

The Slovak National Library
Department of Administration and Processing of Historical
Library Collections and Historical Library Documents
is inviting you to

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Ars typographica antiqua*

21. – 23. 4. 2026

Slovak National Library is inviting you to the international conference dedicated to the history of book culture, with a particular focus on prints from the 15th – 17th centuries. The conference will be held on 21st to 23rd April 2026 in the main building of SNL in Martin.

The earliest printed books represent a valuable part of cultural heritage. Although this type of print has already received scholarly attention, we would like to highlight less explored topics. Ambition of the conference is to present contributions focused on the development of the printed book during this period, the individuals and phenomena involved in its production (authors, printers, proofreaders, illuminators, bookbinders, patrons, etc.), as well as transformations in book market and distribution.

Conference themes may include the following topics:

- *Codices versus incunabula* – how the manuscript book influenced the appearance and layout of early prints, and how these two media coexisted.
- *Typographic transformations* – the development of typesetting, printing type, title pages, and impressum.
- *Changes in the decoration of printed books* – the transition from illuminated to illustrated books, the evolution of typographic ornament (woodcuts, engravings).
- *From the Bible to fiction* – content and genre development of the earliest books (15th – 17th centuries).
- *Perception of early prints* – views on incunabula and 16th-century prints in the past, collecting, preservation, cataloguing.
- *Methodology of early print research* – script typology, study of historical bindings and blind-stamping tools, research on watermarks, etc.
- *Interdisciplinarity in early print studies* – connections between book history, history, archaeology, art history, history of science and technology, conservation, etc.
- *Projects and databases* devoted to the research and accessibility of early prints, as well as innovative forms of presentation.

Please send the completed application form no later than
28 February 2026 to: daniela.skulova@snk.sk.

Participants are also invited to submit their conference papers as scholarly articles to the editorial board of the journal *Kniha*.*

* Publishing of an article in journal *Kniha* is regulated by journal's rules.
More information: casopiskniha.snk.sk.