

Security Network mailing list

Libraries and Archives may join the Security Network (please contact CERL, details overleaf). Each member may nominate one member of staff (typically the Head of Security or equivalent) to participate in the Security Network mailing list. This mailing list is a secure environment for the exchange of confidential information regarding incidents of criminal activity witnessed in member institutions.

Over the years, there have been numerous examples of the same thief targeting libraries and archives across the European Continent and North America. The Security Network mailing list functions as an early warning system. The aim is that through the exchange of information the time frame during which thieves can proceed unhindered can be reduced.



Bochart Samuel: Opera omnia hoc est Phalag, Chanaan et Hierozoicon. Ed. 4. Lugduni Batavorum 1712 ; 2o. – A Map after page 332 (Phoenician trade routes) incised (ready to remove). Warsaw University Library Inv. No. GSD 7.13.4.5

Security Network Conferences

- The 5th Collection Security Conference (now under the auspices of CERL), took place at the Vatican Library on 8 May 2015. Programme and presentations are available from the CERL website.
- The 4th LIBER Collection Security Conference took place on Friday 23 November 2012 at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands. The programme and power point presentations are available www.kb.nl/ (search for 'collection security conference').
- Papers and presentations held at the 3rd LIBER Collection Security Conference (2008) are published in LIBER Quarterly 18:2 (2008) liber.library.uu.nl/index.php/lq/issue/view/461.

CERL Electronic Resources

The Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB)

The HPB offers scholars in all disciplines convenient and reliable access to over 5 million records of the European printed heritage from c. 1455 to c. 1830.

The CERL Thesaurus (CT)

The CERL Thesaurus contains forms of names for imprint places, persons and corporate bodies, printers and their devices, as well as provenance information.

The CERL Portal (CP)

The CP enables scholars to search across the contents of online manuscript databases, in combination with selected large databases of printed materials, thereby overcoming the historical differentiation of printed books and manuscripts in libraries.

Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)

MEI is a database for recording and searching the material evidence of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

Can You Help? – Identifying Provenance Evidence

This is a resource for public discussion and identification of provenance queries. It allows the sharing of queries with an extensive network of specialists and the contribution of expertise.



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CERL Security Network

Safeguarding Europe's book heritage

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES



The CERL Working Group on security focuses on threats posed to collections by criminal activity, such as theft, wilful destruction, or by the adulteration of collection items. Other physical threats to collections, such as fire, earthquakes, terrorism or flooding are only within the group's remit in so far as they have an impact on the collections' vulnerability to criminal depredation.

To this end the Security Network aims

- To coordinate information about on-going security issues of relevance for collections within the scope of CERL, through the CERL Library Security Network and through other appropriate channels
- To monitor and disseminate information on emerging methods and technologies in library crime prevention and detection
- To identify emerging areas of vulnerability or concern
- To coordinate access to important documents on legislation, policy and practice relating to collection security
- To provide guidance on building robust collection security policy and practice relating to threats to collections
- To organise events for information exchange, as well as skills development
- To serve as an interface with security networks in related sectors



Royal Grammar School, Guildford, chained library (via rgs-guildford.co.uk)

The Security Network is collaborating in a bench-marking exercise to canvas security policies and best-practices in libraries and archives throughout Europe. The aim is to produce a summary with high-level recommendations, and eventually a security standard (adaptable so that it can be implemented in institutions ranging from the very large to the very small).

Kristian Jensen (British Library) is Chairman of the Security Network:

'The CERL Security Network is set up as a safe environment for members to exchange information on thefts and on patterns of theft, and to work closely together on methods of detection and prevention. That way we can make life more difficult and more risky for thieves who want to steal from our collections and we can protect our collections better.'

In 2002, the following principles were agreed by all delegates at the LIBER Conference on Library Security Management (Copenhagen, 12-14 May 2002). The current Security Network is firmly committed to supporting its member libraries in adopting these principles.



Weighing books before issuing and after they are returned

- 1 The representatives of the national and research libraries present (hereafter called the representatives) agree to establish a new security network for trans-national co-operation between libraries in order to prevent and combat criminal offences against significant library collections.
- 2 The representatives accept that each national or research library is responsible for setting up its own security policies and security systems, but they endorse their commitment to co-operation as part of a wider security network.

- 3 The representatives agree to inform and assist one another in a secure network when a library is subject to potential or actual criminal attacks against its collections.
- 4 The representatives agree to commit themselves to defining and developing a common ethical code of practice on security information handled and exchanged among libraries.
- 5 The network will co-operate with the police at an international level.
- 6 The representatives agree to nominate a designated member of staff as the library contact for the network.
- 7 The designated staff (security managers) will share experiences on security issues and best practice with one another.
- 8 Information about security issues is confidential to the security network.
- 9 At the time, the representatives encouraged LIBER to establish cooperation on security issues with the book trade and with other memory institutions. Today, this is still very much part of the remit of the CERL Security Network.



*For more information on the
CERL Security Network
<http://www.cerl.org/collaboration/security>*