

Events

51st General Assembly of BETH

Challenges of Ecclesiastical Libraries in Europe

Location: Episcopal Palace, Cordoba, Spain

Dates: 30th September - 4th October 2023

All kinds of ecclesiastical institutions today are under pressure. Membership numbers are falling. Seminaries are facing fewer and fewer student numbers and are sometimes even forced to close, and monasteries are struggling with fewer and fewer vocations and are sometimes dissolved or merged with another monastery of the same order.

This has major consequences for the libraries attached to these institutions. In recent decades, dozens of ecclesiastical libraries scattered across Europe have closed down, the collections are either gathering dust, or have been sold, dispersed, and sometimes even ended up in the recycling bin.

At the upcoming BETH conference in Córdoba, however, we do not want to mourn what is lost, but want to reflect together on how we as librarians should act when the survival of a library is at risk.

