan Broome in printing history as well as anonymous women.



Figures I, II, III:  
from the Rare Books Collection in the University of Maryland Libraries. Published in the Panorama of Professions, These images showcase women in the print trade .

Figure III