



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, both in analogue or digital format.

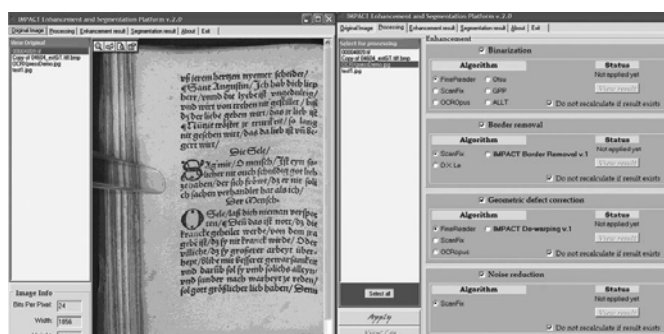
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CERL Annual Seminar 2014: 'About Text Encoding'

This year's annual seminar is hosted by the National Library of Norway, and will take place on 28 October 2014. At the request of our colleagues in Norway, we will start with a general introduction about CERL and its services. The remainder of the day will focus on OCR-ing early-printed books and manuscripts. In a range of papers offered by the IMPACT Centre for Excellence, the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance in Tours, the DHLAB in Lausanne, the National Library of Norway, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in München, and the universities of Oxford and Groningen. We will hear about the Monk project, AGORA, RETRO, the Bibliothèques Virtuelles Humanistes, the Venice Time Machine, Google efforts in this field and the Text Creation Partnership.

The papers explore what is especially difficult about OCR-ing early-printed books and manuscripts, and how these difficulties can be overcome. Fortunately (also through the good offices of the IMPACT Centre for Excellence), more and more tools are available to automate the process – some of these will be described in more detail during the day. The ultimate aim of encoding text to a high degree of accuracy is to facilitate research. The BVH presentation will give examples of what can be done with digitised text, thus opening up new avenues of research. As always, there is no fee to attend the CERL seminar, but we do ask that you register your attendance by sending a message to secretariat@cerl.org.



Screenshot: internal version of the IMPACT enhancement and segmentation platform (2009)
<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?articleid=1823616>

Assisted Searching returns to the HPB Database

<http://hpb.cerl.org>

At 4,982,825 records the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB) is nearly at the 5 million mark. Most recently, we added bibliographic records from Senate House (London), the National Library of Norway (Oslo), and an update of some 23,000 records to the data set previously contributed by the French ABES agency (Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur).

In June of this year, the Assisted Searching facility was added to the HPB in the VZG host environment. In the Simple Search screen (which is the default) variant name forms from the CERL Thesaurus may be added. The [Add variants] button appears when you choose one of the four indexes listed below and type a search term into the search field. The indexes are:

- personal names [PER]
- corporate body names [COR]
- imprint names (i.e. printers, publishers, booksellers, ...) [IPN]
- imprint place names [PLC]

search [and] [PER] person/author ? sort by year of publi
shakespeare, william search Add variants

A box opens and shows the results from the CERL Thesaurus. You can now select the name form(s) you wish to adopt for your search. Then hit the [Apply now] button at the top of the box. It is advisable to exclude very generic name forms, such as initials, as they make the search less precise. The chosen variant(s) will be added to your query. If you want to combine the results retrieved with the aid of Assisted Searching with other parameters, you should execute two separate searches (one with the help of assisted searching, and one using the other parameters) and then combine the two searches using the Search History facility.

Adopt chosen terms
Select the desired additional name variants from the CERL Thesaurus! The variants are inserted with "OR" in the search slot!
Apply now
Current searchterm
shakespeare, william
Thesaurus-set: 1 Choose all: Stafford, William (1554-1612)
Stafford, William
Shakespeare, William
William Shakespeare
Shakespeare
Thesaurus-set: 2 Choose all: Shakespeare, William (Stratford upon Avon, 23 04 1564-Stratford upon Avon, 23 04 1616)
Shakespeare, William
Sekspir, Wjzjam
Wjzjam Sekspir

Articles about CERL

http://www.0277.ch/ojs/index.php/cdrs_0277/index

Ingeborg Versprille, Marian Lefferts and Cristina Dondi have co-authored an article describing the activities of the Consortium. The article is published in a special issue about consortia, in the June issue of *027.7 Zeitschrift für Bibliothekskultur*. (an open access magazine for library culture). Recently, an article by Francesca Nepori focusing on the MEI was published: 'Et amicorum et MEI', in *Vedi anche. Notiziario della Sezione Ligure dell'Associazione Italiana Biblioteche*, vol. 24 N. 1 (2014) - ISSN 2281-0617 <http://leo.cineca.it/index.php/vedianche/article/view/10144>

On the CERL website we have created a page where we list articles in which CERL and its services are referenced: 'Citations about CERL' (<http://www.cerl.org/about/citations>). This page supplements our long-existing 'Publications about CERL' page which list articles, many of them written by members of the Board, the Coordinating Committee and the Secretariat, that are dedicated to describing CERL and its services (see http://www.cerl.org/publications/publ_about_cerl). If you know of an article that is not listed on these pages and should be, then please inform the CERL Secretariat.

To battle this issue the DMMmaps Project was created by the authors of this article. The DMMmaps is an independent project that aims to collect web-links to digitised medieval manuscripts repositories and make them available on an interactive map. The project was created as an attempt to unify well-known digitised sources already available (E-Codices in Switzerland, Digital Scriptorium in the United States and La Bibliothèque Virtuelle des Manuscrits Médiévaux in France) along with many other lesser-known repositories. These are then presented in a single place in order to create a faster and easier way to find and access these sources. The DMMmaps are aimed at both scholars, students and enthusiasts interested in medieval manuscripts. It is a free service and will be further developed with the contributions of the public.

Thanks to a careful social media strategy and crowdsourcing, today the DMMmaps database connects to 312 libraries, containing at least 30,000 digitised medieval manuscripts. The project has received at least 57 crowdsourced links to digitised repositories and, furthermore, institutions such as the Rylands Library in Manchester, have requested to be added to the database to enhance the visibility of their collections.

The development of the DMMmaps highlights the highly fragmented world of digital libraries. Often the effort made to digitise medieval manuscripts and make them publicly available is hindered by poor web design and search engine optimisation. The purpose of the DMMmaps is to piece together these digital libraries scattered all over the Internet.

The project will continue its development in the future in order to become an even more useful and complete tool for scholars, but also for enthusiasts, in search for digitised medieval manuscripts. You can follow the development of the DMMmaps over at DigitizedMedievalManuscripts.org or at the popular blog SexyCodicology.net.

Giulio Menna & Marjolein de Vos

New staff

<http://www.cerl.org>

In February 2014, Ingeborg Versprille was appointed as CERL Project Officer (based in The Hague), to work on the eCloud and CENDARI projects, to help refresh the CERL website and to support the Secretariat in its dissemination activities. The Data Conversion Group also has a new team member, Maike Kittelmann.



Ingeborg Versprille is a library and information professional with long-term experience in various kinds of libraries. Ingeborg is interested in digitisation of cultural heritage, specifically in the form of early-printed books and manuscripts. She recently completed the Master Book and Digital Media Studies course at Leiden University. During her career Ingeborg has always focused on helping library patrons with innovative services to get the most out of libraries content. Ingeborg can be contacted on i.versprille@cerl.org or telephone +31 70 314 0196.



Maike Kittelmann trained as a protestant minister before obtaining her Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Cologne University of Applied Sciences in 2009. She worked in data conversion, web programming, and user education at the Comenius-Institut in Münster (Westf.) and at the Centre of Gender Studies of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) in Hannover from 2011 to 2013. Her duties for CERL will be the analysis and conversion of library metadata for the CERL Thesaurus and the Heritage of the Printed Book Database.

Europeana Cloud (2013-2016) and the Europeana Strategy 2015-2020

<http://pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud>



The eCloud project aims to change Europeana's storage of metadata into a cloud computing system capable of also holding digital content, and to provide an interface with that cloud of data specifically designed for researchers, labelled Europeana Research. CERL has particular responsibility for leading the ingestion work package and for developing the content strategy for Europeana Research, as well as contributing to the strategic thinking behind the cloud. In the project, CERL acts as the lead for the development of a content strategy for the Europeana Cloud infrastructure and the digital platform Europeana Research. Using the outcomes of earlier work on the project, CERL will identify the gaps in the existing content of Europeana and The European Library by matching it against the Humanities and Social Sciences research communities. For the analysis of the content in Europeana, the aggregators of Europeana were surveyed to gather information on the 1,000+ datasets. For the analysis of the content in The European Library CERL uses the collection descriptions document made by TEL officers. The final report will identify content to be fed into Europeana from existing providers and a content strategy for Europeana Cloud and Europeana Research.

The project had its first review in March 2014. WP leaders and stakeholders from Europeana and The European Library were present. The event passed satisfactorily with the reviewers being happy with the progress and deliverables of the project. Two issues were raised. Firstly, that the sustainability of the proposed Europeana Cloud infrastructure is considered more closely in the context of sustainability of the Europeana Foundation itself; secondly, that some further administrative information be added to the annual report. Relevant to the question of sustainability is the new Europeana Strategic Plan covering 2015-2020. The Plan proposes the move from portal to platform, creating a bigger set of high-quality material and a shared infrastructure that enables re-use and creates value for all stakeholders. Three priorities are identified: a) improve data quality, b) open the data and c) create value for partners. Europeana will be substantially funded through the new financial instrument of the EU, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). However, due to severe budget cuts in this framework all services funded under CEF are being asked to develop their own sustainability plans, or diversify their income streams. In addition to working more efficiently, Europeana plans to invite the Member States to participate in Strategic Investment Partnerships and will itself invest in a commercial arm whose task will be to generate revenue to subsidise the activities of the Europeana Network. More about the Strategy at <http://strategy2020.europeana.eu/>.

CERL @ SHARP2014 (17-21 September 2014)

<http://www.sharp2014.be/>

The 22nd annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (SHARP) will be held in Antwerp (Belgium). The central theme is 'Religions of the Book', but in conformity with tradition the conference also welcomes other book historical papers, sessions and round tables.

On the morning of 17 September 2014 CERL will hold a workshop on 'Historical Provenance Research Material Evidence, Documentary Evidence and Digital Humanities'. The Workshop will focus on today's integrated approaches to provenance research. Cristina Dondi will present the databases Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) and Paul Needham's Index Possessorum Incunabulorum (IPI). Marieke van Delft will present the CERL Thesaurus and the Can-You-Help? section of the CERL website. Marian Lefferts will talk about the provenance research facilities in the Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database and CERL Portal. Another stream will focus on other European projects on provenance research integration, as well as on the use of documentary evidence to complement evidence-based historical research. And finally there will be a discussion on Digital repositories for provenance images. Please register via the SHARP website (details above).



15c BOOKTRADE Team

<http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/research/15cBooktrade/>

The 15cBOOKTRADEProject, led by CERL's Secretary Cristina Dondi, started on 1 April 2014. The project is an evidence-based assessment and visualisation of the distribution, sale, and the reception of books in the Renaissance. In the course of the project, the CERL database Material Evidence in Incunabula will be further expanded and enhanced. The full team is now in place and the members are listed below:

Project Administrator: Birgit Mikus

Birgit Mikus holds a D.Phil in German Literature from the University of Oxford and is based in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford, as a member of the research staff. Her research interests include nineteenth-century studies, women's writing, political literature, and philosophy of language.



Part-time Research Associate and DPhil Student Matilde Malaspina

Matilde Malaspina holds a degree in Philology from the Catholic University of Milan, with specialisms in Latin Palaeography, editing mediaeval texts, and History of Art. Matilde will be working on Venetian illustrated incunabula, capturing and cataloguing illustrations for the application of the image-matching software developed by the University of Oxford.



Postdoctoral Researcher in Oxford, Bodleian Library: Geri della Rocca de Candal
Geri della Rocca de Candal was recently examined for a DPhil in Byzantine Bibliography; his specialism is fifteenth-century Greek printing. He will be based in the Bodleian Library and work on MEI and TEXT-inc.



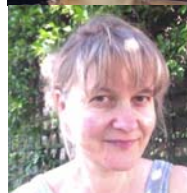
Postdoctoral Researcher in London, British Library: Alessandra Panzanelli

Alessandra Panzanelli holds two PhDs, in History of the Book from the University of Udine, and in History from the University of Perugia. Her specialisms include the history of libraries and of legal texts. She will be based at the British Library and work on the inclusion of BL provenance records in MEI as well as on the enhancement of ISTC.



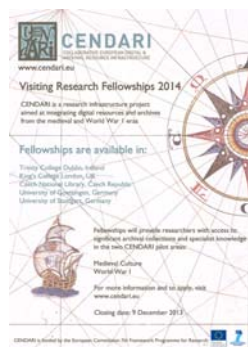
Postdoctoral Researcher in Venice: Sabrina Minuzzi

Sabrina Minuzzi holds a degree in Humanist Studies from the University of Venice and a PhD in History from the University of Verona; her specialism is medical texts. She will be based in Venice to catalogue incunabula book-in-hand, beginning with the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, then moving on to other libraries in the city.



CENDARI (2012-2016): the research infrastructure begins to take shape

<http://www.cendari.eu/>



In March 2014, CERL met with all the project partners during the project review and Annual General Meeting in The Hague. CERL hosted the meeting and took care of the business and social events related to the visit. One of the project activities discussed during the meeting was the second CENDARI Summer School taking place in Berlin 21-25 July 2014. The theme of this year's Summer School is World War I and the goal is to get early-career researchers acquainted with digital humanities research. CERL partnered with the University of Birmingham to select the applications from all over the world. In addition, we worked with the project partners in the Transnational Access Group to select the students and post-graduates that would receive a fellowship to carry out research at Trinity College Dublin, Universität Göttingen, King's College London, Freie Universität Berlin and the National and University Library in Prague.

Rare Books and Book History Summerschools

Rare Book School, Charlottesville, Virginia

<http://www.rarebookschool.org/>

30 five-day, non-credited course (mostly but not exclusively in Charlottesville, Virginia, throughout June and July)



Book History Workshop, Lyon (23-26 June)

<http://ihl.enssib.fr/en/book-history-workshop/sessions/book-history-workshop-2014>

11th edition of its Book History Workshop, the Lyon-based Institut d'histoire du livre offered four courses in the fields of book and printing history, taught by Rosamond McKitterick, James Mosley, Dominique Varry and François Vinourd.



Rare Books School, London (23 June to 4 July)

<http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/london-rare-books-school>

History of the Book, Amsterdam (18-29 August)

Various courses and workshops, some in English (e.g. by Nicholas Pickwoad (Ligatus), Per Cullhed (UL Uppsala) and Gabriela Redwine (Beinecke)).

<https://www.aanmelder.nl/78698#.U6LR9PmSweq>



Book and Culture - 'Religions of the Book', Antwerp (15-17 September)

<http://www.sharp2014.be/summer-school.html>

Preceeds SHARP2014.



SUMMER SCHOOL
HISTORY OF THE BOOK

Ligatus Summer School, Ljubljana

22-26 September: 'The History of European Bookbinding 1450-1830'.

29 September-3 October: 'Identifying and recording bookbinding structures of the Eastern Mediterranean'.

6-10 October: 'Byzantine bookbinding: a practical workshop'.

<http://www.ligatus.org.uk/summerschool/node>



LIGATUS 
Summer School

Thanks

Many thanks to the colleagues at the National Library of Scotland and the Bibliothèque nationale de France for hosting the meetings of the Coordinating Committee and the Directors in March and April. Photographs of these events are on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/99706868239/>



AROMA CHEMISTRY



THE AROMA OF BOOKS



WHAT CAUSES THE SMELL OF NEW & OLD BOOKS?

BOOKS, BOTH NEW & OLD, WILL GIVE OFF SEVERAL HUNDRED VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs). THESE COMPOUNDS HAVE A VARIETY OF ORIGINS - SOME ARE THE PRODUCTS OF DEGRADATION, WHILST OTHERS ARE THE RESULT OF THE TYPE OF PAPER, BINDING ADHESIVE AND PRINTING INK USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE BOOK. THE EMISSION OF THESE COMPOUNDS CAN ALSO BE USED AS A TOOL TO ASSESS DEGRADATION & CONDITION OF BOOKS.

NEW BOOKS

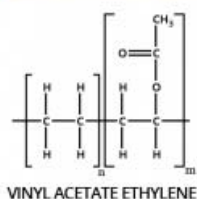
The odour of new books is contributed to by a mix of volatile chemicals which originate from the adhesive, ink, and the paper treatment methods used in the book.



OLD BOOKS

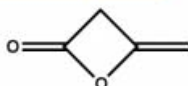
Over time, the gradual breakdown of the cellulose & lignin contained in paper leads to the production of large numbers of different organic compounds.

ADHESIVES

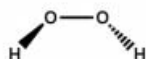


Modern day book binding adhesives are often based on 'co-polymers' such as that shown here. Some VOCs may originate from these compounds.

PAPER & INK



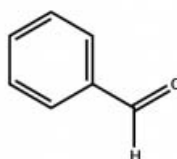
ALKYL KETENE DIMER
(aids water resistance)



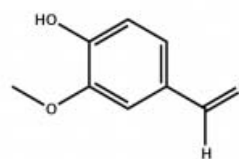
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE
(bleaching agent)

In the paper-making process, the paper is treated with a variety of chemicals, to achieve desired properties. Some of these chemicals could contribute to the release of VOCs. Additionally, petrochemicals used as solvents for inks can also contribute.

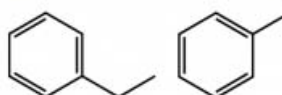
SELECTED COMPOUNDS & THEIR INDIVIDUAL ODOURS



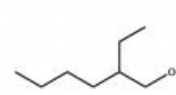
BENZALDEHYDE
Almond-like



VANILLIN
Vanilla-like



ETHYL BENZENE & TOLUENE
Sweet odours



2-ETHYL HEXANOL
Slightly floral

IN SHORT: No single chemical causes the odour of books. It's a result of a complex mix of volatile chemicals produced by chemicals used in their manufacture, as well as the gradual degradation of the chemicals within the paper.



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PICTURE: Public Domain

MAIN SOURCE: IDENTIFICATION OF VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS
EMITTED BY A NATURALLY AGED BOOK, A. LATTUATI-DERIEUX ET AL,
2004, JOURNAL OF CHROMATOGRAPHY A, VOL. 1026 P9-18

<http://www.compoundchem.com/2014/06/01/newoldbooksmell/>



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ISSN 1680-4546 (appears twice a year)