

ESTONIA

Electronic RNB database (books printed to 1850 are included):

<https://www.nlib.ee/en/national-bibliography> (not available at this moment)

Period covered: 1525-1940

Identity number: ERRB (*Eesti retrospektiivse rahvusbibliograafia / Estonian retrospective national bibliography*)

Database contents:

- 1) book in Estonian language printed during 1525–1917;
- 2) Estonian-language periodicals issued in 1766–1940;
- 3) foreign language books related to Estonia published in Estonia and abroad till 1940;
- 4) foreign language periodicals related to Estonia published in Estonia and abroad during 1675–1940

Responsible institution: the National Library of Estonia; the Academic Library of Tallinn University (was earlier, not any more). Contact for questions about ERRB: baltika@tlulib.ee

Selection criteria: 1) all publications in Estonian language; 2) all publications issued in Estonia; 3) works about Estonia and Estonians and works by Estonian authors published abroad.

- Information about early printed books can be found in the Union Catalogue with Estonian publications – “ESTER”:
https://www.ester.ee/search~S95*est

Identity number: ESTER

ESTER is a union catalogue representing the holdings of 15 major Estonian libraries belonging to the ELNET Consortium and their partner libraries. These include the National Library of Estonia, Tallinn University, and University of Tartu. Currently, the catalogue reflects the holding locations for almost 9 million items. Although the ESTER Catalogue has been in existence since 1999, it used to be split into two separate catalogues: ESTER Tallinn and ESTER Tartu. The joint catalogue was launched in July 2014 and is still in the beta phase as data is migrated from the old catalogues. The catalogue offers advanced search options, including the capacity to search for holdings in a particular library.

Information about Estonian publications issued before 1850 is contained in printed catalogues and bibliographies:

- *Eestikeelne raamat 1525-1850*, ed. by E. Annus. Tallin: Eesti Akadeemiline Raamatukogu, 2000. 703 p.

This bibliography includes books and periodicals in Estonian and other languages published in Estonia, as well as books published about Estonia and by Estonian authors. The list of periodicals in foreign languages includes those published abroad, which have continuously published information about Estonia and were intended for Estonian readers. There is a lot of information about the contents and authors of the books: biographies of the authors, lists of published literature about the authors and books, print numbers, titles of the original translated works, illustrators, etc.

- *Eesti võõrkeelne raamat ja Estonica 1494–1830*. Tallinn: Tallinna Ülikooli Akadeemilise Raamatukogu (is preparing to print)

This bibliography covers Estonian foreign language books and Estonica, i.e. books with an Estonia aspect issued in 1494-1830. It does not contain Russian language publications, as Russian language publications were planned to gather in a separate bibliography.

The bibliography is not yet printed. The unique printout copy in four bindings is available at the Academic Library, but the bibliography records have been after that in the editing process: the descriptions have been edited and corrected, even some new findings have been added so that the existing printout copy has already become 'old'. Whether it will be published on paper or electronically, it still needs some language editing, correction and layout before making it public for use. Almost all bibliographic descriptions are available in the electronic catalogue ESTER although the search might be quite difficult, especially when the text has no author. During the period of time covered by the bibliography there were no Estonian authors – all the authors were from the other nations who lived in Estonia at that time, mainly Germans (Baltic Germans) and Swedes. The special selection principles of authors and their works was elaborated for this bibliography (*information from dr. Tiiu Reimo, see below*).

Verified by: Kaja Tiisel, the Head of the Baltica and Old Books Conservation Department of the Academic Library of Tallinn University: kaja.tiisel@tlulib.ee

Anne-Ly Utsar, the National Library of Estonia: anne-ly.utsar@nlib.ee

dr. Tiiu Reimo, the Academic Library of Tallinn University (retired): tiureimo@gmail.com – she was the member of the group, which was compiling the retrospective national bibliography of foreign books published in Estonia and Estonica printed before 1830