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CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER

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Address by the newly-elected Chairman, Dr Ulf Göranson

Dear CERL Members,



Humble, grateful and stimulating feelings mix when I warmly thank the members of CERL for the confidence in electing me as the new Chairman. Succeeding the eminent library leader and historian Professor Elmar Mittler of Göttingen could easily discourage anyone. My first words of recognition at the Annual General Meeting in the Vatican Library were directed to him. He has taken an active part in the development of our organisation to extend its services to members and the library world at large. New forms of co-operation with other bodies were created, and the involvement in large projects gives CERL a well deserved and more prominent position on the European scene. Elmar Mittler led the work of the many dedicated members of our Board and Executive Committee in a firm but always cordial way to ensure future-oriented decisions. I hope to be able to follow this tradition.

CERL is formally, as you all know, a company under English law. Thus the titles of our officers may seem slightly unusual in a library environment. The several members of our Board are called Directors, and the director herself is called the Secretary. Dr Cristina Dondi, the excellent Oxford book historian, succeeded David Shaw a few years ago as Company Secretary and has made a significant impact in establishing new fields of service in relation to old printed material. The very rock on which our organisation rests – I allowed myself to say so in spite of us meeting in the Vatican – is certainly the Executive Manager Drs Marian Lefferts, residing in the midst of many international library organisations in the Royal Library, The Hague. Without her firm organisational skills and friendly cooperative talents CERL would not have achieved its present importance. Kimberley Hart, not personally known to many of us, but in constant communication through emails and the web, efficiently runs our

London office. With clarity of purpose our officers carry the responsibility for our continuing achievements.

Without a sound economy no organisation can thrive. We are lucky to have as Treasurer Raymond Bérard of ABES in Montpellier. New and developed forms of membership have already assured CERL a larger base for our yearly fees. The externally financed projects give us a possibility temporarily to enlarge the number of employees, thus strengthening the organisation's various abilities to act towards the general goal of giving research more and better tools to extract knowledge out of our library heritage.

In my short speech after the election I noticed the world wide trend of an immense growth of interest organisations in the last 50 years. Every person and every public or private body nowadays belong to numerous organisations. We were most benevolently hosted by the oldest still surviving organisation, the Roman Church. But looking back only a hundred years, libraries like the CERL members did not belong to any other organisation than its mother institution, perhaps with the exception of the German-led dissertation exchange programme. Now our libraries collaborate in at least some twenty or thirty local, national and international organisations.

What can the role of CERL be among this vast number of general and specialised library organisations? How can we, better than others, fulfil our tasks and be appreciated by our Members? My answer is that CERL must continue as an independent voice and structure. Through our means and programmes we will further improve the services we provide, once started with the HPB, which now contains several million high quality records of early printed books and shows the great variety even between similar items of the hand press production. Our Thesaurus has become a great success, widely used and usable also outside the CERL membership. The manuscript Portal widened the scope, and modern provenance research has received its special

database for the Incunabula. Involvement in EU projects such as *Europeana Libraries* will continue. Easing digitisation of old and unique material and providing platforms for its web publication are important issues in the near future. With its tradition of deciding the directions and outsourcing the development work to highly competent collaborative institutions and their staff, CERL will be able to continue its two decades of successful efforts to disseminate what is kept and cherished in our libraries.

The extraordinarily well organised November CERL days in the Vatican Library with fruitful committee meetings, a very interesting Seminar focussing on early Italian printing and an informative AGM were surrounded by a most generous and rewarding social programme and exquisite meals. The Library, the Museums, the Sistine Chapel and the Rafael Stanze were shown by learned cicerones. In the Republic, surrounding the Vatican City, important political events took place. They did not disturb our peaceful concentration on what is the prime obligation of CERL to its membership. In numerous ways we

expressed our gratitude to Dr Adalbert Roth, the executive leader of the event, and to the Cardinal Librarian HE Raffaele Farina, SDB, and the Library Prefect Msgr Cesare Pasini who both attended the Seminar, the Prefect also hosting the Conference Dinner.

Soon after our festive days in Rome, we were met by the sad news of the death of one of the founders of CERL, Dr Franz Georg Kaltwasser, the legendary director of the Bavarian State Library in Munich. He understood early on the possibilities afforded by new media to spread in a more efficient way the knowledge of old library collections and to retrieve their content. His spirit prevails.

Wishing you all peaceful and strengthening holidays,

Ulf Göranson
CERL Chairman and
Director of Uppsala University Library

CERL Seminar and Annual General Meeting 2011

http://www.cerl.org/web/en/services/seminars/previous_cerl_annual_seminars



The title of this year's seminar (on 11 November 2011) was "La stampa romana nella Roma dei Papi e in Europa / The Roman Press in the Papal City and in Europe". The programme began with a welcome by His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Raffaele Farina, S.D.B. (Cardinal Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church), Monsignor Cesare Pasini (Prefect of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana) and Dr Adalbert Roth (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome), and a response by the CERL Chairman, Prof Dr Dr Elmar Mittler. Monsignor Pasini wrote an article in the *Osservatore Romano* (<http://tinyurl.com/c73hptj>) which summarises the opening words.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting took place at the Vatican Library, on Saturday 12 November. Representatives of around thirty CERL members heard reports from the Treasurer, the ATG and OCLC, as well as progress reports and outlines of the plans for 2012 for all CERL Services. A substantial part of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing CERL's collaboration with other European organizations, and CERL's work in projects, such as the *Europeana Libraries* project (see above). The British Library invited CERL and its members to hold their 2012 meetings in London.

At the end of this meeting, after five years in the post, Elmar Mittler stepped down as CERL Chairman. The members unanimously elected Dr Ulf Göranson of the University Library in Uppsala as his successor. The members also re-elected Gérard Grunberg of the Bibliothèque nationale de France to the Board of Directors and elected Dr Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko of the University Library of Warsaw to the Board. Those attending the meeting were grateful for the wonderful hospitality of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, which included a tour of the library, an after-hours visit to the Vatican Museums (including the Sistine Chapel, the Stanze di Raffaello, and the maps gallery) followed by a lovely dinner for members, representatives of Italian libraries and those who presented papers at the CERL Seminar.



In Memoriam Dr Franz Georg Kaltwasser

Dr Franz Georg Kaltwasser, who died on 18 November 2011 shortly after his 84th birthday, was one of the Consortium's founders. In his function of Director of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (1972-1992) he was a steady supporter of the Consortium from its very beginning, showing his confidence in the principles of the project and contributing generously in several ways.

Automated retrospective catalogues were by 1990 in full development in many countries, and covered large sections of the European printed heritage, preserved and recorded in many different institutions. The idea to explore whether records of printed materials produced before the middle of the 19th century might be amalgamated had been born in informal contact between the directors of three prominent national libraries: the British Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Dr Kaltwasser was host to the two memorable meetings attended by representatives of most of Europe's national libraries and other research libraries which led to the Consortium's formation. These two meetings took place in Munich in November 1990 and January 1992.¹

Organizations of libraries, national and other, meeting in international gatherings to exchange experiences of various kinds had been a long-standing tradition. But setting up a large-scale collaborative project in order to allow retrospective bibliographical data – created in very different traditions and systems – to be made internationally accessible in a single system had never been attempted. By the early 1990s both the technology, and the political motivation and will were ripe for seeking ways to achieve this.

In the Kaulbach villa, behind the building of the BSB, the assembled librarians gave their presentations, and found common ground. Below a copy of Titian's equestrian portrait of the Emperor Charles V bestriding a stormy Europe they became convinced of the feasibility of a unified approach to the common heritage of European printed books; they were even persuaded to underwrite the necessary preliminary steps to turn this into a reality.

The symbolism of the imperial portrait did not escape Dr Kaltwasser, who himself was firmly convinced that international exchange and pooling of resources could only mean enrichment for each participating individual institution. I had already come to know his internationalist side during two tentative meetings with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek and the British Library about retrospective cataloguing projects, held in 1983 and 1985. At about the same time, in my discussions with the BSB, he agreed to work together with the British Library on consolidating and expanding the ISTC database of incunabula.

In the years of discussion and experimentation that followed the initial meetings of 1990 and 1992, Dr Kaltwasser's influential role was undiminished. It was a time of technical experimenting, and setting up the legal framework that would enable very diverse institutions to become company-partners in a new kind of joint enterprise. Above all it was a time for discussions to establish principles and practicalities – and for learning to work together. Dr Kaltwasser was very generous with his time, taking part in most of our intense discussions, and after his retirement from the BSB in 1992 attended several meetings as a guest. But one act of generosity surpassed all: his decision to make the very large retrospective file of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek available for loading as the foundation of the Consortium's database. This was an act of leadership that gave many others the confidence to follow. From then on files, large and small, from very different sources were added after a process of adaptation. Without the BSB-file it would have been difficult to develop the database in the way it began to grow from 1994 on, the year when the Consortium was formally established as a company. Having arrived at that point, when the enterprise was over its first hurdles, Dr Kaltwasser retired from active participation in the project, but remained interested.

For his gift of leadership, his trust in our enterprise in its formative years, his support so generously and reliably given, the Consortium remains grateful.

Lotte Hellinga, CERL Secretary 1992-2002

¹ The proceedings of the first conference were edited by the two conveners, F. G. Kaltwasser and J. M. Smethurst, and published with the title *Retrospective cataloguing in Europe: 15th to 19th century printed materials. Proceedings of the International Conference Munich 28th-30th November 1990*. Munich etc, K. G. Saur, 1992. [Bibliothekspraxis, vol. 31].

Introducing new staff at Data Conversion Group, Göttingen



Gerrit Kühle obtained his MA in Library and Information Science from Cologne University of Applied Sciences in 2009. Subsequently he interned at AEC Daily, which develops online learning programs for architects in the USA and Canada. He had the duties of a marketing assistant including posting news and events, and adding free listings to the website. After returning to Germany, Gerrit worked first as a Projects Assistant for a local public library co-operation in Fürstenau, Lower Saxony, installing a library computer system for the co-operation partners and cataloguing their small collections. As an instructor, Gerrit provided vocational rehabilitation to people with disability, through teaching library assistants at the Berufsförderungswerk Bad Wildbad, Baden-Württemberg. CERL welcomes Gerrit to the DCG team in Göttingen.

Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database data loading in 2011

This year the HPB database was enhanced by more than half a million new as well as 200k improved records and now contains almost 3.5 million records. 18,500 sixteenth-century titles from VD16 (BSB München) were updated with URLs referring to digitised versions. The first new file to enter the database in January was the Dutch Pre-Brinkman material. A first subset of the Polish Biblioteka Narodowa's early printed material file was loaded into the HPB in February, with links to digitisation material available in the National Digital Library Polona included in the records. April eventually saw the inclusion of the large SBN(A) update which by itself increased the size of the HPB with over half a million records. The University Library Wroclaw provided 1,500 records of mainly 16th century prints published by European printers. The Incunabula collection of the Vatican Library was made retrievable from HPB with the integration of the Vatican Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (VISTC) in August. This data set, describing 8,600 copies of 5,600 items held as the Vatican the file is especially rich in copy-specific details.

DCG developed a UNIMARC-MARC21 conversion

The Data Conversion Group (DCG) in Göttingen has developed and implemented a UNIMARC-MARC21 conversion that will from now on be applied to all UNIMARC files to be loaded onto HPB. The focus was on creating a conversion of UNIMARC data that would retain as much of the data as possible, in particular elements concerning antiquarian material. The details of the format mapping will eventually be made available on the CERL website. The first two data sets to be converted using this new mapping will be the Bibliothèque nationale de France's full extraction of all their HPB-relevant material, which will bring the BnF's contribution to the HPB to c. 940,000 records, and a file from the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon.

Future file loads

In 2012, we will also add records from the University Library in Tartu, which has supplied their books printed from 1470 to 1830 in Latin, German, French, Estonian, Finnish, and other European languages. The National Library in Prague delivered their database of rare prints and old maps (*Databáze starých tisků a map NK ČR (1501-1800) - STI*). The Royal Library in Brussels has supplied an XML extraction of their 16-17 c. material in MARC21. The French ABES network provided their member library's holdings in MARC21 (c. 464,000 records with 762,000 individual copies). A new complete extraction of the holdings of the BSB München was made available in MARC21, and an extraction of the German network Gemeinsame Bibliotheksverbund's early printed material and holdings is currently being prepared.

Provenance Index Now Available

<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/worldcat/tb/260/default.htm#indexing>

The new Provenance index is now available in the Heritage of the Printed Book database (HPB). The index label for the new keyword index is "pv:" and it can be used in the HPB in FirstSearch and in the HPB in the Connexion browser and client. The index is not yet listed in the drop-down lists of indexes in FirstSearch and Connexion client but will be added later. The index will also be added to WorldCat in a future re-indexing of the database. The index is built using data from the following MARC 21 fields: field 561 (Ownership and Custodial History, parallel to UNIMARC field 317), field 563 (Binding Information, parallel to UNIMARC field 310), and fields 700 and 710 with specific relator codes (Added Entries for Personal Names and Corporate Names, parallel to UNIMARC 7XX fields). A full description can be found in the indexing section of Technical Bulletin 260 (see URL above).

Finding out the use rates of the HPB within your own institution

<http://www.stats.oclc.org/cusp/nav>

At CERL's Annual Meeting, Thomas Baldwin gave a presentation on plans to survey HPB users. He mentioned the use statistics that are available to CERL's partners, and subsequently received some enquiries about how exactly partner libraries can access this data. The following is intended as a guide to finding out more.

The HPB is hosted and maintained by OCLC on behalf of CERL. The use statistics are therefore compiled, kept and made accessible by OCLC. Members of CERL can log onto <http://www.stats.oclc.org/cusp/nav> using the normal FirstSearch account number and password. This URL is for the special administrative module. Unfortunately it is not possible to view individual cluster member libraries' statistics, as they share one authorization code with all libraries in the cluster.

Once logged on, ensure that FirstSearch is selected in the left hand column, and then, in the main options click on the bar which begins "Authorization..." and ends with "...CRL1". In the drop-down menu that appears, clicking on "Overview" will generate a table of your use statistics. The statistics are available for number of sessions, number of searches and number of ports; where number of searches is probably the most relevant to your institution. You can adjust the reporting period with the controls above the table, specifically the length of report, and the last month of that period. Statistics are available for up to three years ago. They can be exported as an Excel spreadsheet or emailed in a variety of formats using the buttons at the upper right of the screen. If you have further questions on accessing your statistics, please contact thomas.baldwin@cerl.org.

Alert for upcoming HPB study and appeal for members' participation and expertise

Thomas Baldwin's presentation to members at the CERL AGM this year gave a broad outline of how CERL intends to increase the available knowledge about HPB users, their needs and research behaviours. The paper accompanying the presentation gave further details of the information currently available about the use made of the HPB, as well as the outline plan for the study. Members can request a copy from Thomas Baldwin (contact details below).

In addition to the benefits from the increased knowledge of HPB users, we would offer this study as an opportunity for CERL members to come together and participate in a programme of work. An important first step of this CERL study is, therefore, to ask two questions of its members:

1. Do you keep statistical or other data (quantitative or qualitative) on the use of the HPB within your own institution?
2. Has your institution conducted use/user surveys of its own (not necessarily on the HPB)?

If the answer to either question is "yes" we'd be very interested to hear from you. Please contact thomas.baldwin@cerl.org to tell us more. Your experiences will be invaluable for us to learn from, as we seek to understand the impact of one of CERL's principal resources.

Bibliography and the study of paper: Summer school 2012: Applications now open

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/CSBSummerSchool2012.htm>



Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Bodleian Libraries Centre for the Study of the Book will host its first summer school in 2012. The course 'Bibliography and the study of paper' will be held from 9 - 13 July 2012 in Oxford and is being convened by Mark Bland and Andrew Honey.

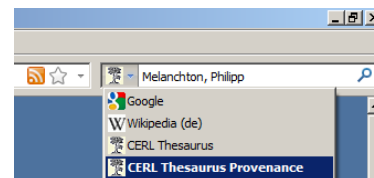
The summer school will explore the material evidence of paper and its implications for the study of manuscripts and early printed books. The course is aimed at academic researchers, special collections personnel, conservators, historians and collectors, and aims to prepare participants for research involving a wide range of papers used in early printed books and manuscripts. Classes will draw on the library and archive collections of the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford Colleges, and Oxford University. The Worshipful Company of Stationers has generously agreed to provide support to a limited number of postgraduate students in the payment of course fees, details are available on the course website.

Alexandra Franklin (bookcentre@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

CERL Thesaurus

<http://thesaurus.cerl.org>

At the beginning of November 2011, the CERL Thesaurus contained 786,697 records (94% of which are records for personal and corporate names). Of the personal names 2.36% included provenance information, and of the corporate body records 21.6% have linked provenance information. Countries that use the CERL Thesaurus most are Hungary (16.3% of the searches), Italy (11.3%) and Germany (9.5%). Further statistics are available from http://www.cerl.org/web/intern/atg/cerl_thesaurus/webstat. The small team that continues to edit the CERL Thesaurus manually, consisting of Ute Klier, Alex Jahnke, Gunilla Jonsson and David Shaw, has been strengthened by Susanna de Schepper. An OpenSearch description was added to the CERL Thesaurus interface meaning that users can now add the CT as custom search engine to their browser, e.g. Firefox (see screenshot).



CERL Thesaurus as Linked Open Data

In recent times, the CERL Thesaurus has become an attractive resource to other academic projects beyond the limited scope of the “simple” reference tool we first created. In order for the CERL Thesaurus data to be used not only by people looking things up in the web interface, but to be integrated into other information services, the data must be accessible in machine readable form without barriers. The most recent and emerging approach to sharing data on the web in a machine understandable and processable way is its publication in RDF statements as Linked Open Data.² The CERL Executive Committee warmly supported the suggestion by Alexander Jahnke of the Data Conversion Group (DCG) to integrate the CERL Thesaurus into the Linked Data Cloud. An ontology based on the MADS-ontology³ by the Library of Congress has been defined, a scheme to build URIs for the entities that are described in CT records has been established and a dereferencing mechanism that returns an RDF description for a given URI is currently being implemented.

Provenance Working Group

<http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/main>

Not only through the CERL Thesaurus and the MEI Database does CERL continue to support researchers in their need for convenient access to comprehensive provenance information; some 74 libraries generated provenance authorities in their local OPACs. CERL would like to include these in the CERL Thesaurus. It has embarked on a test to integrate the provenance authority files from Rome BNC, which is open to the public. C. Dondi is in communication with ICCU Director Caffo, and the Sovrintendente of Regione Emilia Romagna, R. Campioni, to discuss inclusion of the lists of other libraries.

Provenance recording and provenance research does not stop at the borders of Europe. It is for this reason that the CERL Secretary, C. Dondi, is minded to establish communications with colleagues at Harvard, Columbia, the Morgan Library, the Library of Congress, the Folger and other US institutions, to discuss the possibility of extracting provenance records for CT from their electronic catalogues.

There are several resources which may help you to identify the provenance of an item. In this newsletter we would like to draw your attention to the coats of arms database of the Biblioteca Casanatense: <http://archivi.casanatense.it/SearchDoc.htm?Level=3>. It contains some 1,000 arms of owners and dedicatees found in manuscripts and incunabula in the Casanatense library. The database is particularly helpful for the identification of anonymous arms, thanks to the 'esperta' search option, by 'figure', 'smalti' and 'partizioni'. For more information on the Casatense's OPAC in general, see <http://opac.casanatense.it/Consistenza.htm>.



Liberale Giorgio, guardiano dell' Ospedale e Confraternita di San Girolamo degli Illirici

² For more information see <http://linkeddata.org/>. For a general introduction to the semantic web see also http://blog.ted.com/2009/03/13/tim_berners_lee_web/

³ Metadata Authority Description Schema (<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mads/>). For the MADS/RDF ontology see <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mads/rdf/>. MADS is the complementary standard to MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema).

Europeana Libraries project

<http://www.europeana-libraries.eu/>



CERL, The European Library, the Europeana Foundation, LIBER, and 19 European research libraries, are collaborating in the *Europeana Libraries* project (running from January 2011 to December 2012). The project will bring at least 1,200 film and video clips, 850,000 images and 4.3 million texts (books, journal articles, theses and letters) to Europeana and The European Library. The wealth of materials brought together in this project is shown in this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5XjMUI5wvA>.

In the previous months, the project has laid out a brand strategy for the new service, and communications plans that target stakeholders and end users. Metadata for the first of the 5 million digital objects being added to Europeana and The European Library from the project is being processed, with the first results already integrated in Europeana. A draft business model has been established (this was presented to the CERL members at their annual general meeting) and project partners have worked together on the challenge of aligning library metadata with the new Europeana Data Model.

Early next year will see the launch (in beta) of the new European Library portal. In this new portal, tools will be available to enable the user to re-use and work on the materials they find, including material gathered from *Europeana Libraries* partners. The powerful search tools will allow users to sort objects by type (catalogue record, digital object or full-text) and to drill down to objects in a specific academic discipline or language. Other features include the ability to **Examine** the full metadata record of individual objects, **View** objects on a timeline, **Export** records to reference services such as *Zotero* and *Mendeley*, **Create** customised RSS alerts for a specific search term and **Search** by library or collection. The portal will be tested by users over the coming months and The European Library's technical team will work on integrating even more features and content.



In the second, and final, year of the project, the business model will be expanded and refined into a business plan. To this end, Thomas Baldwin of CERL and others in WP2 will undertake extensive work in further validating a list of value-added services that librarians and users want from the new European Library. There will also need to be extensive discussion among the large project partners, CERL, The European Library / CENL, the Europeana Foundation and LIBER, as regards the appropriate governance structure for the new European Library. In other work packages the model for aligning library data with Europeana's new Data Model (EDM) will be put to the test with actual data contributed by project partners. Work on creating access to Full Text data in the new European Library and Europeana environments is progressing. Finally, CERL and The European Library together are examining their data flows, with the aim of finding out whether there are possible synergies and whether we can arrive at economies of scale.

Collaborative EuropeaN Digital Archive Infrastructure (CENDARI)

CERL is a project partner in the CENDARI project, which is scheduled to begin in February 2012 and will run for four years. CENDARI will provide and facilitate access to existing archives and resources in Europe for the study of medieval and modern European history (specifically the First World War period) through the development of an 'enquiry environment'. This environment will increase access to records of historical importance across the European Research Area, creating a powerful new platform for accessing and investigating historical data in a transnational fashion overcoming the national and institutional data silos that now exist. It will leverage the power of the European infrastructure for Digital Humanities (DARIAH) bringing these technical experts together with leading historians and existing research infrastructures (archives, libraries and individual digital projects) within a programme of technical research informed by cutting edge reflection on the impact of the digital age on scholarly practice. CERL's tasks in the project will revolve around examining user requirements and research workflows, and work on ontologies to support data retrieval. The project is led by Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Chawton House Library: (re)-collecting British Women Writers, 1600 – 1830

See www.chawtonhouse.org for Chawton House Library's activities and academic partnerships



The collection of Chawton House Library (in Hampshire, UK) focuses on early modern women writers and provides the opportunity for the study of the work of many women writers who are less well-known, and many of whom stand outside the canon, such as: Penelope Aubin, Eliza Haywood, Charlotte Lennox, Hannah More, Sydney Owenson, Mary Robinson and Frances Sheridan. The Library seeks to collect works written in English between 1600 and 1830 by any female writer and in any genre. The defining characteristic of the collection is the period covered and its uniqueness is in putting women's writing right at the centre of a collection of long eighteenth-century material. With 1837 comes the Victorian period heralding a new era in women's writing, and it is significant that the

Women's Library in London covers the period from 1800 onwards and the collection there gathers particular strength from the mid-nineteenth century. Consequently, Chawton House Library seeks to complement rather than duplicate other specialist collections.

One of the main reasons for the existence of the collection is to facilitate the rediscovery of neglected authors. From evidence such as bibliographies, booksellers' catalogues and advertisements many works seem not to have survived at all. Works considered unimportant by their contemporary audience have been lost; two examples of such works held by the Library are Maria Susannah Cooper's *The Wife; or, Caroline Herbert* (1813) and the anonymous *Ashton Priory: a novel* (1790), both of which are the only identified extant copies. Male writers are not excluded. The aim of the library was explained by Isobel Grundy at the Library's inaugural conference in 2003, when she stated that the library 'propose[s] a field for study in which the usual positions are reversed. Here, women are not the margins but the centre; men are not the centre but the margins'. The huge challenge for Chawton House Library now and in the future is to raise the funds that will enable us to continue the work of developing the collection and improving its accessibility.

Jacqui Grainger, Librarian of Chawton House Library

14th International Seminar on the Care and Conservation of Manuscripts (Copenhagen, 17-19 October 2012) – call for papers (deadline 1 February 2012)

<http://nfi.ku.dk/cc>

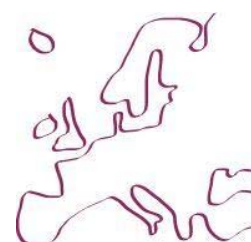


The aim of the seminar, which is arranged by M. J. Driscoll and Ragnheiður Mósésdóttir of the Arnarnágræn Institute, University of Copenhagen, and Ivan Boserup and Marie Vest of the Royal Library, is to bring together scholars, conservators, librarians, archivists, curators and others who work in the field of manuscript studies, preservation and conservation. Papers are invited on subjects relating to the care and conservation of manuscripts in the widest sense, including, but not limited to, conservation techniques and related matters, curatorial, codicological, philological and book historical subjects and digitisation.

Introduction of EROMM Search

<http://www.eromm.org>

EROMM, the European Register for Microfilm and Digital Masters, introduces 'EROMM Search', a new service, which allows searching for more than 9 million reproductions of printed books and other library material. EROMM Search combines two data sources, the well-established EROMM database (now termed 'EROMM Classic') with its detailed bibliographic descriptions of master surrogates and the new search engine (called 'EROMM Web Search'), which is reaching out to resources on the web that are available via OAI or as 'normal' web sites.



Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI): an update

<http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl>

MEI is specifically designed to allow users to record and search the material evidence (or copy specific, post-production evidence, provenance information) of 15th-century printed books: e.g. ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices. MEI takes bibliographical information from the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC), and combines it with copy-specific records created by institutions describing their incunabula collections. Bringing together the provenance information from libraries across Europe gives users the opportunity to answer complex questions conveniently, such as 'which editions printed in Venice show a 16th-century German provenance?' The database is hosted by CERL and freely available on its website. Contribution of records is free and welcome. Once in MEI records can be downloaded in MARC21 or UNIMARC Holdings for integration into local OPACs. MEI offers the possibility to search a large quantity of data pertaining to the history and physical evidence of incunabula, thus counteracting having to rely on fragmented record keeping in scattered paper and electronic catalogues, which was hitherto the daily reality. The latest news on the project is provided below.

- *News:*

The visualization of the distribution and use of these 15th-century printed books is going to be investigated by Cristina Dondi in collaboration with Min Chen, Professor of Scientific Visualisation at the Oxford e-Research Centre during the course of 2012.

- *Internships:*

The book-in-hand cataloguing of the physical aspects of incunabula held in Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, continues thanks to the work of Dott.ssa Valentina Piccinin, a trained codicologist. The British Library confirms that in 2012 another intern will continue the work of recording the provenance of their incunabula into MEI, started by Dott.ssa Panzanelli in early 2011.

- *Grants received:*

The cataloguing of incunabula from libraries of Regione Lombardia (which oversees a network of some 120 libraries) started in 2010 by Alessandro Ledda and Giancarlo Petrella, members of the team headed by Prof. Edoardo Barbieri of Centro di Ricerca Europeo Libro Editoria Biblioteca (= CRELEB), Università Cattolica of Milan. Two research grants, from Regione Lombardia and Fondazione Cariplo, were received in 2011 to continue the work. A third grant, from the Italian Ministry of Education, University, and Research, Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (= PRIN), was received by a joint application of Università Cattolica and Università Statale, of Milan, again to catalogue book-in-hand important collections such as Milan, Biblioteca Trivulziana and Brescia, Biblioteca Queriniana. See the forthcoming note by C. Dondi and A. Ledda in *La Bibliofilia*, 2011, anno CXIII, n. 3.

- *Training seminars:*

Training sessions for cataloguing in MEI are being organised by CRELEB, Univ. Cattolica of

Milan, in Milan, and by Dott.ssa Marina Venier, B. Nazionale Centrale of Rome, in Rome.

- *Libraries participating in MEI:*

London, British Library; London, Middle Temple Library; London, Senate House Library, Univ. of London; Madrid, Real Biblioteca; Padova, Biblioteca Universitaria; Regione Lombardia (at presents records from the collections of Univ. Cattolica Milan, Univ. Cattolica Brescia, Seminario Brescia, Chiari, B. Morcelliana; from 2012 Milan, B. Trivulziana, Milan, Brescia, B. Queriniana, Milan, Biblioteca Provinciale dell'Ordine dei Carmelitani Scalzi); Roma, B. Nazionale Centrale; Roma, B. Casanatense; Roma, B. Corsiniana o dei Lincei; Venezia, Biblioteca del Museo Correr; Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana (part of C. Dondi's research project); St Petersburg, National Library of Russia.

- *Possible other contributing libraries:*

Other institutions which have expressed an interest in contributing their incunabula records are: Barcelona, B. de la Universitat; Venice, Fondazione Cini, as a test for Regione Veneto; Regione Trentino (transfer of records from published catalogues); Padova, Biblioteca del Seminario and Capitolare; Edinburgh, NLS; Bristol, University Library; Boston, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; Harvard Univ. Library (conversion of Walsh printed catalogue); Washington, Library of Congress.

- *Technical enhancements:*

Further funding has been granted by the British Academy and by CERL for the implementation of a mechanism that allows access to the database's index during data input to support the use of controlled entry forms and speed up the inputting of data. This technical enhancement has been scheduled by DCG for the beginning of January 2012.

Cristina Dondi, CERL Secretary

Conference: *Ambassadors of the Book. Competences for heritage librarians*

<http://www.ua.ac.be/ibw/ambassadors-of-the-book>

This English-language conference is organised by the Library and Information Science Department of the University of Antwerp and Flanders Heritage Library, with the collaboration of the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (ENSSIB, Lyon), FARO - Flemish interface centre for cultural heritage, and under the auspices of the IFLA-Rare Books and Manuscript Section, the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collection and Preservation and CERL. It will be held at the University of Antwerp on 1-2 February (programme and registration details are at the URL above).

Early Dutch Books Online

<http://www.earlydutchbooksonline.nl/>



Earlier this year, Early Dutch Books Online (formerly, Dutch Print Online) was launched, presenting digital copies (both images and text) of around 11,000 books from the period 1781 - 1800. Subsequent reviews of the project have criticized the quality of the OCR-ing. This led to the decision to spend the remainder of the project funds on improving the OCR quality and to mend some bugs in the website. Manual correction of OCR is labour intensive and therefore costly, and it is for this reason that only a selection of the books can be thus treated. A working group will select potential candidates on the basis

of frequency of use, but users are invited to send in recommendations, as well. As the project features quite a few French and English books, members of the CERL community may wish to contribute to this consultation. You can send your suggestions to judith.rog@kb.nl (deadline: 1 February 2012).

Joint LIBER / CERL Working Group for Heritage Collections

LinkedIn Group: <http://linkd.in/c4VqeU>

In 2011, Dr Graham Jefcoate of the University Library in Nijmegen stepped down as Chairman of the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collections and Preservation (SCHCP). Dr Claudia Fabian of the Bayerische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek in München was elected to the LIBER Board in June 2011, and replaced G. Jefcoate as the Chairman of the SCHCP in October 2011. M. Lefferts continued to function as Secretary to the Steering Committee. In the past year, the SCHCP organised two workshops:

- A pre-conference workshop on Heritage Collections in the Digital Future (on the occasion of the 40th LIBER Annual General Conference held in Barcelona, June 2011).
- A workshop on strategic aspects of collection management planning (Halle, September 2011).

Reports are available through the LIBER website (<http://www.libereurope.eu/heritage-schcp-reports>).

The LIBER Board has asked the SCHCP to organise the bi-annual workshop on Digital Preservation, in the coming year. The first one was held in The Hague in 2009, and the second edition, jointly organised with the Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Florence, and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, will be held in Florence on 7-8 May 2012. The title is *Partnerships in curating European digital resources*, and participants will be offered sessions on building partnerships for curating research data, academic journals, digitised books and cultural heritage, and web archiving. It will look at roles and responsibilities and training the right staff. Three examples of best-practice will be presented on the second day.

In addition to this workshop, the SCHCP supports the Antwerp *Ambassadors of the Book* conference (see above), and is preparing a session to coincide with the LIBER AGC meetings in Tartu, Estonia, is discussing with OCLC the opportunity to organise a European follow-up to the *Taking our Pulse* survey of special collections and archives which was conducted in North America in 2010 (see www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2010/2010-11.pdf), and is developing plans to follow-up on the questionnaire regarding born-digital materials that Ivan Boserup organised for the LIBER Manuscript Expert Group. This Expert Group plans a large meeting in Paris (May 2012), and the LIBER Maps Expert Group is currently preparing its conference, to be held in Barcelona on 18 and 19 April 2012 (see [http://www.icc.cat/cat/Home-ICC/Inici/Cartoteca/Consulta-de-catalegs/La-Cartoteca/Serveis/LIBER-GdC/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.icc.cat/cat/Home-ICC/Inici/Cartoteca/Consulta-de-catalegs/La-Cartoteca/Serveis/LIBER-GdC/(language)/eng-GB)).

Call for proposals for the 2012 Brill Fellowship at the Scaliger Institute

<http://www.library.leiden.edu/special-collections/scaliger-institute/research/brill-fellowship.html>

The Scaliger Institute and Brill publishers invite scholars and researchers to submit proposals for the 2012 Brill fellowship at the Scaliger Institute of Leiden University Library. Brill, the oldest scholarly publishing house in The Netherlands and based in Leiden since 1683, is sponsoring the Scaliger Institute from the year 2006 onwards. This contribution provides an opportunity for one or two Fellows to come to Leiden University Library each year in order to carry out research in the library's rich Special Collections. The Brill fellowship is intended for a minimum period of three months and for a maximum period of six months. The allowance, which is intended to cover the costs of accommodation and research, is €1.000 per month. Applications must be submitted to the board of the Brill Fellowship. The prospective Fellow must be involved in one of the following main subject areas of Brill: Middle East & Islamic Studies; Asian Studies; Medieval & Early Modern History; Biblical & Religious Studies; Ancient Near East & Egypt or Classical Studies. The Brill Fellow is expected to contribute to the activities of the Scaliger Institute and to give a public lecture. When the occasion arises, the lecture will be published by Brill in association with the Scaliger Institute. The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2012.



BRILL



Universiteit Leiden

Webinar: Rapid Capture in Special Collections and Archives

<http://www.oclc.org/research/events/webinars.htm#rapcap>

On 27 October 2011 OCLC Research Library Partnership organised a webinar on Rapid Capture in Special Collections and Archives. The OCLC report, *Rapid Capture: Faster Throughput in Digitisation of Special Collections*, focused on the actual moment of digitisation of non-book materials and on innovative ways to speed things up. But speeding things up in one part of the process often uncovers bottlenecks in other parts. In this webinar, experts from special collections and archives offered up creative ways to speed up other parts of the process to provide greater access to special collections. A recording of this webinar is available on the OCLC website (see URL above).

CERL Papers XI was presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2011

This publication can now be ordered from the CERL Secretariat (secretariat@cerl.org): *Virtual visits to lost libraries: reconstruction of and access to dispersed collections* (Ivan Boserup and David J. Shaw, eds.). Papers presented on 5 November 2010 at the CERL Seminar hosted by the Royal Library of Denmark, Copenhagen. London, Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2011. ISBN 978-0-9569996-0-3. [Eleven papers in English.]

The CERL Secretariat wishes all CERL Members and readers of this Newsletter a wonderful Christmas and a good New Year, filled with good cheer and fruitful collaboration.



© V&A, London: the first-ever Christmas card (John Callcott Horsley, 1843)

Consortium of European Research Libraries
40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0NE, United Kingdom
Tel. +44 20 7415 7134 - Fax +44 20 7970 5643
E-mail: Marian.Lefferts@cerl.org