Migration of the Hand Press Book Database to OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc

CERL is pleased to announce that the migration of the Hand Press Book Database to OCLC's FirstSearch environment was successfully completed in September. 2007. New facilities available include Assisted Searching using the CERL Thesaurus for place names, author names and imprint names; a Notepad system (first developed for the CERL Thesaurus) which enables users of HPB to make an annotation for any record in the database; and records displayed in the full Unicode character set. Further enhancements are promised in new releases of the software by the end of 2007. Record editing and creation will be possible using Connexion for which a browser interface will be operating from December 2007. At its recent Annual General Meeting held in Uppsala, members of CERL expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the conversion process.

David Shaw

Adding new bibliographic records to the HPB Database

File-loading was suspended in July as a result of the migration of the database to the OCLC environment. Following the start of the new FirstSearch service in September 2007, file-loading was resumed in November.

The first files sent to OCLC are currently being processed. These include:

- 13,578 records from Regione Toscana
  records with holdings from 16 Tuscan libraries

- 32,936 records from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague
  records containing material preceding Brinkman's Catalogue

- 34,944 records for Polish microfilm material
  16th-18th c. printed material published within the territory of Silesia, Pomerania and Eastern Prussia available on microfilm

After the integration of these files, the Hand Press Book Database will contain nearly 2.87 million records.

Marian Lefferts

The importance of keeping old record IDs
Is Your Institution Migrating to a New Local System?

When an institution contributes records to the Hand Press Book Database, the record control numbers assigned by the system in which the records were created are retained in field 035 (System Control Number) when the records are converted and loaded. That record control number can then be used as part of the matching process in future record loads.

Often, when an institution migrates from one local system to another, new record control numbers are assigned to existing records when they are loaded into the new local system's database. If an updated version of that record is subsequently sent as part of a file of records to be loaded into the HPB, the load process might not be able to identify that this is a new version of a record that already exists in the HPB because the record control numbers are different.

What can be done to help this situation? As you work with your local system vendor to convert and load your database, ask that the old record control numbers be retained during the record loading process. Field 035, called "Other System Control Numbers" in UNIMARC and "System Control Number" in MARC 21, is generally used for this purpose.

Glenn Patton, OCLC

CERL Portal

From project to operational service

The CERL Portal has reached a new stage: it is no longer a project, but an operational service. At the 2005 Annual General Meeting in Rome, it was decided to continue the project for a two-year period, for further development and adding content. The second year of this period has now come to an end, and at the Uppsala AGM last November, the CERL Portal Project Manager presented the results of the final year. The members then unanimously agreed to continue with the Portal as an operational service. However, this by no means suggests that there will be no further development of the Portal – there is still a long wish list. But it does mean that Liesbeth Oskamp will step down as CERL Portal Project Manager, and return to her tasks at the Koninklijke Bibiliotheek, The Hague, full time.

The plans for the coming year have been set out in the CERL Portal Development Plan 2008 – 2012. This is a working document, intended to serve as a starting point. It can and will be adapted to accommodate developments both within CERL and in the international information landscape.

The realisation of these plans will be coordinated by the CERL Portal Steering Committee, chaired by Ivan Boserup (Royal Library, Copenhagen). Apart from the members of the current Advisory Board, some members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Task Group will join this Committee as well.

As before, the CERL Portal will be maintained and further developed by the Electronic Publishing Centre of Uppsala University Library. A new two-year contract for 2008-2009 has recently been drawn up.

Multi-lingual interface

The multilingual interface has been in place for a while now, currently in nine languages: Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish. In order to keep the translations up to date, a *CERL Portal Language Group* has been instated. The members of this group will make sure the translations are always up to date as changes are made to the interface and file descriptions.

Le Portail du CERL : Manuscrits et patrimoine imprimé de l'Europe

Tous les mots [   ]   Recherche simple. Pour plus d'options, cliquez ici.

The CERL Portal : Manuscripts and the European Printed Heritage

All words [   ]   Simple search. For more search options, click here.

CERL Portal : Handskrifter och Europas tryckta kulturarv

CERL-ov portal : Rukopisi i europsko tiskano naslijeđe

Sve riječi [   ]   Standardno pretraživanje. Veći broj mogućnosti za pretraživanje, Kliknite ovdje.

CERL-Portal : Europas kulturelles Erbe - Handschriften und Alte Drucke

Alle Felder [   ]   Standardsuche. Differenzierte Suchmöglichkeiten in der Expertensuche, hier klicken.

CERL portalen : Håndskrifter og Europas trykte kulturarv

Alle ord [   ]   Simpel søgning. For feltsøgning og CERL Thesaurus, klik her.

CERL Portal : handschriften en Europees gedrukt erfgoed

Alle woorden [   ]   Eenvoudig zoeken. Voor uitgebreide zoekmogelijkheden, klik hier.

El Portal CERL : Manuscritos y el patrimonio europeo de impresos

Todas las palabras [   ]   Búsqueda genérica. Para más opciones de búsqueda, pulsar aquí.

Il Portale del CERL : manoscritti e patrimonio a stampa antico europeo

Tutte le parole [   ]   Ricerca base. Per la ricerca avanzata, cliccare qui.

HPB records in the CERL Portal

The Hand Press Book Database can now be searched simultaneously with the other databases in the CERL Portal. However, the records are only displayed in a very limited format, as we do not want to offer free access to the HPB which is otherwise available to CERL members only. The display includes information on CERL and ways to obtain the full record. A link directs the user to the CERL website.

Liesbeth Oskamp, CERL Portal Project Officer

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University

'The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University is excited to participate in CERL's Manuscript Portal. The Portal provides access to more than 10,000 records for manuscripts at the Beinecke. It presents a wonderful opportunity to provide greater access to Yale's manuscript collections, and provides an opportunity for Yale to develop our experience using OAI harvesting tools.'

Edwin Schroeder, Beinecke Library, Yale University

New databases in the CERL Portal

In 2007 several more databases were added, which brings the total to fourteen separate files from twelve institutions, i.e. CERL and ten others. The CERL Portal now offers access to 1,400,000 manuscripts and 3,200,000 early prints. New additions in 2007 were:

- Laurentius Collection (Sweden)
- English Short Title Catalogue (United Kingdom)
- Yale University Beinecke Collection (United States)
- Kalliope autographs (Germany)

Depending on the availability of staff time at EPC, Uppsala, data from the following will be added before the end of 2007:

- Göttingen, EROMM
- Bibliothèque nationale de France

Also, the following libraries or consortia have agreed to join, and their databases are expected to become available in 2008 or 2009:

- Medieval MSS West Midlands, Birmingham University, UK
- Medieval Manuscripts in Dutch Collections, Netherlands
- Wellcome Institute, London, UK
- Biblioteca Panizzi, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Saganet, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Manuscripta Mediaevalia, Germany
- MANUS, ICCU, Italy

CERL Organisation

2007 has seen a number of changes in CERL's committees and Secretariat. Professor Kai Ekholm has stepped down as a Director. Eve Netchine has left the Executive Committee following a change of post at the Bibliothèque nationale de France; Jean-Dominique Mellot has been elected to replace her. Mirna Willer has left the Advisory Task Group on her appointment to a teaching post at the University of Zadar; she is replaced as Chairman by Gerd-Josef Bötte with Ivan Boserup as his deputy. The Secretariat sees the departure of Liesbeth Oskamp who returns to the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague after her excellent work as Project Manager on the CERL Portal.

Our Executive Manager Marian Lefferts is currently on maternity leave. Just before publication of the Newsletter, we heard that she had had a daughter at the beginning of December. Our congratulations to Marian, Gert and Ilse. Marian will return to work four days a week in 2008. The Finance Committee has proposed the appointment of a temporary part-time Assistant Executive Manager to help with our administration, particularly promotion and project management.

The final departure is that of Tony Curwen, our database consultant, who has for many years been an invaluable colleague and adviser to the Consortium on a wide range of topics, far beyond his specific area of MARC formats. His cheerful and helpful presence at our meetings will be missed.
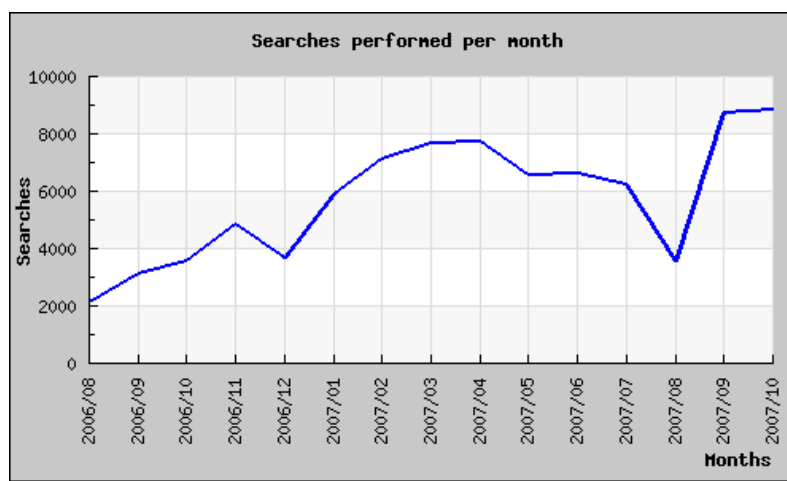
David Shaw

CERL Thesaurus – Recent Developments

Web Searches

Since the introduction of the new CERL Thesaurus web interface in August 2006, the number of searches performed in the CERL Thesaurus is steadily growing. In October 2007, a new maximum of 8,832 searches has been measured, which comes up to an average of 285 searches per day.

Users mostly search the CERL Thesaurus for imprint names and personal names (each makes 39.5% of the searches per-formed) followed by imprint place names (18.3%). Searches for provenance information (with the limitation "Provenance only" applied) make 0.5% of the searches in the CERL Thesaurus. The display of related records has been used by 1.1% of the users.

The CERL Thesaurus is held in particular high esteem by users from Italy, who make 25.8% of its users, followed by Sweden (16.6%), Germany (14.5%), Hungary (7.2%) and France (6.6%). Since August 2006, the database has been accessed by users from more than 40 different countries from all over the world.

Assisted Searching

In May 2007, Assisted Searching was implemented in the CERL Portal using the CERL Thesaurus' new SRU interface. During the last six months, the CERL Thesaurus has been accessed from within the CERL Portal 291 times.

Assisted Searching has also been implemented in the new HPB environment, OCLC FirstSearch, using the same SRU access as the CERL Portal. Both implementations make use of the newly developed CERL Thesaurus Assisted Searching Output Format (CTAS), an XML-based record format that provides for a neat presentation of standard, variant and fictional name forms, including some basic information on the entity in question such as biographical dates, etc. In addition to searching for name forms, it allows also the employment of record identifiers from the CERL Thesaurus' source files in Assisted Searching's ex-panded queries.

Content

The CERL Thesaurus currently comprises 682,130 records from 23 libraries or library networks in ten European countries. Compared to last year's figures this is a decrease of c.150,000 records, which is due on the one hand to a revision earlier this year of the personal names segment and on the other hand to the ongoing editing and deduplication work done by Ms Ute Klier in Munich. Within the personal names and corporate names records, 4,064 references to provenance information in external library catalogues can be found. 8,941 references point from imprint name records to images of printers' devices.

The most recently added files are imprint names from the Flemish Short Title Catalogue (Belgium), corpo-rate names from the GBV union catalogue (Germany), provenance information from the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon (France) and provenance information from the Katalog der Wolfenbütteler Luther-drucke provided by the Herzog-August-Bibliothek (Wolfenbüttel, Germany). A comprehensive list of all source files is on the CERL website: (http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/contents).
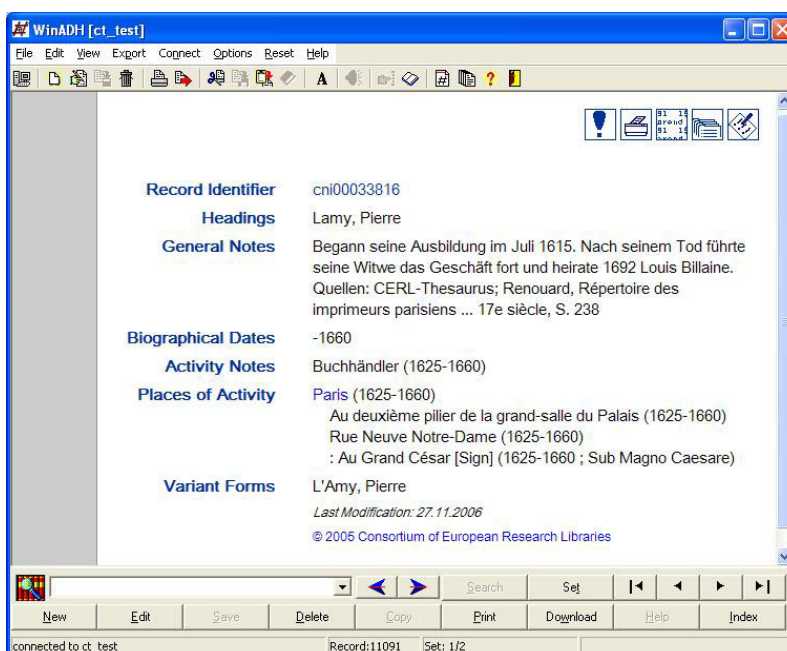
Statistics

The most recent statistics on the CERL Thesaurus can now be found on the new CERL website at http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/statistics. Jana Hentschke of the Data Conversion Group, Göttingen has developed a number of utilities that allow the creation of file statistics directly in the context of the regular CT file loads and web statistics on a daily basis, both by automated processes.

Editing

The most recent version of the CERL Thesaurus editing software WinADH was released on 6 November this year. It supports edit masks and inter-record linking and comes with a powerful record validation feature. It is planned that in CERL's digitisation projects, imprint name records can be entered directly into the CERL Thesaurus, which is eminently facilitated through WinADH's new features.

Gunilla Jonsson from the Royal Library in Stockholm and Alex Jahnke, Data Conversion Group in Göttingen, are currently working on guidelines regarding the creation of new and the editing of existing imprint names records in the CERL Thesaurus.

Upcoming Developments

The CERL Thesaurus web interface will be moved to the Consortium's new web server in early 2008. It is planned to adapt the web interface to the design of the new CERL website, while the technical infrastructure will stay in place. The new URL will then be http://thesaurus.cerl.org/.

<div align="right">Alexander Jahnke, Data Conversion Group</div>

Provenance Working Group

CERL's Executive Committee has established a Provenance Working Group with the remit of developing further the Consortium's interest in the recording of provenance data. The Chairman of the Working Group is David Pearson, Director of University of London Research Library Services. The group's remit includes developing the coverage of provenance information in the CERL web site, identifying potential repositories of provenance data for inclusion in the CERL Thesaurus, and preparing proposals and guidance on recording provenance data in MARC21 and in Unimarc records. A possible eventual goal is the creation of a CERL provenance portal. We hope to report on progress in future Newsletters.

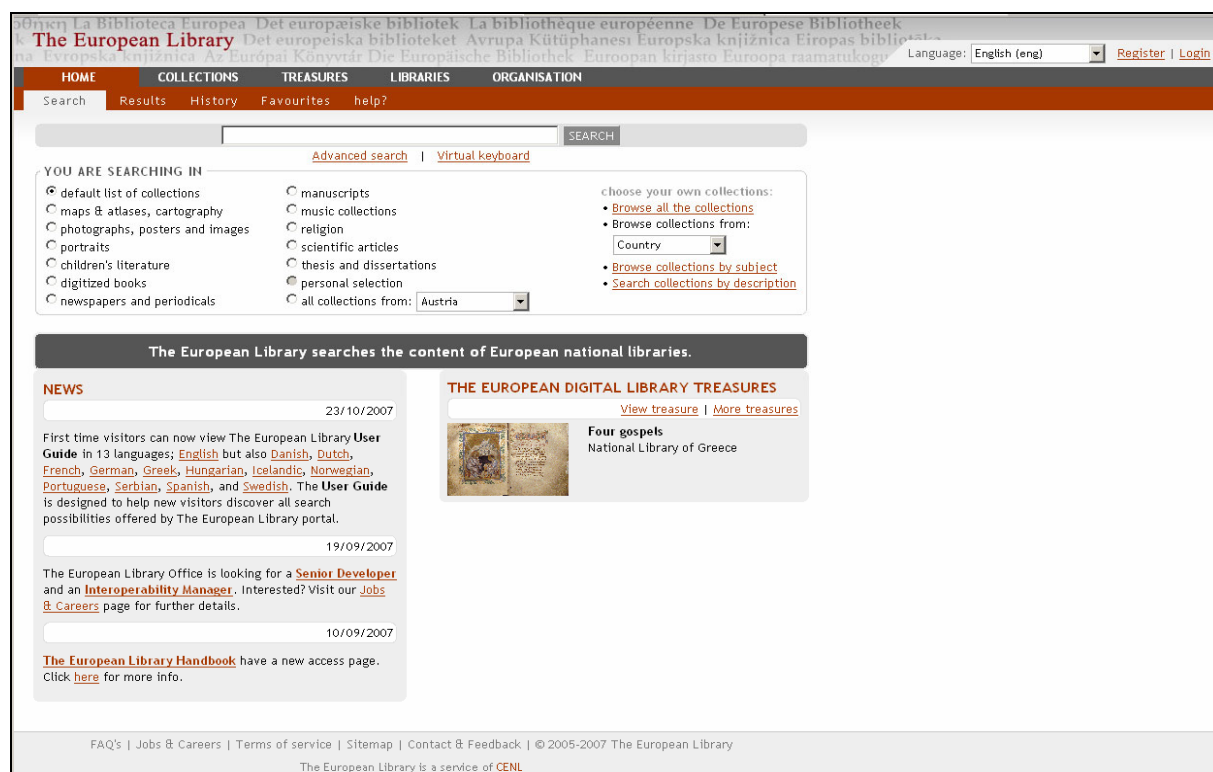<div align="right">David Shaw</div>

New CERL website

Members will be aware that CERL's web site at www.cerl.org now has a new appearance. This redesign was undertaken by a group of students under the direction of Mr Alexander Jahnke at the Fakultät III - Medien, Information und Design of the Fachhochschule Hannover. They selected an open-source wiki software (dokuwiki) which they adapted to the specific needs of the Consortium's web brief. The new structure of the web site offers much greater flexibility of editing and also provides access controls which will allow us to create private spaces for committee documents and also a Members Area where further members' services can be offered under password control.

The Consortium is very grateful to Catharina Klaus, Sebastian Cario, Sandra Golda and Sebastian Keitel and to Mr Jahnke for this valuable contribution to the Consortium's work.

<div align="right">David Shaw</div>

The European Library – a vital gateway to the resources of Europe's national libraries

The European Library is a major project that aggregates the collections of 47 European national libraries via one single gateway. The service offers scholars and librarians the opportunity to discover material held by these libraries, promoting access beyond national boundaries to a truly pan-European level.

The European Library of today has evolved from a number of projects. The starting point was ten years ago, when Project GABRIEL (Gateway and Bridge to Europe's National Libraries) set out to establish a joint web portal of European national libraries. At a basic level, it provided information about each library's collections and access to their online public access catalogues (OPACs), together with associated web services. Building on GABRIEL's success, the TEL (The European Library) Project went on to create a framework for access to key national and deposit collections within Europe. Its achievement was to set down policies and to undertake the technical groundwork for a sustainable pan-European digital library, based on the distributed collections of the participating libraries.

Adding new partner libraries to the service was a core aspiration. Between 2005 and 2007, funding by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme brought about the TEL-ME-MOR project. It accomplished the incorporation of ten national libraries from the new member states as full partners in The European Library. By the end of 2007, a further nine national libraries within the European Union/European Free Trade Association will have joined. All in all, it will add 50 million new records of objects, all fully searchable through the same single access point.

The bedrock of the current service is the online catalogues of the national libraries. The researcher can undertake a search in the usual way (for example, by title, author, keyword, etc.), either at a basic or advanced level. Once the Search button is hit, the service will retrieve results from a possible 150 million entries from across Europe. The entries will show in which libraries in Europe each item is located. During the course of 2008, the community of participating libraries will grow even larger, bringing to a total of 44 countries as full members of The European Library, from a total of 47 states of the Council of Europe.

Researchers increasingly expect to be able to retrieve digitised objects. The number of digital resources within The European Library is expanding rapidly. These include books, photographs, posters, sound recordings, paintings and music scores. Over the next two years, a further 20 million pages of fully digitised material from collections across Europe will be added, an enormous service enhancement made

possible by funding from the European Commission. Running from 2007 to 2009, this new project, called TELPlus, will also make more content searchable, will add two further national libraries (Bulgaria and Romania) as full partners in the service and will improve all-round access and usability through the integration of new features.

Personal registration by the researcher brings the benefits of a range of tailored services, including the possibility to save each search history or to download resources into a reference manager.

Another significant benefit to librarians and end-users is to incorporate direct access to The European Library within the web sites and portals of their own institutions. The European Library mini search-box is quick and easy to download and will take members of the institution straight to the functionalities of The European Library. It is available from the Services area of the portal.

Subscription to the regular newsletter will keep librarians and the academic community informed of the latest developments within The European Library.

The operational service of The European Library is financed and supported by the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), a foundation aimed at increasing and reinforcing the role of national libraries in Europe. Members of CENL are the national librarians of the Council of Europe Member States. The European Library is a non-commercial organisation currently based at the National Library of the Netherlands and all the services described are provided completely free of charge.

For further information on The European Library and its services, contact Fleur Stigter (fleur.stigter@TheEuropeanLibrary.org). Access to the web portal is at www.theeuropeanlibrary.org

<div align="right">Louise Edwards, The European Library</div>

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER)

Co-operation between LIBER and CERL

In late 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CERL and LIBER, the Association of European Research Libraries. The co-operation will concentrate on a broad variety of subjects with rare books and manuscripts in focus, see www.libereurope.eu/files/MOA LIBER CERL.pdf

The ongoing work by CERL on the HPB Database is an important tool to fulfil one of the goals in the MoU, viz. to provide a source of expertise and advice in the field of early written European heritage. The work on the CERL Portal for manuscript catalogues will have the same aim. LIBER has established a working group on special collections to report to its Executive Board by early 2008 to give recommendations on how to better represent the interests of such collections. Close contacts between the group and CERL are envisaged. Mr Ivan Boserup, The Royal Library, Copenhagen, is the chair not only of the CERL Portal advisory board but also of this LIBER working group. The LIBER Manuscripts Librarians Group was recently revived and has just held a conference in Berlin. Among the subjects discussed was, the CERL Portal which was of great interest to many of the delegates.

LIBER support for the Registry of Digital Masters and for MARC developments are of equal interest to CERL. The co-operation between the two organisations will certainly be able to improve the basis for digitisation techniques and metadata standards, especially OAI compatibility. As to digitisation, the material of interest to CERL is at least divested of the copyright problems so often complicating the electronic re-publication of more modern literature.

The CERL Annual Seminar and the meetings within LIBER, its Annual General Conference and other conferences and workshops, are excellent sources of expert information and networking. The formalized co-operation will facilitate the dissemination of recent development in all important fields necessary to take part in today's information demands.

Finally, it may be mentioned that a close affinity has, for a long time, been established between CERL and LIBER. Our present chairman, Professor Dr Elmar Mittler, has served as President of LIBER, and the present General Secretary of LIBER, Dr Ann Matheson, was our former chairman. At present, I am asked to act as a sort of liaison officer, being seated on the boards of both organisations.

<div align="right">Ulf Göranson, Director, Uppsala University Library</div>

EROMM - The European Register of Microform and Digital Masters

Publications not known to the relevant audience will rarely be used. Unused works tend to be neglected physically and are susceptible to get lost.

Awareness of this is common among librarians, whose responsibility includes preservation. Recent experience with digital technology has alerted librarians and all, who are working in research libraries, to the acute danger of loss of information. This is why digital preservation is now attracting more attention even than the preservation of analogue media.

It is easily understood that a book held in the stacks of a library but absent from its catalogue is equal to a book which never entered the library at all. The catalogue entry is the prime means of communicating the book to the user, of keeping it accessible and, eventually, of preserving it for future use. Surprisingly there is not the same understanding for surrogate media. Since libraries started to produce microfilms to preserve information carried by printed publications, a gap, smaller or bigger, between the number of surrogates and the related number of catalogue entries can be observed. This gap is wider still when we look at digitised works. Apparently the digital surrogate of a printed book is regarded as being something new or foreign to library holdings, needing an entirely different treatment.

It is common to offer digitised works within so-called digital libraries. They are presented in their digital settings, using new ways of communicating their existence to the user. Indeed, presenting such digitised works in digital libraries is mostly broader and deeper than what is recorded of the original printed edition in the library catalogue. In addition to the work's bibliographic identity this may include some or all of the document structure (e.g. table of contents, chapters, annexes) or even the searchable full text.

In contrast entries for digitised works in the library catalogue are absent in many cases, and where some reference exists it is frequently on a level below that of a reprint or new edition of the original book. The student, who searches the catalogue to find a work, may be left without any information at all about the digital surrogate that he could have access to.

CERL has been aware for some time of lacking or deficient catalogue entries for digitised works, regretting that this new possibility of access remains hidden from researchers and students who would otherwise be happy to make use of it. Only some of the bibliographic files submitted by its members contain information about digitised items. Because of its special focus on surrogates CERL has been in touch with EROMM almost since the Consortium came into being; different forms of cooperation have been considered, aiming at improving the way in which surrogates are recorded.

Last year EROMM and OCLC – under the patronage of LIBER – have joined forces to promote more complete catalogue coverage of digitised books. In 2006 they signed an agreement providing for the exchange of records for digital masters between Europe and America. OCLC has opened a database, the Registry of Digital Masters (http://purl.oclc.org/DLF/collections/reg/OCLCservice) as an international resource open to all. Records from EROMM will go into the RDM and RDM records will be provided to EROMM (http://www.eromm.org/database.htm). The two organisations attempt to achieve the broadest possible coverage of digitised works by combining their respective networks of collecting bibliographic data and offering a freely accessible resource to their audiences. In fact the first file of records from the Registry of Digital Masters can be searched on the EROMM database already.
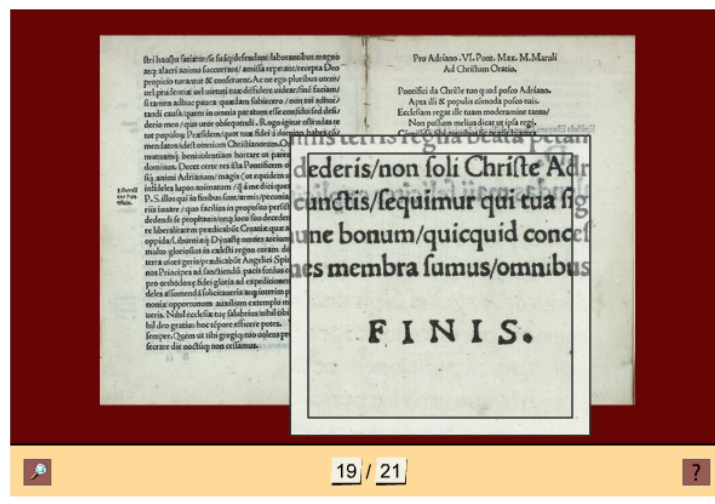
This is a great step forward not only for users, who seek reliable information about existing digital surrogates, but also for librarians concerned with preservation and long-term access to digital resources. Within a few years they can expect to find in the EROMM database as well as in the RDM all of the works that have been digitised and where those responsible for digitisation pledge to preserve the surrogate master and access copy. In addition many libraries, publishers and projects are announcing their intention to digitise. This information can be carried by the bibliographic records as well and it is of special importance to all, who want to avoid working on the same items that are about to be digitised elsewhere.

At previous meetings CERL has considered encouraging its members to include information on surrogates produced by them, when they send bibliographic files. Indeed this would be an important contribution to achieve international coverage of digitisation. Any record of a surrogate communicated by a CERL member can be part of this international cooperation and attain increased visibility worldwide for their digital library. The National and University Library of Croatia has been first among the Consortium's members to make available this kind of records (e.g. search for 'Epistola Marci Maruli' in the EROMM database at eromm.org).

EROMM will give full access to its database to CERL member libraries that contribute records of their own. This includes the use of the requesting facility by such libraries to order service copies directly through the EROMM system. In a move to strengthen cooperation between both organisations and in response to a wish listed by members years ago technical settings have been made that allow cross-file searching of EROMM and the HPB Database. This could be done within the CERL portal as well as under OCLC's FirstSearch system.

Werner Schwartz

The Bernstein Project and the CERL Thesaurus

The Bernstein Consortium is developing a digital infrastructure for the expertise and history of paper based on images visualising the paper's structure. The individual resources are databases of watermarks and other annotated features, image measurement software, contextual resources for cartography and bibliography, and an integrated workspace. Additionally the Bernstein Consortium organises tutorials and an exhibition on paper studies.

THE BERNSTEIN CONSORTIUM   THE MEMORY OF PAPERS IMAGE BASED PAPER EXPERTISE AND HISTORY

During a meeting between Bernstein and CERL, held in October 2007, it became clear that it might be possible to create links between the CERL Thesaurus and the Bernstein portal and *vice versa*. Collaboration on three points was envisaged.

It was agreed that Bernstein would make its list of place names augmented by geographical coordinates available to CERL. This data will be matched and added to the place names in the CERL Thesaurus. As with the Hand Press Book Database and the CERL Portal, the CERL Thesaurus will then be set up in the Bernstein portal to offer Assisted Searching. A French user of the portal may enter 'Vienne', a German 'Wien', a Hungarian 'Bec', etc. These homonymous variants are already brought together in the CERL Thesaurus, and its records will now be used to allow Bernstein portal users to determine which place they wish to focus their search on. Searching in the data brought together in the Bernstein portal will be based on geographical coordinates.

As a result of the process described above, CERL place names will be enhanced with geographical coordinates. This opens up the possibility for CERL to integrate maps in the CERL Thesaurus - the maps could be generated by Bernstein or by other software, such as Google Maps. One of the partners in the Bernstein project is *Watermarks in Incunabula printed in the Low Countries* (WILC – see http://watermark.kb.nl/). The imprint names used in this database have already been included in the CERL Thesaurus through data provided by the Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands. It will now be investigated whether the CERL Thesaurus records can be enhanced so that they link to watermark information related to the individual printers (as available from the Bernstein portal). The Bernstein Project is funded by the European Commission until February 2008. After that date the portal will continue to be hosted by the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW) in Vienna.

Marian Lefferts

CERL Annual Seminar, University Library, Uppsala, 9 November 2007
Script, print and the internet: the early-modern book and its readers

Each year since 1997 the Consortium has organised a seminar to precede the formal AGM with invited speakers addressing subjects relating to the Consortium's objectives. The 2007 Seminar was held on 9 November 2007 at Uppsala University Library.

The speakers planned for this year's Seminar were:

- Professor Monica Hedlund (University, Uppsala): 'Medieval shelf-marks: a functional system for information retrieval at Vadstena Abbey'.
- Dr Krister Östlund (University Library, Uppsala): 'The Waller Project: a pilot project for the digitisation of autograph collections'.
- Ms Eva Müller (National Library of Sweden, Stockholm): 'Digitisation projects at the Royal Library, Stockholm'.
- Mr Ivan Boserup (Royal Library, Copenhagen): 'The CERL Portal project: distributed searching of catalogues of manuscript and early-printed books'.
- Professor Tiiu Reimo (Tallinn University): 'Early printed books in Estonia: collections, cataloguing and digitisation'.
- Dr Fernanda Campos (Biblioteca Nacional, Lisbon): 'Provenance research at the National Library of Portugal'.

Unfortunately Dr Campos was prevented from attending by a sudden change in family circumstances. CERL's Chairman, Professor Elmar Mittler, was able to fill the gap with a presentation on the history of the Bibliotheca Palatina in Heidelberg and in Rome. Dr Campos hopes to be able to offer her paper for publication when the papers are published in November 2008 as *CERL Papers VIII*.

400th Anniversary of the founding of the National and University Library, Zagreb

Each year on 22 February we celebrate Library's Day. This year, we were additionally proud to celebrate the Library's 400th Anniversary. The National and University Library is one of the central cultural institutions in Croatia, with a mission to promote Croatian culture, research and science. Although Croatia is a relatively small European country, the Croats are among the oldest nations in Europe and have inhabited the present region for more than thirteen centuries.

The Library was founded in 1607, affiliated to the Jesuit College. The first catalogues were from 1610. When the Jesuit College was awarded university status in 1669, the library consisted of 5,200 volumes. Later, the foundation of the Academy of Sciences in 1776 was of particular significance for the further development of the Library. One of the most valuable donations in its history was the bequest in 1777 by Baltazar Adam Krčelić, canon and historian, who stipulated that it should be *usus publicus*: for use by the public. Finally, in 1818, the Library became public, reading rooms being opened in 1819. National importance was bestowed on the Library by regulations regarding legal deposit privileges from the University of Pest from 1816 and in 1837 and 1857 relating to all books printed in Croatia and Slavonia, which were political and administrative Croatian provinces at that time. The patriotic, national function of the Library was reinforced by proclamation of a unique, emphasizing that the Library is not only a public but a national institution and regarded as *Nationalis Academica Bibliotheca*. In 1858 the Library established various card catalogues: (*Catalogue schedalis*), topographic catalogue (*Inventarium*), the alphabetic catalogue of books, maps and manuscripts (*Repetitorium alphabeticum*) and a classified catalogue (*Catalogus scientificus*).

When in 1874 the University of Franz Joseph I was founded in Zagreb, the Library became an integral part. The first Library Rules dating from the same year followed the Austrian *Provisional instruction for university and study libraries*. The Library had two reading rooms, one for students and the 'educated commoners' with a large reference library and the other for university teachers. The Library, which was by that time located in the Zagreb Upper town, moved in 1882 to another building (today the administration building of the University of Zagreb). In 1894 the Library opened the Rare Books Reading Room. A new building for the Royal University Library, constructed by the architect Rudolf Lubynski, started in 1911 and finished in 1913. As a part of the new organisation, the Croatian Department for all printed Croatian treasures was introduced, new catalogues were produced, for the first time fashioned to the international format. After World War I, Croatia (together with Dalmatia) became a part of the new state of Yugoslavia. In 1919 the Prints Collection was founded as a special department of the Library and after World War II,

the collections of maps and atlases and of music followed, as part of the national mission of the Library to collect systematically appropriate non-book material.

When in 1991 Croatia proclaimed independence, the idea to create a new library building was already twenty years old. Finally, in 1995 the Library moved to its present new premises, occupying 36,000 m². The tasks of the Library include collection development, preservation, conservation, presentation to the public, and users services. Internationally, the Library is an active member of professional organisations (IFLA, CERL, CDNL, CENL, TEL - The European Library, LIBER). It took part as national coordinator of the European TEMPUS project in creating the *Model of Croatian academic libraries infrastructure.* The most unexpected event last April was that the Library opened its doors 24 hours a day during the week, allowing 24-hour physical access for its users, in addition to virtual access.

Marina Mihalić

Two cluster libraries of the Soprintendenza per i beni librari e documentari, Bologna

Biblioteca Comunale Francesco Selmi, Vignola (Modena), Italy

The Biblioteca Comunale goes back to the late 1860s, when the religious orders were closed by the new Kingdom of Italy, and their possessions, including libraries, were handed over to the civil authorities. Some 1,700 books from the Vignola Capuchins' Monastery were given to the City Council in order to start a local library. With further acquisitions, the library opened in 1871 with 5,000 books.

In addition to the rare and early printed books collection of nearly 6,000 volumes, the library over the years was received bequests from various scholars, such as the scientist Selmi whose name the library adopted, with some 165,000 items, including manuscripts, autographs, annotated books, journals, maps, postcards, photos. They can be accessed, by appointment, at Villa Trenti, the monumental old seat of the Biblioteca Comunale, set in a park called Parco S. Giuseppe. Users are mainly scholars, researchers, university undergraduates and postgraduates.

So far, the HPB Database and the CERL Portal have been used mainly by the librarians in their activity of bibliographic research for the re-ordering of the collection and retrospective cataloguing, nevertheless there are successful examples of users making the most of the database. In one instance, a scholar found a previously unknown edition of a French translation of a 16th-century pamphlet by Giacinto Barozzi, the son of the famous architect Jacopo Barozzi, known as *il Vignola.* Three editions were known: a Roman one (*appresso gli heredi d'Antonio Blado*, 1578), one from Perugia (*per Andrea Bresciano*, 1581) and one from Genoa (1584). The HPB brought the surprise of a French edition of 1583 by Coulombel at the Herzogin Anna-Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar. The work seems to have escaped the disastrous fire of 2004 and Vignola has requested a copy, while the scholar expects it to throw new light on the popularity of this 16th-century author.

Giuliana Roli and Debora Dameri

Biblioteca Comunale Giulio Cesare Croce, San Giovanni (Persiceto), Italy

The work *Statistica del Regno d'Italia*, 1863, bears witness of the first foundation of the town library of San Giovanni in Persiceto, by the middle of the XIXth century; from this work we learn that it was founded by the Town Council in 1852 as a municipal library, it had 480 works (1711 volumes), of which 10 were rare printed publications. Moreover it had a catalogue. It was destroyed on 7 January 1869, during the revolt for the grist tax; few volumes remained, but their number increased in time both with part of the library of the suppressed monastery of the Franciscan Minorites, founded in Persiceto in the 13th century, and with the acquisition of new works and also with the donation of Ulisse Maccaferri.

The library was summarily arranged in 1907; since 1952 a plan of reorganisation was undertaken and the library began to increase its bibliographic patrimony through the acquisitions of new books and donations from different institutions.

In 1955 the library was named after Giulio Cesare Croce and in 1959 it was removed to its present location, the Palazzo SS. Salvatore. At present the library includes about 230,000 bibliographic units, comprising periodicals (magazines, annuals, etc.).

The small early books collection, mostly from the convent, is formed of 528 editions (992 volumes), of which 34 are of the 16th century, 84 of the 17th century and 410 of the 18th century. These are mostly philosophical, theological and historical works.

Gloria Serrazanetti

Promotion of CERL
New Publication
CERL proudly announces the publication of CERL Papers VII - Imprints and owners: recording the cultural geography of Europe. Papers presented on 10 November 2006 at the CERL conference hosted by the National Széchényi Library, Budapest (London, Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2007). 13 digit ISBN: 978-0-9541535-6-4, 10 digit ISBN: 0-9541535-6-1

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- University of St Andrews, Scotland (D. Shaw, April 2007)

- Research Library, Dubrovnik - 'The European Manuscript and Hand Press Book Heritage: the role of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)'. (May 2007)

- RBMS Conference 2007, Baltimore (MD). (M. Lefferts, June 2007)

- Yale University Library, New Haven (CT).(M. Lefferts, June 2007)

- Wellcome Library, London, for rare books librarians in the London area. (D. Shaw, July 2007)

- Soprintendenza per i beni librari e archivistici, Trento: conference on 'Libro e Biblioteche nel '700', Rovereto, Italy (D. Shaw, October 2007)

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