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CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN
RESEARCH LIBRARIES
NEWSLETTER

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Tenth Anniversary: 2004



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CERL is 10 years old

The 2004 Annual General Meeting, held at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh in November, marked the occasion of the tenth Anniversary of the official inauguration of the Consortium in June 1994.

Dr Zaitsev (National Library of Russia) presented the Chairman with a facsimile of Diogo Homem's Universal Atlas of 1565 from the National Library of Russia's collections to mark the anniversary.

The Consortium of European Research Libraries in 1994



Preparatory meeting in Lisbon, 1994.

From left to right: Dr Mike Smethurst, Dr Claudia Fabian, Dr Franz Georg Kaltwasser, Dr Ann Matheson, Dr François Dupruigrenet-Desrousilles, Dr Lotte Hellinga, Dr Ivan Boserup, Mr Chris Kirk.

Official inauguration of the Consortium on 16 June 1994 in the Chief Executive's office in the British Library at Great Russell Street, London.

From left to right, sitting, are Dr Ann Matheson (National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh), Dr Mike Smethurst (CERL Chairman and Director-General, British Library), Mr Philippe Béval (Director Général, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris), and Dr Hermann Leskien (Director, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich). Standing: Mr Chris Kirk (Consultant, KC Switch Enterprises Ltd, London) and Dr Lotte Hellinga (CERL Secretary and Deputy Keeper, British Library).



Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar, Germany

Libraries in the Consortium of European Research Libraries, as well as elsewhere, have been deeply saddened by the recent fire in the historic Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar, and the loss of part of the library's important historical collections. At the 2004 AGM, Consortium members resolved to do what they can to assist, and to convey their strong support to the Library's Director, Dr Michael Knoche, and his colleagues.

In recent contact with Ann Matheson, Dr Knoche has confirmed that the most important priorities for



Damaged books

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the Library at present are: (1) the restoration of the building; (2) the preservation of the books that have been damaged where this is possible; and (3) the replacement of the books that have been completely lost, where possible. Substantial progress is already being made on the first two of these priorities, and it is hoped that progress on the third – the provision of replacement copies for the Library's collections – may be assisted through co-operation with other libraries with historical book collections within Europe and internationally. A number of libraries have already helped by offering duplicate copies to the Library.

The Library's website (<http://www.anna-amalia-library.com>) hosts a database of the books that have been lost in the fire (<http://weias.ub.uni-weimar.de:8080/DB=2.2/LNG=EN/>). Libraries are warmly encouraged to consult this list and, if they can help in any way, to contact our colleagues in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek direct at Hilfe-Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek@swkk.de.

In Memoriam

Dr John Michael Smethurst



It is with the deepest regret that we announce the sad death on 18 October 2004, after a short illness, of Dr John Michael Smethurst, Chairman of the Consortium of European Research Libraries from 1994 to 2000. Michael Smethurst, or 'Mike' as he was known to many of us, was the initiator, with Dr Franz Georg Kaltwasser, of the conference on European co-operation on the online cataloguing of historical collections held in Munich in 1990 that led ultimately to the formal inauguration of the Consortium in 1994. He led the Consortium purposefully and deftly through its early years, and continued to be actively interested in its progress after he stepped down as Chairman.

Michael Smethurst had a long and distinguished career in UK librarianship. He studied at the University of Manchester, and then worked in Lancaster College, Bede College Durham and the University of Newcastle before coming to Scotland, first to Glasgow University Library in 1969, and then as University Librarian in the University of Aberdeen from 1972 to 1986. In that year, he joined the staff of the British Library as Director-General for London Services, and from 1995 until his retirement he was Deputy Chief Executive. Among his many public offices, he was President of LIBER from 1990 to 1995, and Chairman of the International ESTC Committee from 1986 to 1995.

Professionally, Mike Smethurst was meticulous, deeply collaboratively minded, and early aware that research libraries could achieve very much more for their users by working constructively together than any library could alone. He was both a European and an internationalist in his outlook. Personally, he was a man of great kindness and integrity, convivial and humorous, and he was at all times the most congenial of companions.

The deep sympathy of the Consortium and all its members is extended to Mrs Mary Smethurst, their son Matthew and daughter Laura, and to other family members.

Ann Matheson, Chairman

Obituaries:

The Independent, 26 October 2004, page 34
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,60-1344726,00.html>, 5 November 2004

The Scotsman, Tuesday 2 November 2004
http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=8161,
RLG TopShelf, Nov 2004

Whose book was it anyway: Book ownership and provenance

Annual study conference, CILIP Rare Books Group, held at New Hall, Cambridge, 7 – 9 September 2005.

The 2005 Rare Books Group residential conference addresses issues connected with the growing interest in provenance research, relevant for all those engaged in working with rare books or with helping readers trace ownership. Topics addressed will range from the broad (the intellectual gathering of scattered libraries; country houses and provenance research; the bookseller's perspective; where now in provenance research) to the precise (how to identify a coat of arms; dating the handwriting of inscriptions and annotations; the role of bindings in provenance research; cataloguing discrete collections). Speakers include: Elizabeth Danbury; Christopher De Hamel; Mirjam Foot; Margaret Lane Ford; Elisabeth Leedham-Green; Giles Mandelbrote; David McKitterick; John Morris; Mark Purcell and author of *Provenance Research in Book History*, David Pearson. Participants will have the opportunity to visit Ickworth House, Suffolk and various libraries within the University of Cambridge not normally accessible to the public in support of the themes discussed.

For details, contact Dr Karen Attar, Rare Books Librarian, Senate House Library, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. E-mail kattar@shl.lon.ac.uk.

Books and their owners: provenance information and the European cultural heritage

CERL Seminar 2004

The subject of provenance studies is proving to be very popular at the moment. A number of conferences have been announced recently with the history of ownership of books as a theme, often linked with topics such as the history of reading and literacy. CERL's 2004 Seminar on 'Books and their owners' took place at the National Library of Edinburgh on the day before the Consortium's Annual General Meeting. It proved to be a very successful day attended by about 60 people, both members of CERL and librarians and scholars from Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

The Seminar was opened by Dr David Pearson (University of London Research Library Services), a well-known author on the topic of provenance studies, who spoke on 'Provenance and rare book cataloguing: its importance and its challenges'. This was followed by reports on two Scottish projects. Dr James Knowles (Scottish Institute for Northern Renaissance Studies, University of Stirling) introduced a new project which plans to document the books and libraries of Scots of the early-modern period; Dr Anette Hagan and Ms Helen Vincent (Rare Book Collections, National Library of Scotland) gave a presentation on 'Cataloguing the Fort Augustus Collection' showing the complex origins of this ecclesiastical library, part of which started life in a monastic collection in Ratisbon.

After lunch, Dr Marina Venier (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome) spoke on 'The computerised archive of owners in the older publications database of SBN: the experience of the Central National Library of Rome', describing the origins of the library's historic collections in a series of confiscations during the 19th-century struggles for Italy's independence. Dr Bettina Wagner (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) introduced the online database of the BSB's incunable provenances in a paper entitled 'The world's largest collection of incunables and their provenances'. The Seminar finished with a paper by Dr Marianna Czapnik (Warsaw University Library) on 'Provenance Research as a Method for Reconstruction of Historical Collections' which discussed the many dispersals and destructions which have befallen historical collections in Warsaw over the centuries.

Following the Seminar, the National Library of Scotland invited participants to a reception for the opening of an exhibition called 'The Private Lives of Books'. It is intended to publish the papers of the Seminar (including the catalogue of the exhibition and a contribution from Dr Juergen Weber of the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar) as CERL Papers V. This volume should be ready for distribution at the 2005 Annual Meetings in Rome.

David Shaw, Secretary

The Private Lives of Books

Exhibition at the National Library of Scotland from 13 November 2004 until 31 January 2005.

'The Private Lives of Books' explores the unique relationships that develop between books and their owners, and reveals that many books in the Library's own collections have hidden stories to tell.

Highlights include: a children's book given to Robert Louis Stevenson by his nurse a few months before his fifth birthday, which shows pencil marks and could have been the inspiration for his future classics; a copy of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859) once owned by the disapproving Thomas Carlyle; the Gutenberg Bible and the Provost of Edinburgh who spent years trying to acquire one; and how one of the earliest Scottish books ended up in Russia. 'The Private Lives of Books' exhibition also reveals the secrets of books owned by ordinary people including: a Bible that was an exhibit in a court case; a book for blind people before Braille was invented; a Bible presented to a service-woman returning from the Second World War, and a library book 200 years overdue. The exhibition was organised on the occasion of the CERL Annual Meeting and Seminar, and can be visited at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, or <http://www.nls.uk/privatelivesofbooks/index.html>.

Dr Brian Hilyard, National Library of Scotland



Organisational news

Annual General Meeting, Edinburgh 13 November 2004: Chairman's Note

The Consortium's Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh, which took place in the anniversary year of the first decade of its formal inauguration in 1994, discussed a range of important issues, and made constructive progress in a number of areas. The Report of the Membership Group, chaired by Mrs Gunilla Jonsson of the Royal Library in Stockholm, was presented to members. This has arisen out of the decision at the 2003 AGM to examine ways of enabling into membership libraries with rich collections of early European printing, a large part of their contents virtually unknown to scholars, in countries with particularly adverse economic circumstances in particular parts of Europe, Central and South America and North Africa. The Report recommended that wide-ranging discretionary powers should be given to the Consortium's Directors to respond sympathetically to an individual case made by a library, or a group of libraries, in such circumstances. In addition, the Report advocated a more flexible form of group membership, in acknowledgement of the diverse ways in which research libraries are organised within Europe and beyond. The Report's recommendations were unanimously accepted by the members, and will be followed by a membership drive over the next year. The members also received the Treasurer's report, confirming that the Consortium's finances are stable, and a report on progress on the post-2006 contract for hosting the Hand Press Book (HPB) Database. Another very important report discussed was that of the Manuscripts Group, which has been examining the development for users of a federated searching facility across online manuscript databases, the HPB and the CERL Thesaurus. After discussion in the Advisory Technical Group, the Executive Committee recommended a further Stage 2 development of the pilot demonstrator, on the basis of the favourable response from user testers, and the members unanimously endorsed this approach. A progress report on the results of the Services questionnaire, which has had a high rate of return from members, was presented. It was agreed that an implementation plan for services with the highest priorities for members should be prepared, taking account of short-term low cost priorities (for which a budget of 10,000 Euro was set this year) and longer-term higher cost priorities for which external resources would be required. Members considered and endorsed a paper from CERL and EROMM proposing an exploration of how the two bodies could work more closely together up to and including the possibility of merger. The Chairman presented a paper on recent developments in the European research library 'landscape', and members confirmed their strong support for closer liaison and collaboration, where appropriate, with other European (and international) organisations. Having recently examined its own particular niche in this framework, as set out in the Development Plan, members felt that CERL, while keen to co-operate, should maintain its present autonomy. The Annual General Meeting also received reports from the Secretary, the Executive Manager, the Advisory Task Group; and from the Research Libraries Group, where we were very glad to welcome Ms Susan Yoder to her first CERL AGM, and to welcome back Ms Nancy Elkington, now based in RLG's New York Office.

The Annual General Meeting was followed in the evening by an Anniversary Dinner, which took place in St Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh. We were delighted to welcome on this occasion a number of colleagues who have been instrumental in shaping and developing the Consortium and its work: Mr Mike Crump, Ms Nancy Elkington, Dr Lotte Hellinga, Mr Bob Henderson, Mr Chris Kirk, Dr Isa de Pinedo and Professor Henry Snyder.

Ann Matheson, Chairman

Annual General Meeting 2005 – Rome

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will take place in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome on Saturday 12 November 2005, at the kind invitation of the Director, Dr Osvaldo Avallone.

The title of the 2005 Annual Seminar is: 'Many into one: problems with access points, levels of completeness and uniformity of bibliographical records in an international shared catalogue of older books'.



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CERL Committee Members

New Directors and members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting. As there were no vacancies, no new Directors were elected at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2004. There were also no vacancies for elections to the Executive Committee this year, but every three years the members are also asked to endorse the Committee. CERL members unanimously voted to endorse the current Executive Committee members. For a list of all CERL Committee members, please see <http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl.htm>, Organisation.

New system of Group Membership

One of the decisions taken by the Annual General Meeting in November was to approve a new definition of Group membership which allows a group of libraries to become Full members of CERL at a reduced rate. Originally, a group had to be formed by six (or a multiple of six) institutions within a country, but this scheme has proved to rather inflexible and not very popular. The new scheme allows groups of two or more libraries, with a charging system which favours larger groups.

The essentials of the new scheme are:

- A Group pays a subscription, committed for three years, at a rate calculated from a Group fee (€ 8,000) plus an individual fee (€ 3,500) for each participating library. One institution in the Group undertakes responsibility for full payment by the Group members.
- Only one national or state library is allowed to be part of each Group but Groups may have multi-national membership.

The overall effect of the new Group membership is that the average subscription for each participant is cheaper than the cost of Full Membership, especially in the case of large Groups. The annual fee for a group of two libraries is € 15,000 (€ 7,500 for each library); for five libraries, it is € 25,500 (€ 5,100 for each library); for ten libraries is € 43,000 (€ 4,300 for each library). We hope that this new scheme will encourage participation in CERL from a wider range of libraries. Further information about the new Group Membership scheme can be found on the CERL web site.

David Shan, Secretary

Work plan of the Advisory Task Group – 2005

Stable identifiers – CERL would like to expand the amount of digitised material linked to the HPB database, but has so far found that the few links available in the HPB were quickly out-of-date, and therefore no longer pointed to the relevant image(s). CERL wishes to investigate how it can ensure that these links remain more stable; to this end the ATG will commission a report on stable identifiers.

Digital Card Catalogues – The ATG has begun to gather details of digital card catalogues that are available in Europe. After examining the available material, a report will be submitted as to how the catalogues might be made available to CERL members.

FRBR – The ATG will set up a Working Group, to investigate whether Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) principles could and/or should be applied to the HPB database.

Please send details
of any digital card catalogue
projects that you may be
aware of to
marian.lefferts@cerl.org

Please contact CERL
if you are able to help in
editing and de-duplicating the
CERL Thesaurus

CERL Thesaurus – The ATG has begun to draw up a Development Plan for the CERL Thesaurus. Priorities are adding further records and editing the current records. In addition, DCG will begin preparations for the implementation of UTF-8 in the CERL Thesaurus. In the medium term, ATG would like to see provenance information and printers' devices linked to the CERL Thesaurus.

Research Libraries Group

Mrs Pamela Wilkes has been RLG's liaison with CERL since November 2002, when she took over from Mr Wes Taoka. She relinquished her post at RLG in October 2004, and for the present Mr Taoka has resumed her duties. CERL would like to thank Pam Wilkes for her support of the work of the Consortium, and wish her well in her further career.

Parents and Children - Linking records in the HPB

The ability to identify records which have been derived from others downloaded from the HPB database has been under discussion for about two years. It has long been considered desirable to be able to provide an 'audit trail' which would serve a number of purposes:

- Identification of records for *the same edition of a work* when the records can be traced back to a common source in the database;
- a means of clustering such records; and
- statistical information about some of the use being made of the database.

The obvious way to achieve this is to copy the record identifier for the source record into a suitable field in the derived record. A locally-defined field (a '9' field) proved unsuitable: whatever field tag we proposed could already be in use by one or more member libraries for other purposes, RLG does not export local fields, and RLG does not index them.

Our discussions with RLG turned to field 035 in MARC21, System Control Number ('Other System Control Numbers' in UNIMARC). This is a standard repeatable MARC21 field, but RLG's practice is to create its own style of record ID and copy the ID of the incoming record from 001 to 035. Any other 035 field in the incoming record is dropped, making 035 non-repeatable.

No problem! We are greatly indebted to our 'can-do' colleagues at RLG who examined their system and proposed that 035 be made *repeatable* for HPB records, always provided that the repeated fields begin 035 ##\$a(CStRLIN), where '##' are two blank indicators, followed by the *RLIN* numbers of the records referred to, not the original file owners' 001 data. The RLIN software will then recognise these fields as indexable and searchable, with data to be retained, not to be dropped or overwritten, and HPB users should be able to find records having a common RLIN ID.

There are some caveats:

- even if all members begin doing this on 1 January 2005, it would be very difficult (impossible?) to identify derived records which are already in the database; and
- it will be quite a long time before the database contains a significant number of records linked in this way.

The formal procedure is set out in CERL File Procedures 7, *Identification of derived records in the HPB database*, where it is accompanied by hypothetical examples. We cannot, of course, compel members to adopt this practice, but we do very strongly recommend them to do so from now on. It should pay dividends in the long term.

Tony Curwen, Consultant

Online Bibliography of Secondary Literature on Manuscripts, Modern Papers and Rare Printed Books

For more than 50 years, secondary literature on the holdings of the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Printed Books of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München has been recorded in a card index only available for consultation locally in the reading room. Recently, this important tool has been converted into electronic form and is now available free via the internet.

For the project, 109,000 index cards with more than 113,000 bibliographical references dating back as far as the 19th century were scanned, enhanced with search terms and integrated into a database, which will in future serve as the platform for a continual updating of the bibliography. The conventional card catalogue will be discontinued. The database is accessible via the homepage of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/handruck/hsslit.htm>.



ISBD(A) review in progress

A study group was established during this autumn, consisting of nine persons:

Gunilla Jonsson (Chair, also chair of IFLA Cataloguing Section), Kungl. biblioteket, Stockholm, National Library of Sweden
Gerd-Josef Bötte, Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Germany
Elisabeth Coulouma, Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur" (ABES, Montpellier), France

Mauro Guerrini, University of Florence, Italy
Sirikka Havu, Helsinki University Library, Finland
Dorothy McGarry, ISBD review group, USA
Elizabeth Robinson, Library of Congress, USA
Mirna Willer, National and University library, Zagreb, Croatia
Simon May, British Library, UK

There was a great interest in this study group, and many more than could be included in the group got in touch with John Byrum (chair of the ISBD review group) during the year. The Review Group has therefore agreed to communicate with a wider network from time to time. A set of proposals for the different areas of ISBD(A) is now available, and responses are requested before 11 January 2005. For further information please contact Mrs Gunilla Jonsson (gunilla.jonsson@kb.se).

Promotion

CERL Papers IV: Conference Proceedings

CERL's fourth collection of conference papers has been published under the title *European Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age: Creation, Access and Preservation* (David Shaw, ed.). Papers presented on 13 November 2003 at the CERL Conference hosted by the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg (London, Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2004. ISBN 0-9541535-2-9).

Contents:

Opening Address by Vladimir Zaitsev

- Ludmilla Kisseleva: Book Annotations as Historical Sources and their use in Database Applications.
- Natalia Elagina: New Techniques and Problems in the Preservation of Manuscript Collections.
- Vladimir Mazhuga: A neglected Carolingian edition of the *Historia Francorum* of Gregory of Tours: the consequences of insufficient paleographical description.
- Jan Bos: Cultural Heritage Projects from the Netherlands.
- Luisa Buson: Digital Tools from Improving Access to Printed Cultural Heritage: the Italian Situation.
- Kai Ekholm: Digitising the heritage: strategies for success.

All members of CERL will receive one copy of this volume. Further copies can be ordered from the Secretariat, price £15.00 (£10.00 for CERL members), plus post and packing. To purchase a copy please contact secretariat@cerl.org.

CERL PAPERS - IV
European Cultural Heritage
in the Digital Age:
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**The Secretariat wishes
all colleagues in CERL member institutions
a very happy and productive 2005.**



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