

ABSTRACT

Institutional libraries played a leading role in the circulation of books in the nineteenth century. Studying the cultural activities of an institution like the Palatina library in Florence can bring to light a network of publishing and commercial connections which in its significance goes well beyond the territorial limits of the Grand Duchy. This essay examines the activity of Giuseppe Molini junior, the Florentine bookseller and publisher who in the first half of the nineteenth century was also responsible for running the library of Leopold II. Through the contacts he had made in the course of his publishing activity, Molini was able to increase substantially the holdings of the Palatina library, while also reorganising the collections and forging links with numerous booksellers and printers both in Italy and in northern Europe.