



Editors

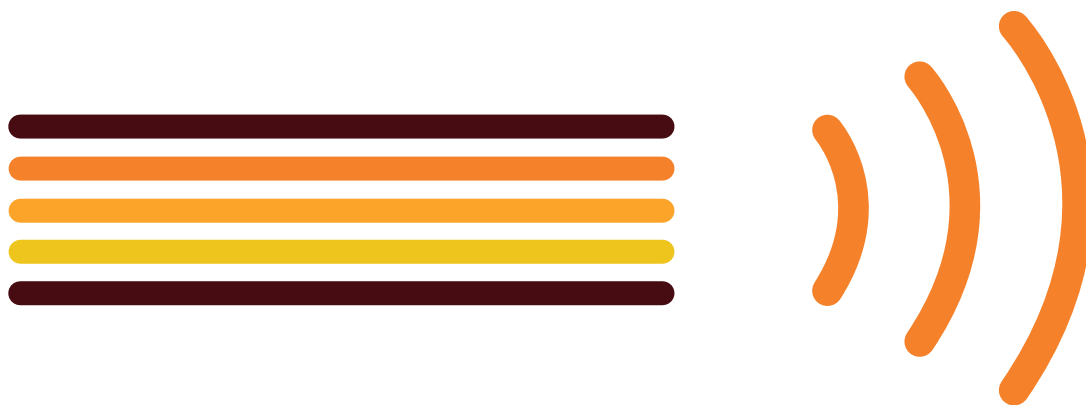
Lluís Agustí
Maite Comalat

ANUARI

DE L'OBSERVATORI

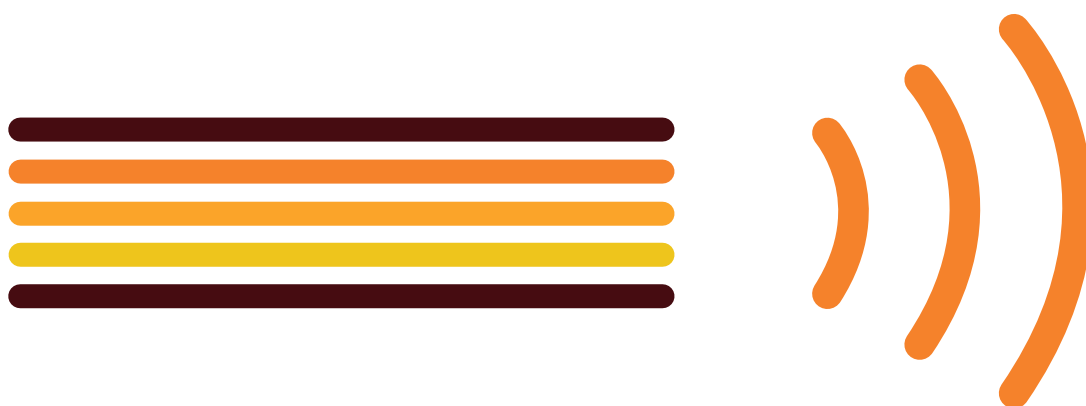
DE BIBLIOTEQUES, LLIBRES I LECTURA

2014





INTRODUCTION



This is the first part of the third edition of the yearbook published by the UB's Observatory on libraries, books and reading books, which, like the previous editions, reflects the state of the art and describes the Observatory's activities in the previous two years, 2012 and 2013.

This year we have introduced some major novelties with respect to the two previous editions in order to raise the yearbook's visibility and impact.

First, we have decided to broaden the scope of analysis with a set of new chapters which, without diverging greatly from the contents of previous years, offer a broader view of what is happening in the world of books and libraries.

Second, we have introduced changes in the distribution and dissemination of the yearbook. As you will see, this year's edition will be published in parts, with an open in progress issue following the model known by the acronym ASAP (as soon as publishable/as soon as possible), so the articles will appear periodically over the course of the year. Through the regular input of articles and through the social networks (see our Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/Obs.BLL>) we aim to open up the debate with our readers on our website (<http://www.ub.edu/obll/informes-estudis/anuari-sobre-biblioteques-llibres-i-lectura-2012-2013-vol-3>).

Although the articles will be published according to their order of arrival, once complete, the yearbook will have a clear structure consisting of the following areas: history; books and publishing; libraries, and reading. As in previous editions the articles have been entrusted to researchers and professionals who are experts in these fields. Nevertheless, the articles are designed to be read individually and all present different points of view and analyses. The occasional overlap of the subject matter means that inevitably certain themes appear in more than one article, since they reflect the points of view of all the protagonists of the reading process – publishers, school libraries and bookstores, and researchers.

The articles will be assigned to four blocks. The first block will be dedicated to history, with three studies covering the history of printing and publishing, reading, and libraries and archives. The second block deals with books and publishing, with studies of the interaction between publishers and libraries, books for children and adolescents (both fiction and non-fiction), and research on publishing and reading habits, easy reading, periodicals and the book trade. The third section is devoted to libraries, extending the analysis to heritage centres and research libraries in addition to standard contributions on public and school libraries. And finally, the fourth block focuses on reading, with articles on the most significant groups (children, young people and university students), and one designed for digital reading, in addition to studies and research on reading and its promotion in public libraries and schools. The yearbook closes with a collection of the leading references for each section and, as a novelty, a section presenting the most significant data for these two years.

Please spread the word!

*Lluís Agustí
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Barcelona, October 1st, 2014

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