

REPORT

BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Bologna, Italy
March 24-27, 2014



No matter what your specialty is, it's hard not to find something magical about children's books: from the beautifully illustrated, to the allegorical, to the intense page turners, the universality of children's literature makes it an allure for people of all ages and backgrounds. Whether because of this, or in spite of this (depending on your perspective), there's no question that the business of children's books is a big one. Coupling this thesis with the beauty (and the food) easily found in Bologna, Italy, The Bologna Children's Book Fair remains a thrice-circled event on the publishing calendar.

The 2014 edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair brought together 1,200 exhibitors from 75 countries and 25 thousand professional and trade visitors—an all around increase from 2013. Middle grade and realistic YA fiction seemed to dominate a lot of conversation, but the picture book market remains as strong as ever, with lots of buying and selling taking place throughout the fair. Series were also very popular, particularly from agents and publishers from different countries in Asia.

The Combined Book Exhibit, in its prime location in Hall 26, always draws a lot of attention, representing hundreds of English language titles. Some of the most popular titles in the Combined Book Exhibit came from **Conker Books**, **Calithumpian Press**, **Bella & Harry**, **Green Kids Press**, and **Outskirts Press**. By the end of the fair, about 300 CBE catalogs had been taken by attendees and exhibitors.

This year's booth representatives were Jon Malinowski and Janet Fritsch. Next Year's Bologna Children's Book Fair will take place in the same venue, with the dates still pending.