

CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Job Advert

PROJECT OFFICER, Europeana Libraries

About the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

The Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) is an active community of more than 190 libraries with notable holdings of early printed material. In close relationship with the community of scholars and researchers in the field of the European printed and written heritage, CERL has, since its foundation in 1994, provided services for both its member libraries and the scholarly community. The Consortium was established to bring together all information on books printed in Europe during the hand-press period (c. 1450 – c. 1830) in the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (formerly the Hand Press Book Database (HPB)). More recently CERL developed the CERL Thesaurus, the CERL Portal and the Material Evidences in Incunabula (MEI) database. The mission of CERL for 2010-2015 has been summarized as:

- supporting the study of the book heritage of Europe by developing services that support integrated access to high-quality data;
- developing and maintaining a suite of sophisticated tools appropriate for the study of printed and written heritage materials of Europe by pooling resources and expertise;
- contributing to joint initiatives for the development of the digital infrastructure for the humanities, including the development and implementation of standards, especially those that facilitate interoperability.

The Project

CERL is a partner in the Europeana Libraries project, which during its 2-year life-span (until 31 December 2012) will bring the digital collections of some of Europe's leading research libraries to Europeana. Funded by the European Commission's IST-PSP programme, Europeana Libraries will be the first cultural digitisation project to investigate full-text searching of the 5 million objects it adds to Europeana. Europeana Libraries is notable not only for the content it will make available online but also because this project brings together national, research and university libraries under the umbrella of The European Library, which in this project is moving closer to establishing itself as Europeana's Library domain aggregator. A Project Officer is sought to work with the project partners to present an overview of the current library and aggregation landscape in Europe, and to formulate models to support the development of a robust, automated delivery system which any library can use to aggregate its content into The European Library, Europeana and other services for researchers.

The Position

Supported by staff at CERL, and under the supervision of the Work Package leader, University College London, you will undertake desk research to model the library-domain landscape in Europe, building on previous aggregator surveys (e.g. Europeana Travel, Europeana/Athena, etc.). To support this desk research you will conduct interviews with key stakeholders from the national, research, university and public libraries in Europe, and report your results. Using the knowledge gained in this research, you will develop a range of models for the aggregation of digital content into Europeana.

This process will be followed up by examining financial issues. You will identify the costs of supporting the library-domain aggregation scenarios, including investigation of outsourcing of content ingestion. You will participate in the research into Value Propositions for each of the stake holders as envisaged in the Work Package. Ultimately, all results will feed into the development of a business, financing and governance model for The European Library.

Your tasks relate to those in other work packages, and in this context you will liaise with other project officers, assist in the creation and validation of business and functional requirements for

an ingestion infrastructure that will scale, and in the communication of the activities of the Europeana Libraries project.

For the Consortium of European Research Libraries, you will work with the Executive Manager towards the implementation of the CERL Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and in the communication of CERL activities to its members and the community at large.

Your knowledge and experience

The key aspects of the role are analysis and communication, liaison and networking.

Essential

- Experience of data collection, analysis and reporting – including tailoring reports for different audiences
- Sensitivity to the needs and wishes of libraries across Europe that vary in size, wealth, technical know-how, target audiences, etc.
- Numerate and an understanding of business costings as they apply in the library sector
- Understanding of the aims of Europeana and The European Library
- Ability to liaise effectively with colleagues in professional networks, such as CERL, LIBER and CENL
- Ability to liaise effectively with technical staff
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good presentation skills, including tailoring presentations for different audiences
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to prioritise, organise and balance a complex workload
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Willingness to travel

Desirable

- Experience of project work
- Experience of writing documentation for the Web and promotional materials
- Awareness and understanding of issues and initiatives in the aggregation of scholarly materials
- Affinity with written and printed heritage collections

Benefits

You will be based in a shared office in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, Den Haag. The CAO (Collective Labour Agreement) of Dutch Research Institutions applies (CAO-OI). As per this CAO the gross monthly salary is a minimum of € 2,487 and a maximum of € 3,427 (scale 9 full time, excluding 8% holiday bonus and 8.33% 'December bonus'). The post is full time, up to and including December 2012, with a trial period of five months.

Further information

For further information, please contact Drs Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (marian.lefferts@cerl.org), or telephone +31 70 3140135 (not on Monday). For information about CERL, see <http://www.mdrpartners.com/index.php?q=projects/europeana-libraries> and www.cerl.org.

To apply for this post

Please send your letter of application, accompanied by your CV (both in English) and the names and contact information for two referees, to Drs Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager, Postbus 90407, NL-2509 Den Haag, The Netherlands. The closing date is 21 February 2011. You may also send in your application via e-mail to marian.lefferts@cerl.org; please put CERL – Application for Project Officer, Europeana Libraries, in the subject line.