

**The objects and aims of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) are to provide services to its members and to the library and scholarly world at large in the form of bibliographical databases, seminars, workshops, publications and co-operation with other library organisations and individual libraries and their staff. CERL concentrates its efforts on printed material from the hand-press period – up to the first half of the 19th century – and on manuscripts, in analogue or digital format.**

## Content

|   |       |  |        |
|---|-------|--|--------|
| CERL Vacancy                                | ... 1 | Transcribing Old English: Ansund Project | ... 6  |
| Letter from the Chair                       | ... 2 | Looted Libraries, Looted Books           | ... 7  |
| AGM 2024 Elections                          | ... 3 | CERL Internship and Placement Grants     | ... 7  |
| BL: International Library Leaders Programme | ... 4 | Bookbindings                             | ... 8  |
| Exhibition: Gutenberg's Cradle              | ... 5 | CfP – Provenance Conference              | ... 9  |
| Censorship and Heritage Collections         | ... 5 | New additions to the CERL Thesaurus      | ... 10 |
| Collection Security Summer Schools          | ... 6 | Dates for your diaries                   | ... 10 |

## CERL Vacancy

<https://www.cerl.org/services/jobadvert2025>

CERL has a job opening for an Outreach and Communication Officer (0,6 FTE initially for 12 months). This person will work with the Secretariat on liaison with CERL Stakeholders, outlining the benefits of CERL membership, supporting CERL Working Groups, strengthening CERL's role and standing in the field of international library organisations and rolling out a new CERL website.



We are looking for a person with an affinity with Special Collections and experience in the field of promotion and marketing. We hope that this person will develop a portfolio of short videos for information or instruction purposes, expand our contact information for CERL members and keep it up to date, keep an overview of events organised in the our library community and assist with organising CERL events. Finally, the Officer will work to ensure that all CERL messaging through the website, social media channels, presentations and publications is exciting, on brand and reaches the widest possible, relevant audience.

Further details may be found on the webpage cited above. The deadline for sending in an application is 31 January 2025. Letters of application, a CV and contact details for two references should be marked *Outreach and Communication Officer* and may be sent to [secretariat@cerl.org](mailto:secretariat@cerl.org).

## End of the year 2024 – message from Claudia Fabian, Chair of CERL

CERL's (financial and organisational) year always starts in October – coinciding with the key event for all members: the Annual General Meeting. In Brussels, in October 2023, I was honoured to be elected as your new Chair, and I completed my first year in Rome in 2024. This meant chairing two AGMs, two Executive Committee and three Board of Directors' meetings to fulfil my official tasks. I am very grateful to Kristian Jensen, my predecessor as Chair, for continuing in the role of Vice-Chair for my first year, thus ensuring a smooth transition, and now as a honorary member, dealing especially with rather confidential legal aspects around heritage issues. My retirement from the Bavarian State Library on 30th April 2024, after 40 professional years, has given me more time to devote to CERL.

Defining [a strategy for CERL for the years 2024 – 2027](#) was a main task. This is a time of significant change for all libraries and this overall context has required thorough reflection and considered analysis. Through the shared efforts of the central team, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, we were able to define CERL's central activities, its 'why and with what purpose' in 2024. CERL is a **professional network** AND a **data network for the written European cultural heritage up to the middle of 19th century**. It is important to state 'European' and 'up to 1850', because nowadays 'cultural heritage' does not automatically imply a reference to early modern times, the particular focus of CERL.



CERL bridges the diverse research library world (including national, university and special libraries and collections) and other memory institutions with book-oriented research. CERL's professional network is rich and addresses the needs of specialists, young professionals, researchers and research oriented librarians, but also addresses library directors and managers in their responsibility for the future of their special identity and legacy collections. CERL thus constitutes a community and a reference point. Member libraries may engage with CERL through a single contact person or a number of specialists and responsible persons contributing to CERL's working groups and other activities and find advice and inspiration.

CERL's data network underpins and makes this effort concrete. It brings together Europe's written heritage (up to the middle of the 19th century) in specialised, pan-European databases and thesauri, made freely accessible to the whole library and research world. The traditional core databases of CERL, the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB) with nearly 10 million records and the CERL Thesaurus, are embedded in and supplemented by special bibliographic and copy/item (object) oriented databases in the CERL data network. In 2025, we will strengthen the emphasis on CERL's importance as data network for specialised aspects of European heritage material. CERL does not provide a commercial IT infrastructure, but a service for research and the common good in creating and maintaining a data backbone for historic book-oriented research with a substantial and growing impact in the Semantic Web.

CERL ensures and maintains this professional and data network as a **membership** organisation, bringing together institutions as members. We want to make sure that co-operative, membership-driven participation is more than paying a membership fee for expected services. The more each member actively participates in ensuring and valuing the possibilities and contributes to the building of services, the greater will be the service and impact of CERL to the members and – through them – as a commonly shared service for a larger research and library community. It is in this spirit that I am confident that in 2025 we will continue to join forces and expertise in our Consortium. I should like to thank you all for your multiple contributions in different ways to this joint endeavour. Particular thanks go to CERL's central team, our Secretary, Cristina Dondi, our Executive Manager, Marian Lefferts, our Treasurer Jason McElligott, and everyone who works for our data network at the Data Conversion Group.

I am looking forward to our conversations in 2025.

*With best wishes for the festive season, Claudia*

## Elections at the CERL Annual General Meeting, 8 November 2024

[www.cerl.org/about/organisation](http://www.cerl.org/about/organisation)

### CERL Board of Directors and Executive Committee

Stefano Campagnolo (BNC Rome) and Dorothea Sommers (BSB München) concluded their first three-year term as Director in 2024. The members were very happy to elect them for second term. The Secretary circulated a call for nominations for a new Director in September 2024. Xerxes Mazda of the British Library nominated Michelle Light, Director of the Beinecke Library at Yale University and the members unanimously elected her to join the CERL Board of Directors.

Three members left the Executive Committee: Adrian Edwards (British Library), Bente Granrud (National Library of Norway) and Anette Hagan (National Library of Scotland). CERL is very grateful for their invaluable input over the years, both in the EC and the various Working Groups on which they served. We are very fortunate that Robert Betteridge of the National Library of Scotland and Helen Vincent of the British Library were willing to join the EC. Below we introduce the new members of the Board and EC, as well as three EC members, Beāte Orlova, Vicky Gerontopoulou and David Speranzi, who joined the Committee in the course of 2024.



**Michelle Light** was appointed Associate University Librarian for Special Collections and Beinecke Library Director at Yale University in 2021. Formerly she was director of the Library of Congress' Special Collections from 2019-2021 and before that director of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

She has been very active in both the archival and rare book arenas. She is a frequent presenter at conferences and other events sponsored by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and was a participant in the Association of Research Libraries Leadership Fellows Program (2018-19).



**Helen Vincent** took up the role of Head of Western Heritage at the British Library in June 2024, following over twenty years at the National Library of Scotland as first Rare Books Curator and then Head of Rare Books, Maps and Music Collections. She has been involved in IFLA as Chair of its Rare Books and Special Collections Section 2015-19, as a member of its Governing Board 2019-21, and currently Chair of its Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, and through these roles she has collaborated with CERL on a number of different events and activities. She represents IFLA on the ICA Expert Group Against Theft, Tampering and Trafficking and CILIP on the Blue Shield UK Committee, and is a member of Europeana's Climate Action Community Steering Group.



**Robert Betteridge** has had a long career at the National Library of Scotland where he is the Rare Books Curator for Eighteenth-century printed collections. With a background in cataloguing, one of his final tasks in his previous role was to catalogue the Library's collection of incunabula. He has presented papers and published a number of articles on the Advocates Library's and National Library's history, collecting and collections, largely with a late 17th and 18th-century focus. He has curated major exhibitions on Robert Burns, the 1715 Jacobite Rising and the Scottish Enlightenment.



**Beāte Orlova** is a collections expert in the Special Collections Department at the National Library of Latvia, overseeing the collection of Early Modern printed books. In 2023, she curated the exhibition “The Essence of a Typographer. Nicolaes Mollijns: Riga-Antwerp”, an international collaboration between the National Library of Latvia and the Museum Plantin-Moretus.

She participated in the CERL Technical Assessment Group, chaired by F. Lemmers, KBR Brussels, and she is active in CENL’s Books and Audiences Network Group ([BANG!](#)), which emerged to address challenges in book exhibitions by offering a collaborative platform to explore accessible, engaging, and inclusive methods. It provides interactive encounters with books for diverse audiences.



**Vicky Vasiliki Gerontopoulou** has been working at the Onassis Foundation since 2009 as a project manager and digital programs coordinator. In 2014 she was appointed Onassis Library Coordinator ([www.onassislibrary.gr](http://www.onassislibrary.gr)). With a strong background in planning and coordinating cultural events, she brings extensive expertise in implementing European research programs and digital projects. Her research interests primarily revolve around the history of Greek typography and the dissemination of new scientific ideas by Greek scholars during the Neo-Hellenic Enlightenment in the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition, she investigates the potential of teaching history using digital technologies and innovative methodological approaches.



Born in 1978, **David Speranzi** is head of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Ancient Collections Department of the Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Firenze. He holds a PhD in Text and Manuscript Science from the Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale. His last book is the catalogue *Acquisti Coattivi 2016-2024. Mostra di manoscritti, libri, carte*, Firenze, Biblioteca nazionale centrale, 2024.

A full list of Speranzi’s publications is available here: <https://www.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Speranzi-CV.pdf>

## International Library Leaders Programme at the British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/about-us/international/>

With over 170 million items in its collection, from Magna Carta to Shakespeare’s First Folio, the British Library is one of the world’s largest national libraries. If you are a mid-career library or archive professional, they invite you to apply to join the fifth International Library Leaders Programme (ILLP), running from 9 to 16 July 2025. The intensive week-long programme of workshops, talks and tours given by senior staff from across the Library’s core departments offers the opportunity for an intimate group of international library professionals to meet the Library’s experts and learn from their experiences of dealing with the everyday issues facing libraries today.

Please download the brochure and apply via the website listed above.

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 6 February 2025**. If you have any queries or want to find out more, please get in touch with the British Library’s International Office at [international@bl.uk](mailto:international@bl.uk).



## Exhibition: Gutenberg's Cradle

A new exhibition about incunables entitled 'Gutenberg's Cradle' has opened at Marsh's Library in Dublin, Ireland. It will run until April 2025.

A striking feature of the books on display is how quickly printers perfected the new technology. It was common for copies to be further 'improved' with hand-applied decoration. The gold leaf on a 1472 copy of Cicero's *Letters to Friends* and a 1482 copy of Astesanus' *Cases of Conscience* is as exquisite today as when it was applied over 500 years ago.

Many of the books contain ownership inscriptions or marginalia left by their first owners. Among the items on display are three separate editions of the history book *Fasciculus Temporum* which became a best-seller due to its use of woodcut images to depict cities, famous historical figures, and extraordinary events such as comets and eclipses.

The exhibition catalogue by the Italian scholar Sara D'Amico is a thing of beauty and will no doubt be a collectors' item in years to come. D'Amico's bibliographical descriptions are presented in an innovative format that combines the layout of data in both ISTC and MEI databases.

The printed catalogue is available for purchase (the price is €25) via the library's secure [online shop](#).



## Censorship and Heritage Collections

Programme: <https://ilc2024.es/programme-2024/?lang=en>

On 8 October 2024, the Rare Book & Special Collections Section and Art Libraries of IFLA jointly organized a hybrid symposium in Barcelona on the topic of *Censorship and Heritage Collections*, which wanted to explore the historical and contemporary practice of censorship in documentary heritage. Such censorship, including banning and restraining access to material of a certain topics, often targets books and collections by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people of color, Indigenous populations, as well as religious and/or political minority groups. At the symposium these issues were addressed with talks ranging from historical censorship in Colonial Mexico, to modern challenges in the United States and to publishing in North Korea. The symposium was part of a bigger event, the *International Library Conference: Culture, Knowledge and Community*, organized by different library groups and institutions.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9:45 – 11:15  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Flavia Bruni (Italia):</b> "In the censor's room: The library of Lorenzo da Lucca, 21-25 November 1600"</li> <li>• <b>Manuel Suárez Rivera (México):</b> "Censored heritage. Material traces of censorship practice in colonial Mexico through the collection of the National Library of Mexico"</li> <li>• <b>Blair Kuntz (Canada):</b> "Censoring the evidence of Canadian state collusion and police violence in Maria Campbell's <i>Halfbreed</i>"</li> </ul>          |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Coffee break   |
| 11:45 – 13:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ellie Kim (United States):</b> Censorship on North Korean Publication and its Effect on North Korea Publication as Heritage Collection.</li> <li>• <b>Amanda Ros (United States):</b> "The straight white Christian male assumption: Censorship in subject cataloging"</li> <li>• <b>Joanna Baines y Simon Farid (United Kingdom):</b> "Towards archiving a secret: Approaches to accessing and activating censored materials in cultural heritage collections"</li> </ul> |
| 13:15 – 14:15 | Lunch break  |
| 14:15 – 15:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julie Juddkins (United States):</b> "Do alternative facts belong in acid-free boxes? Ethics and obligations of archiving misinformation"</li> <li>• <b>Beth Kilmarx y Rebecca Hankins (United States):</b> "Unveiling the past, informing the future: Combating censorship and preserving controversial heritage collections in academic institutions"</li> </ul>  |

The recorded talks, which are highly recommended, are available [here](#) and [here](#).

*Peter Sjökvist, Secretary of the Rare Books and Special Collections Section of IFLA*

## Security Working Group

Programme: <https://www.cerl.org/collaboration/security/2025summerschool>



The Collection Security Summer School held in September 2024, and hosted by the University Library in Vilnius, focussed on two themes. The first theme was balancing security with access (access to old buildings, modern buildings that are open 24/7, and those where building work is in progress). The second theme was balancing customer care and security, also in relation to the recent thefts of 19th Russian literature. Quick Audit Tool discussion cards were used to explore lessons-learned in more detail. Presentations are available on the [CERL website](#).



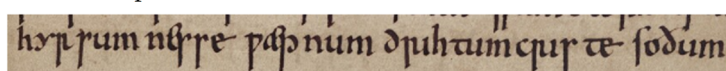
Preparations for the Summer School of 2025 have started and we are very pleased to announce that the Library of Trinity College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland will be working together to host the seventh Summer School. The dates are 10-12 September 2025. The programme will include presentations by members of the Security Working Group and our Dublin colleagues, in combination with workshops to explore topics in more detail, visits to libraries in Dublin and a social programme.



Participants will be asked to pay a registration fee which covers the costs of catering. A detailed programme will be published in the Spring of 2025. Registrations should be sent to [secretariat@cerl.org](mailto:secretariat@cerl.org)

## Transcribing Old English manuscripts: the Ansund project

The Ansund project, a collaboration between Trinity College Dublin and the University of Vienna, aims to produce a new, exhaustive, open access corpus of Old English using Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR). In a pilot, presented at a colloquium in Dublin on 29 November 2024, we trained an HTR model on about 800 pages from 24 manuscripts dating from the ninth to twelfth centuries using Transkribus. This achieved an accuracy of 96% with a character inventory ten times more detailed than that habitually used for transcribing Old English and hitherto employed in HTR for languages using the Roman alphabet.



**I-IO** *hyrsumnſre præpnum drihtum criſte ſoðum*

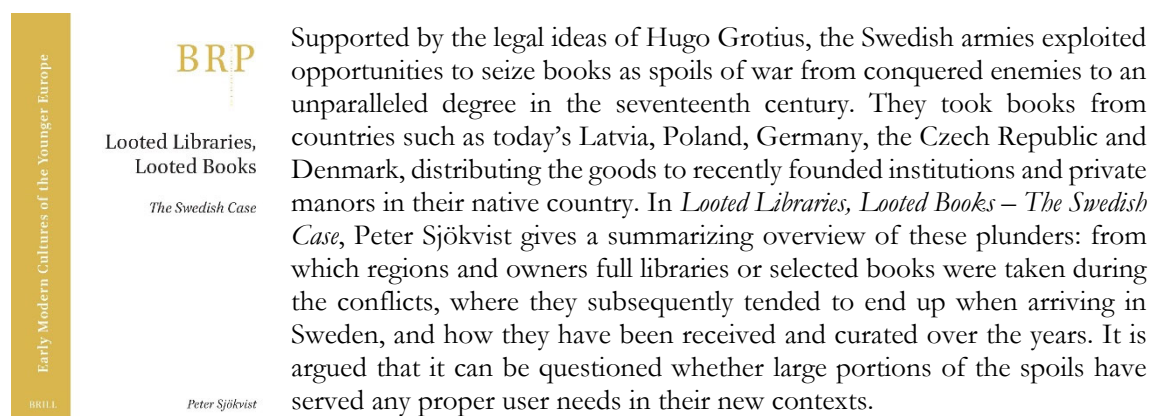
The uncorrected output of the pilot model run on Oxford, Corpus Christi College, 197, fol. 3r/23: there are only two minor errors: the shape of *y* in 'hyrsumnesse' and that of *d* in 'drihtum'. The font is Junicode, designed by Peter Baker, who has created over 350 glyphs for the project.

With proof-of-concept established, we are now evaluating funding models for building the full corpus, through partnerships with libraries, the Oxford English Dictionary and Dictionary of Old English. This will entail applying the model to the c. 45,000 pages containing Old English that survive across 500 manuscripts, about 60% of which have been digitised, plus at least 4,000 pages of charters. Since digitisation is a sine qua non of HTR, we estimate we need to collaborate on the digitisation of manuscripts containing Old English across 18 countries, mostly in Europe. We are very grateful to Claudia Fabian for attending the Colloquium, and would be very glad to hear from member libraries of CERL who hold Old English manuscripts and would like to collaborate with us in any way.

*Mark Faulkner, Trinity College Dublin ([mark.faulkner@tcd.ie](mailto:mark.faulkner@tcd.ie))*  
*Elisabetta Magnanti, University of Vienna ([elisabetta.magnanti@univie.ac.at](mailto:elisabetta.magnanti@univie.ac.at))*

## Looted Libraries, Looted Books

<https://brill.com/display/title/71358>



Supported by the legal ideas of Hugo Grotius, the Swedish armies exploited opportunities to seize books as spoils of war from conquered enemies to an unparalleled degree in the seventeenth century. They took books from countries such as today's Latvia, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic and Denmark, distributing the goods to recently founded institutions and private manors in their native country. In *Looted Libraries, Looted Books – The Swedish Case*, Peter Sjökvist gives a summarizing overview of these plunders: from which regions and owners full libraries or selected books were taken during the conflicts, where they subsequently tended to end up when arriving in Sweden, and how they have been received and curated over the years. It is argued that it can be questioned whether large portions of the spoils have served any proper user needs in their new contexts.

## CERL Internship and Placement Grants

<https://www.cerl.org/collaboration/internship>

Each year, CERL members are invited to put forward projects plus an invitation for an intern to temporarily join their team. CERL coordinates the selection of the interns, where we are looking to support people new to the profession, whether in librarianship or in academia, and to facilitate international mobility. This year we offered six projects proposed by CERL members.

We received 14 applications (an even split between early career scholars and librarians) from Greece (5, one based in the Netherlands); Ireland (1); Italy (5, two based in the UK, one based in Ireland); Spain (1); United Kingdom (1); United States (1, based in the UK). Of the candidates 10 identified as female and 4 male.

The successful applications were:

- **Seosamh Mac Cárthaigh** – catalogued incunabula at **Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge**. She has a PhD in Anglo-Saxon Norse and Celtic and internships at the British Library and Dublin DIAS to Catalogue pre-1600 Irish manuscripts.
- **Jackson Hartigan** – catalogued incunabula at the **Huntington Library, San Marino California**. He is an MPhil student at Cambridge working on Lorenzo Pignoria's *De servis* (1613) and undertook student work experience at Williams College Chapin Library.
- **Tom Mackinnon** – worked on [map-inc](#) (Mapping incunabula in Greek libraries) and CERL's Provenance Digital Archive (PDA) at the **Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, Piraeus, Greece**. He is Library assistant at the National Portrait Gallery of London.
- **Costanza Ficorella** – described provenance marks of the **Fagel Collection, Library of Trinity College Dublin**, in the Provenance Digital Archive (PDA) of CERL. She is Assistant Archivist, Office of Public Works, National Monuments Services, Dublin, with an MA in Archivistics, Diplomats and Palaeography from the University of Ferrara and a MSt in Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford.
- **Valeria Cesaraccio** – catalogued incunabula at the **University Library of Naples**. She is a PhD student in Renaissance Studies at the University of Warwick, working on education in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italy, with an BA from the University of Sassari and an MA from the University of Turin.
- **Martina Uvale** - matched incunable holdings with ISTC numbers at **Utrecht University Library**. She has a Master's degree in Library and Archival Sciences from the University of Bologna, spent some time at the Universitat de València working on Aragonese manuscripts, and through the Erasmus programme she was at the University Complutense of Madrid.

## Book Bindings

CERL congratulates the Belgisch-Nederlands Boekbandengenootschap ([the Belgian-Dutch Bookbinding Society](#)) on its 40th anniversary, which was celebrated with a conference and the election of the oldest binding in the Low Countries.

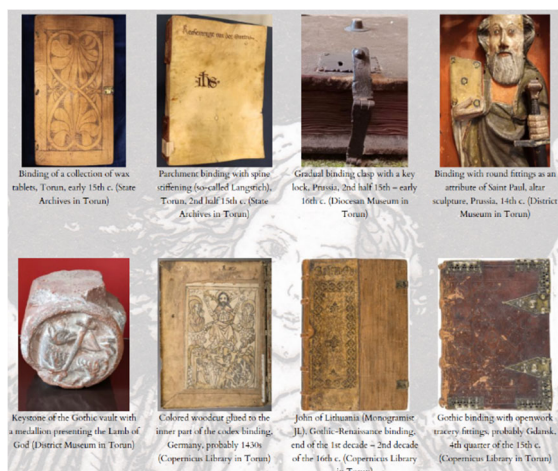
The winner was this unique 10th-century bookbinding (Ms. 8380-9012) made of oak boards that is treasured in the collection of the [KBR \(Royal Library of Belgium\)](#). The manuscript, a *liber pontificalis*, describes the lives of the popes, contains 82 folios in parchment, and is written in Carolingian Minuskel. This historical work has circulated throughout its existence in the Low Countries: from its production in Saint-Omer to the Bollandists in Antwerp, and now at KBR Brussels.



M. Lefferts prepared a poster to introduce CERL to the participants of the conference and she joined a panel discussion on presenting and accessing digital collections of book bindings, chaired by Herre de Vries (atelier RNA). The other panellists were Alex Alsemgeest (Rijksmuseum), Karen Andree (Anet UAntwerpen/AAT), and Heleen Wyffels (STCV/Impressum).



The BNB together with CERL, has organised two sessions of a newly formed Bookbindings Academy. In an online meeting, eminent bookbinding specialists will give a presentation about their research. The first event will take place on Friday 17 January 2025 (speaker Alberto Campagnolo (KU Leuven) and (TBC) Melissa Moreton, Suzanne Conklin Akbari & Ian McCallum (School of historical studies, Princeton)) at 15u CET, the second on 14 February 2025 at the same time (speakers: Zanna van Loon (Plantin Moretus) and Elodie Levêque(BnF)). Registration details are available on the [BNB website](#).



On 13-14 December 2024, the Department of Print and Digital Media in the Institute of Information and Communication Research UMK/NCU together with the Provincial Public Library – Copernican Library in Toruń, the University Library in Toruń, the District Museum in Toruń, the State Archives in Toruń and the Diocesan Museum in Toruń organised the 4th International, Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference in the Field of Bookbinding Studies entitled *Gothic bindings of the 13th and 16th centuries from Toruń collections*.

The conference was accompanied by an exquisite exhibition, featuring approximately 80 pieces of European book bindings, stored in Toruń institutions: the University Library, the Copernicus Library, the State Archives and the Diocesan Museum. The selected objects included, among others: volumes from the Teutonic *libraria*, cut-leather bindings (*Lederschnitteinbände*), a set of wooden, engraved wax tablet bindings, a unique Cologne binding from the 14th century, a binding decorated with seal stamps, a light leather binding covered with a decoration printed in black from a woodcut block, *libri catenati*, a rich set of bindings with late Gothic decorations, so-called *Langsticheinbände*, or a large-format gradual binding with a key lock.

The organisers prepared a richly illustrated catalogue edited by Arkadiusz Wagner and collaborators Magdalena Awianowicz, Marta Czyżak, Beata Madajewska and Krzysztof Nierzwicki. Here is the link to the homepage of the symposium: <https://gothic.umk.pl/conference-idea/>. The conference programme is available here <https://gothic.umk.pl/conference-programme/>.

## Provenance Conference – Call for Papers

The Ossolineum Library in Poland is organising the 4th international provenance conference on (post)war fates of early printed book collections, with the title *Księgozbiory rozproszone - (po)wojenne losy kolekcji książki dawnej* (*Dispersed libraries - (post)war fates of early printed book collections*). The conference (for which will no conference fee will be charged) will be held at the Ossoliński National Institute, on 23 to 25 April 2025. During the armed conflicts which took place in Europe in various periods of history, many private and institutional early printed book collections were dispersed and relocated.

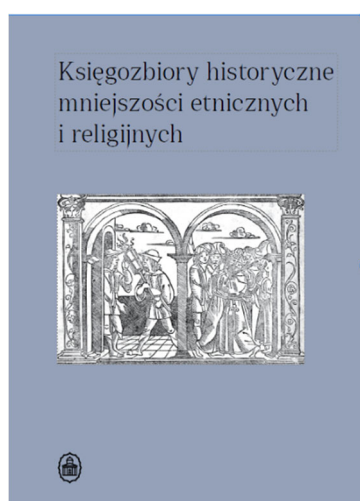


They are currently held in libraries, archives, museums, and private collections all over the world. As the tangible legacy of Europe's cultural heritage, they serve as an invaluable resource for comprehending its history, science and culture. The purpose of this conference is to examine the war and postwar fates of early printed book collections, their current legal status, and strategies for bringing them together.

The conference will focus on European collections, but for comparative purposes, papers on similar phenomena from other parts of the world are also welcome. We invite papers on the following topics:

- book collections dispersed during military conflicts in the modern period (up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century);
- book collections dispersed during military conflicts in the 19th and 20th centuries;
- legal aspects of book collection dispersion;
- consolidation of dispersed book collections: research, cooperation and perspectives.

**To submit your proposal for a presentation, please write to [ksiazka-dawna@ossolineum.pl](mailto:ksiazka-dawna@ossolineum.pl)** (deadline by 28 February 2025). If you wish to attend you can write to the same address. The deadline for registering your attendance is 14 March 2025. There are a limited number of places available and applications will be processed in the order in which they come in.



In the meantime, the twenty-one papers presented at the 3rd International Provenance Conference "Historical Book Collections of Religious and Ethnic Minorities", held at the Ossolineum National Library in September 2022, have now been published. The volume *Księgozbiory historyczne mniejszości etnicznych i religijnych*, ed. by D. Sidorowicz-Mulak and A. Franczyk-Cegła (Wrocław, 2024) focuses on the manuscript and printed heritage of the numerous ethnic, religious and social minorities that inhabited the territories of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: Tatars, Armenians, Karaites, Jews, Italians and Scots, Protestants, Freemasons, Orthodox and Greek Catholic Christians. As a result of the changes in borders and the political situation after 1945, many materials from the libraries of religious and ethnic minorities and social groups ended up in public and private collections, which are now scattered around the world.

The book is published with the financial support of the Lanckoroński Foundation.

## New additions to the CERL Thesaurus



David Pearson The CERL Thesaurus was enriched by personal names from the [Books Owners Online](#) site. Book Owners Online is a publication of the Bibliographical Society in partnership with the UCL Centre for Lives and Letters (CELL), with a rationale developed by David Pearson. It is a directory of historical book owners, with information about their libraries and provenance marks. It currently has entries for over 2,900 British owners from the 16th to the 18th centuries and is still actively expanded.

Helena Nebel and Elena Liventsova of the Data Conversion Group attended a event, *How digital tools are reshaping women's literary history and reception studies: Harmonizing and interconnecting resources*, organised by Alicia Montoya of the Radboud University in Nijmegen. Data identifying women owners is held in variety of databases. In the coming months, the colleagues at DCG will work to integrate data from the [BIBLIO](#), [MEDIATE](#) and [SHEWROTE](#) databases in the CERL Thesaurus – and link back to these resources. The Nijmegen team will assist to avoid duplication of records.

## Dates for your diaries

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 17 January and 14 February 2025 | Bookbindings Academy. Online presentations   |
| 24-25 March 2025                | Meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors and a CERL hybrid seminar. Host: the National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary.                 |
| 23-25 April 2025                | 4 <sup>th</sup> Provenance conference organised by the Ossoliński National Institute.  |
| 26-27 June 2025                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> conference on Retrospective National Bibliographies. Host: KBR, the Royal Library, Brussels, Belgium   |
| 10-12 September 2025            | Collection Security Summer School. Host: Trinity College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland   |
| October, dates TBC              | Annual General Meeting, meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors and a CERL seminar. Host: National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland |

We are also hoping to organise an online book launch for the publication of the volume on Retrospective National Bibliographies, an event around Cross-searching of museum and library collections, an event on Special Collections in ALMA, and regular shorter online sessions for presentations relevant to the CERL community. Further details will all be announced via e-mails and via the [CERL mailing list](#), which we invite you to subscribe to if you have not done so already. And with that, we wish you a merry Christmas and a wonderful 2025.

The card shows a detail of the Zodiac from the *Astronomicum Caesareum* by Peter Apianus, printed in Ingoldstadt in Germany in 1540 ([bibliographical details](#)). Robert Betteridge, who recently joined the CERL Executive Committee, wrote an [article about it in the NLS's recent Library publication](#).

