Earliest surviving example of an illustrated herbal, in Greek, from Egypt, circa 400
Wellcome Library, United Kingdom, www.wdl.org/3959

*Codex Amiatinus*, earliest surviving manuscript of the complete Bible in the Latin Vulgate, circa 688–713
Medicea Laurenziana Library, Florence, www.wdl.org/20150

*Hyakumanto Darani*, world’s oldest publication for which the date of production is known, Japan, 770
National Diet Library, Japan, www.wdl.org/2927

Oldest Islamic text held in North America, circa 700–799

*Lex Baiuvariorum* (Bavarian law), oldest surviving Latin document of any extent composed in Bavaria, Germany, circa 820–830
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/8941

Oldest known European musical neumes (notations), 889

*Gospels*, oldest Armenian codex in North America, 966
The Walters Art Museum, www.wdl.org/13011

Only surviving manuscript of the complete text of the epic and dramatic works of the first German poetess, Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, circa 1000–1099
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/13458

First comprehensive, chronologically-organized history of China (one juan out of 294 owned by the NLC), 1070

Oldest surviving document in Catalan, 1080

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1 Contains items released to the site through June 9, 2017
Codex Colombino, only surviving pre-Columbian codex held in Mexico, circa 1100–1199
National Institute of Anthropology and History INAH, Mexico, www.wdl.org/3245

Song dynasty edition of the first Chinese literary anthology, 1161
National Central Library, www.wdl.org/7102

Earliest claim of intellectual property in Chinese publishing, circa 1190–1194
National Central Library, www.wdl.org/7098

Earliest printed edition of the oldest surviving work on Chinese medicine, circa 1115–1234

Earliest surviving map to have grid marks indicating scale, China, 1136

The Dresden Codex, circa 1200–circa 1250, oldest and best preserved of the four surviving Mayan codices
Saxon State and University Library, Dresden, www.wdl.org/11621

Al-Maqāmāt al-ḥarīriyah (The assemblies of al-Hariri), copied and illustrated by Yahya ibn Mahmud al-Wasiti, often called the first Arab artist, Iraq, circa 1236–1237

Oldest illuminated Hebrew manuscript of German origin, Würzburg, circa 1233
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18186

Äldre Västgotalagen (Old Västergötland Law), oldest legal text written in Old Swedish in Latin script and the oldest copy of Sweden’s medieval provincial laws, 1240

The Song of the Nibelungs (Codex A), oldest surviving text of the Nibelungenlied, circa 1275
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/4116

Oldest known manuscript of Kitāb ‘Ajā’ib al-makhlūqāt wa-gharā’ib al-mawjūdāt (The wonders of creation), the most important Islamic cosmology, from Iraq, 1280
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/8962
Sachsenspiegel (The Saxon mirror), the first law book in German, circa 1295–1363, Saxon State and University Library, Dresden, [www.wdl.org/11620](http://www.wdl.org/11620)

Only surviving manuscript in the world to contain (except for two missing leaves) the complete text of the Babylonian Talmud, France, 1342
Bavarian State Library, [www.wdl.org/8910](http://www.wdl.org/8910)

The Book of Taliesin, the earliest mention in any Western vernacular (Welsh) of the feats of Hercules and Alexander the Great, circa 1350–1400
National Library of Wales, [www.wdl.org/4055](http://www.wdl.org/4055)

Only extant large work of Jan Hus in his own hand (collection of writings by John Wycliffe copied by Hus), 1398
National Library of Sweden, [www.wdl.org/14296](http://www.wdl.org/14296)

Oldest existing Japanese manuscript relating to the art of swordsmithing, 1423
National Diet Library, Japan, [www.wdl.org/7352](http://www.wdl.org/7352)

Revelations of Saint Bridget of Sweden, oldest translation from Latin into Old Swedish, circa 1400–1451
National Library of Sweden, [www.wdl.org/14297](http://www.wdl.org/14297)

Le Livre de la Cité des dames (The book of the city of ladies), most important work of Christine de Pisan, first major female European author, 1405
National Library of France, [www.wdl.org/4391](http://www.wdl.org/4391)

Ottheinrich Bible, earliest surviving illustrated manuscript of the New Testament in German, 1430
Bavarian State Library, [www.wdl.org/4106](http://www.wdl.org/4106)

The Bellifortis (Strong in war), first fully illustrated manual of military technology, 1430
Bavarian State Library, [www.wdl.org/18408](http://www.wdl.org/18408)

Gutenberg Bible, the first great book printed in Europe from movable metal type, 1455
Library of Congress, [www.wdl.org/7782](http://www.wdl.org/7782)
Bavarian State Library, [www.wdl.org/4102](http://www.wdl.org/4102)
Psalterium Benedictinum, earliest book printed by the Benedictine order; third book printed on Gutenberg’s press in Mainz, 1459; also known as the first book with a printed colophon
Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, www.wdl.org/9921
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18192

Stöger Passion, first book to have been printed in Bavaria and probably the very first illustrated incunabulum, 1461
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18180

The Rubrics of the First Book of Lactantius Firmianus's On the Divine Institutes Against the Pagans, first dated Italian imprint, Subiaco, 1465
University Library of Naples, www.wdl.org/4172

Codex of Munich, the oldest book of Gospels in the Hungarian language, part of the so-called Hussite Bible, the only written vestige of Hussitism in Hungary, 1466
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18406

The Mentelin Bible, first printed Bible in the German language, Strasbourg, 1466
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18191

Leaf from the earliest complete printing in Latin of Avicenna’s Canon medicinae, 1473
Qatar National Library, www.wdl.org/3886

Stern des Meschiah (Star of the Messiah), first German printed book using Hebrew typeface, Esslingen, 1477
Bavarian State Library, www.wdl.org/18185

First arithmetic printed on the Iberian Peninsula and possibly the second printed in Europe, 1482

Earliest published images showing the New World, 1493

First printed edition of Columbus’s first letter from the New World to include woodcut illustrations, 1494
First "portable book" designed for ease of carrying, with very early use of italics by the inventor of italic typeface, 1501
Berlin State Library, www.wdl.org/6587

Waldseemüller Map, first map to depict a discrete Western hemisphere and first map to use the name America, 1507

Urbathagirq (The book of Fridays), first book printed in Armenian, 1512

Complutensian Polyglot Bible, first multilingual printed edition of the entire Bible, 1514
National Library of Spain, www.wdl.org/10636

Earliest European picture of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán (Mexico City), 1522

First Latin edition of Cortes’s second letter from Mexico, 1524

Earliest known map on which the name Terra australis appears, 1531

First atlas in which paper (as opposed to parchment) is used, circa 1539
National Library of Spain, www.wdl.org/10090

Earliest printed edition of the Qur’an in any language (Latin translation of Robert of Ketton), Basel, 1543
Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, www.wdl.org/9922

First translation of the Bible into Sorbian, 1548
Berlin State Library, www.wdl.org/7491

First printing of the New Testament in Syriac, Vienna, 1555
Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, www.wdl.org/9917

Sumatra, first map of an Indonesian island based on empirical surveys, Italy, 1556
Qatar National Library, www.wdl.org/17565

First book printed in Bulgarian, 1566
First sea chart engraved and printed on copperplate, Rome, 1569
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, www.wdl.org/6765

First known printed map of Denmark, 1570
The Royal Library, Denmark, www.wdl.org/11259

Earliest accurate map of Cologne, Germany, 1571

First edition of *Os Lusiadas* (The Lusiads), the Portuguese national epic, 1572
National Library of Portugal, www.wdl.org/14160

Earliest extant map of Jiangxi Province, China, circa 1573–1620

First dated imprint published in Ukraine, 1574

*Florentine Codex*, first encyclopedic work about the people and culture of central Mexico, compiled by Fray Bernardino de Sahagúin, 1577
Medicea Laurenziana Library, Florence, www.wdl.org/10096

First work printed in the territory of Slovakia in the Slovak language, 1581
Slovak National Library, www.wdl.org/14224

First known South American imprint (four-page edict), Peru, 1584

First book printed in South America; first book printed in Quechua and Aymara, 1584
National Library of Peru, www.wdl.org/13746

Library of the National Academy of the Lincei and of the Corsini Family
www.wdl.org/10006

First modern atlas (Ortelius), 1587
Museum Plantin-Moretus/Print Room, Antwerp, Belgium, www.wdl.org/8978

Earliest engraving of any city or territory now part of the United States (Saint Augustine, Florida), 1589
State Library and Archives of Florida, www.wdl.org/3936
First book printed in the Philippines and the first book in Tagalog, 1593

Oldest and best-known popular depiction of the city of Bratislava, 1593
Slovak National Library, www.wdl.org/14231

Earliest extant printed Shakespeare play, Titus Andronicus, 1594
Folger Shakespeare Library, www.wdl.org/11291

First printed edition of Genji monogatari (The tale of Genji), the world’s first great novel, 1596–1615
National Diet Library, Japan, www.wdl.org/2930

First printed edition of eighth-century Nihon shoki (Chronicle of Japan), 1599
National Diet Library, Japan, www.wdl.org/11835

Oldest surviving map in Chinese to depict the Americas, 1602
James Bell Ford Library, University of Minnesota, www.wdl.org/4136

First modern study of Egyptian hieroglyphics, 1602

First account of Champlain’s voyage to America, 1603

First printed edition of Don Quixote, 1605
National Library of Spain, www.wdl.org/7323

William Shakespeare, first folio edition of the plays, 1623
Folger Shakespeare Library, www.wdl.org/11290

First concise geography in Chinese, 1623

Earliest detailed account of the voyage around the world by Sir Francis Drake, 1628

First work on Western agricultural hydraulic technology introduced to China, 1612
First Chinese book introducing Western mechanics and machine engineering to China, 1628
National Central Library, www.wdl.org/7104

First book printed in Georgian, 1629

The Bay Psalm Book, first book printed in British North America, 1640

First world map published in Japan, 1671
National Diet Library, Japan, www.wdl.org/11851

First scientific mapping of Spain and the oldest known image of Aragon, 1675–1700
National Library of Spain, www.wdl.org/7325

Only written document confirming the family tree of the Sufi mystic and poet Khodzha Akhmed Iassavi, the earliest known poet to write in a Turkish dialect, 1687
National Library of Kazakhstan, www.wdl.org/7320

First book printed in Romanian, 1698
Romanian Academy Library, www.wdl.org/7776

First scientific map of the Philippines, 1734
National Library of Spain, www.wdl.org/10089

First detailed map of Greenland, 1737
The Royal Library, Denmark, www.wdl.org/11258

First book printed in Quebec, 1765
Quebec National Library and Archives, www.wdl.org/15552

Oldest manuscript transcription of Haydn’s Maria Theresia Symphony, 1769
Slovak National Library, www.wdl.org/14223

First detailed mapping of the eastern coast of Australia, circa 1771
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, www.wdl.org/6772,
First large-scale, detailed map of Poland, 1772
National Library of Belarus, www.wdl.org/11294

First printed edition of the Declaration of Independence, 1776
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, www.wdl.org/2716

First history of the Armenian people, 1784

First Arabic translation of the works of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, 1787
The American University in Cairo Rare Books and Special Collections Library, www.wdl.org/11340

Isaiah Thomas, A Curious Hieroglyphick Bible, or, Select Passages in the Old and New Testaments, first American hieroglyphic Bible, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1788

First printed edition of The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, 1789

Only known work in the hand of Ukrainian composer Artemiĭ Vedel’, 1796–98

First printed work of Ukrainian literature written in the popular language, 1798

First complete atlas of Latvia and Estonia, 1791–98

Earliest systematic study of Aztec artifacts, by Antonio León y Gama, considered the first Mexican archaeologist, 1792

First accurate navigation chart of the Galapagos Islands, 1798

First map of Japan based on actual measurements, 1804
National Diet Library, Japan, www.wdl.org/11825

First pocket atlas of the Kingdom of Hungary, 1804
Slovak National Library, www.wdl.org/14210
First known representations of Haitian independence leader Toussaint L’Ouverture, 1805

First book published in modern Bulgarian, 1806

*Kharkhiv Democritus*, first comical and satirical periodical published in Ukraine, 1816
Central Scientific Library of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, www.wdl.org/14750

First map to show the United States as a continental state bordering the Pacific, 1816

*Jihādīyyah* (Treatise on holy war), first book printed in Iran, 1817
National Library and Archives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, www.wdl.org/10611

*Cherokee Phoenix*, first Native American newspaper, 1828

National Diet Library, www.wdl.org/11836

*Aritmetika*, first arithmetic textbook published in Bulgarian, 1833
Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, www.wdl.org/12879

First book printed in New Mexico, 1834

First large-scale map of the Wisconsin Territory based on surveys, 1837
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, www.wdl.org/6769

First translation of the Bible into Aleut, 1840

First major work of scholarly archeology in the United States and the first publication of the Smithsonian Institution, 1848
Smithsonian Institution, www.wdl.org/4301
First translation of the New Testament into modern Bulgarian, 1850

First edition of Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, 1855

Item from the first photographic survey of Russian Central Asia, 1872

First large-scale photographic survey of China, 1873–74
Yale University Library, www.wdl.org/3083

Volume of the first world history written in Arabic, 1879
Qatar National Library, www.wdl.org/12942

Earliest motion pictures shown to audiences by projection on a screen (Lumière Brothers), 1897

“First Flight,” photograph by John T. Daniels of the Wright Brothers’ first flight, 1903

Film of Theodore Roosevelt in Panama, first overseas visit by a U.S. president while in office, 1906

First large-scale color photographic survey of Russia and the Russian Empire, 1905–15

First Pashto work printed in Afghanistan, 1916

First women’s magazine published in Iraq, 1923