

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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Introducing New Members

www.cerl.org/membership/list_members

At the CERL Coordinating Committee Meeting in Vienna, in March, the Secretary reported on the CERL membership. We are very pleased that so many new members joined CERL in 2015, and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce some of them to you in more detail.

Dutch University Libraries join CERL as Cluster libraries



Until 2015, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), National Library of The Netherlands, was the only Dutch member of CERL. In the Netherlands, it is a member of the consortium of University Libraries and KB (UKB), a consortium of the thirteen university libraries and the KB, that is also open to other Dutch libraries with important collections. The KB invited the working group of Early Printed Collections of the UKB to become cluster members of CERL. Ten libraries decided to join: the university libraries of Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, Rotterdam, Utrecht and Wageningen, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Stads- and Athenaeum Library in Deventer and, the library of the Theological School in Kampen. This is a good extension of CERL's outreach in the Netherlands. All libraries that joined have important special collections and look forward to contributing to CERL while benefiting from CERL's expert network.

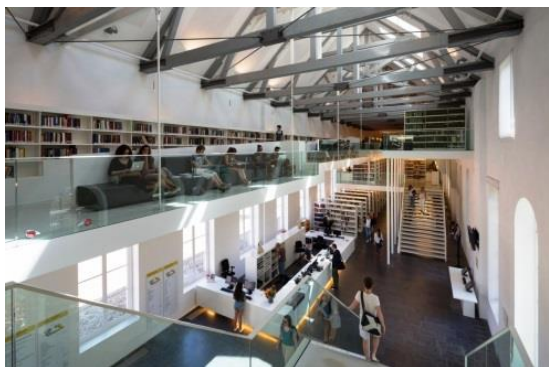
Marieke van Delft, Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Utrecht University Library, The Netherlands

www.uu.nl/library

Utrecht University is a large and multifaceted centre of knowledge offering education and research of international quality. Our strategy aims to further strengthen the university's high national and international position in education, research and knowledge valorisation. For 430 years, the library has ensured access to scholarly knowledge to the academic community despite the fact that format, access methods and knowledge (re)use are now consistently subject to fundamental change.

The library is responsible for preserving a great many unique and often very old documents in what we call our heritage collection. We value the dissemination of knowledge about the academic and church history of the city and of Utrecht University. An understanding of the past gives depth and colour to the lives of students, researchers or inhabitants of Utrecht. This is our focus when making choices in where to invest, for instance regarding digitisation.

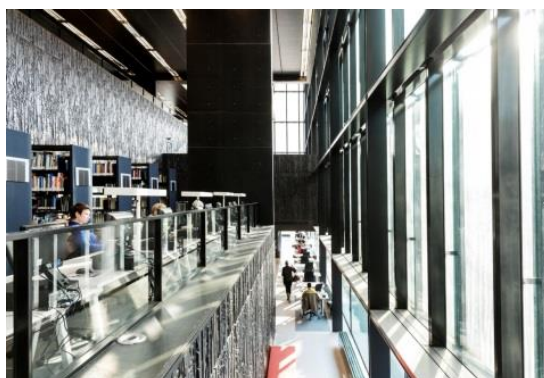


Our heritage collection also contains a wide range of subjects and boasts several internationally renowned gems. Our most valuable manuscript, the Utrecht Psalter, is now nominated for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register (www.utrechtpsalter.nl).

In preserving our heritage collection, we ensure that these original materials are available and accessible for research and education in years to come. We do this in close collaboration with researchers, lecturers and students, and with the Centre for Science Communication and Culture. In this way we contribute to the cultural ambitions of Utrecht University.

It is our ambition to make our most important heritage materials available digitally for as many users as possible. We are working on accessibility via international generic and subject specific (web)systems. To support this, the library works with a fundraising plan. One example of our results is that, together with several partners and additional funds, we were able to digitise and georeference our collection of water management maps of the Moll collection in Google Earth (bc.library.uu.nl/nl/waterstaatkundige-kaarten-google-earth.html).

More and more students and scholars use general search engines instead of the library websites and catalogue. Utrecht University Library concluded that our future focus should primarily be on delivery instead of discovery. We expressed our ambition to shut down our own discovery tool and work towards eventually phasing out our catalogue as well. As for the heritage collection this means an extra challenge to minimise foreseen problems with the metadata as a result of the conversion from our current records to the WorldCat platform.



Our library services are organised in an interdisciplinary way in close cooperation with other parties both internal and external to Utrecht University. We are always looking for new opportunities to share information and expertise with our colleagues all over the world. We are convinced that together with the CERL network we can learn and be inspired to improve our own services, and we hope to do the same for other libraries as well. We are looking forward to being a member of CERL.

Martine Pronk, Utrecht University Library

Group of Norwegian libraries joins CERL



Photograph: CC-BY-SA
www.snipview.com/q/Oslo_Cathedral_School_faculty

We are pleased to announce that six more Norwegian libraries have become members of CERL through a Group Membership with the National Library of Norway as the Leading Partner.

Of the six new libraries there are three university libraries, the two largest public libraries in Norway, Oslo and Bergen, and one school library that is Norway's oldest library and goes back to the medieval cathedral school in Oslo. The six new Norwegian members are: Deichmanske bibliotek/Oslo Public Library, Oslo Katedralskole/Oslo Cathedral School (see photo),

University Library, UiT - The Arctic University of Norway/Universitetsbiblioteket, UiT - Norges arktiske universitet Tromsø, Universitetsbiblioteket i Bergen/University Library Bergen, Bergen offentlige bibliotek/Bergen Public Library, NTNU Universitetsbiblioteket, Gunnerusbiblioteket, Trondheim.

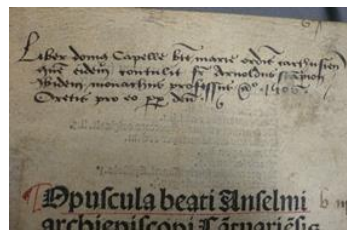
The Norwegian libraries are looking forward to get acquainted with CERL and its services and explore the possibilities for collaboration with other heritage institutions in Europe.

Nina Korbu, Nasjonalbiblioteket, Norway

First successful CERL Internship and Placement Grant

www.cerl.org/collaboration/internship

The project to catalogue the incunables from Lambeth Palace Library in the Material in Incunabula (MEI) database started in June 2014 on a voluntary basis and lasted for two months. It resumed in October 2014 thanks to the CERL Internship and Placement Grant and to the Fellowship offered by the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library, London. The provenance evidence of 286 incunables from Lambeth Palace Library has now been added to the database. Of these, 223 come from the collections of the Archbishops of Canterbury and 63 from the former library of Sion College, which was transferred to Lambeth Palace Library in 1996.



This project provides us with a richer and more detailed understanding of the history of both collections. For example, the shelfmarks and early library catalogue entries inform us of the transfer of Archbishops Whitgift and Bancroft's incunables from Lambeth to Cambridge University Library during the Civil War and their return to London later in the 17th century.

The records of the Sion College Library bear clear witness of the numerous gifts from clergymen, booksellers and private individuals to the library during the first few decades of its existence. Besides, the work on the Sion College Library incunables has revealed some particularly interesting bindings and inscriptions of German and Dutch monastic ownership. This new material, including some recently discovered items, will not only enhance ISTC and MEI but also the online catalogue of Lambeth Palace Library. It is planned that this information will be used to compile a printed catalogue of the incunables from Lambeth Palace Library. Unlike more traditional bibliographical descriptions, the catalogue will use the MEI approach to record provenance evidence in order to trace the history of each book through time and space. The catalogue will have an extensive illustrated introduction outlining the history of the collection as well as providing details of the main former owners. It will also have indexes of printers, owners and copy-specific features and will therefore be useful for scholars investigating a wide variety of book historical topics.

Angéline Rais, CERL intern in 2014, London

Provenance Workshops in Göttingen and London

asch.wiki.gwdg.de and www.cerl.org/services/seminars/powerpoint_presentations_warburg



Last February, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen organised the workshop *Scientific Questions about Provenance and Their Requirements for Future Web and Database* as part of the research project *Development of interoperable metadata standards for the contextualization of heterogeneous collection objects, using the 18th century scholarly collection compiled by Georg Thomas von Asch as an example*. The workshop, funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), aimed to support the project's development of a virtual environment for descriptions of objects of the collection of Georg Thomas von Asch (1729-1807) scattered across different [collections](#) at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. For this a metadata model is needed that aides in the contextualisation of different types of digitized resources.

CERL's Secretary Cristina Dondi presented a paper at the workshop on *The use of provenance evidence to track the movement of books across space and time, and the corollary need to gather and search images of provenance*. Both the Chair of the CERL Provenance Working Group, Marieke van Delft, and the Chair of CERL's Bookbindings Working Group, Per Cullhed, attended the workshop. They were treated to an interesting, interactive programme with challenging lectures and stimulating discussions.

The workshop was held in the style of a world café. Four different themes were introduced by short 15-minute presentations. Then the participants were divided into small groups with rotating members to discuss various aspects. It was very refreshing that participants came from different institutions and disciplines. Biologists, geologists, librarians, medievalists, book historians, art historians and cultural anthropologists discussed their experiences, research questions, needs and requirements and visions on provenance. It was fascinating to learn from each other and recognise similarities and ascertain differences. For a cultural anthropologist for example, provenance includes the question 'who made this object?' while provenance for a book historian only deals with former owners.

The information collected during the workshop will be used to formulate use cases, resulting in requirements for the metadata model. In all discussions a definite need for authority files and persistent identifiers was expressed – an issue that is well known to CERL. Other themes and short notes can be seen on the [wikipage](#) of the project. Taking the needs and requirements of the various scholarly communities into account, the model is expected to support the use of metadata in domain-specific and interdisciplinary metadata applications as well as the publication of the data as [Linked Open Data](#). For more information contact [Dr Susanne Al-Eryani](#).



In March, a workshop on *A coordinated approach to recording and searching provenance records and images: moving forwards*, co-organised by CERL and the Warburg Institute, London, was organised in the context of the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections mid-term meeting by Cristina Dondi, CERL's Secretary, and Raphaële Mouren, Librarian and Acting Director of the Warburg Institute and was sponsored by CILIP. The workshop built on the successful Pre-SHARP CERL Workshop in Antwerp. An international audience of speakers and participants from the United States and Europe discussed: The historical framework: why are we gathering provenance data?; Why do we need to work together?; Metadata: an agreed model/structure; Interoperability between databases; A contributed model: scholars, libraries, and research institutions; What are the principal challenges? For an overview of online provenance resources and ongoing projects go to CERL's [online provenance resources](#) pages.

Marieke van Delft, Koninklijke Bibliotheek

New CERL staff

www.cerl.org/collaboration/projects/project_officers

At the beginning of the year 2015, two new project officers started working at CERL for the CENDARI project.



Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle has worked since March 2015 for the CENDARI project, on the Archival Resources Guides, and develops teaching materials introducing the project's Virtual Research Environment. Kathleen is also involved in delivering a programme of CENDARI workshops and the sustainability planning of the project.

Kathleen (PhD, University College London) is a medieval historian, with a strong interest in the digital humanities, manuscript studies and palaeography. Her research specialism broadly covers medieval science and medicine and has focused on the relationship between animals and humans in medieval history. She has been employed by the Center for Digital Humanities at Saint Louis University as a research fellow on the Tradamus project (developing editorial software to create editions of medieval texts), the University of York (as a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow), University College Cork and the Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. Apart from research articles she has written a monograph (*Medieval Pets*, Boydell and Brewer, 2012) and is currently writing a book on medieval toxicology and animal bites along with co-authoring a digital edition of the *Antidotarium magnum* (with Prof Monica Green).



Dr Stijn van Rossem has worked since April 2015 for the CENDARI project. He works with the project's Trusted Users Group to gather feedback on the building blocks that together form the Virtual Research Environment that is being created in the project. He works with colleagues at S.I.S.M.E.L. in Florence, on the ontologies that support the project's Note Taking Environment. Stijn is also involved in delivering a programme of CENDARI workshops and the sustainability planning of the project.

He is a bibliographer, book historian and graphic design professor. He graduated from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven with Masters degrees in History and Education, and in 2014, he completed his PhD in History at the Universiteit Antwerpen with a dissertation on the publishing strategies of the Verdussen family of printers in Antwerp from 1589-1689. For several years, Dr van Rossem has been a Visiting Professor at the School of Arts Ghent, where he teaches courses on the history and theory of graphic design. In addition, he is a Visiting Professor at the Plantin Typographic Institute in Antwerp and in 2013 he was the Director of the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts in Brussels. In 2014, he chaired the international conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing held in Antwerp. Before he joined CERL on the CENDARI project he was the John Alden Memorial Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI.



2015 – a special year...

2015 saw two special commemorations. It was the Manutius Year, in which the fifth centenary of Aldus' death is commemorated. On its website, CERL hosts the Manutius Network 2015, which brings together an overview of all Aldus events organised in Europe this year:

www.cerl.org/collaboration/manutius_network_2015/main.

This year has also seen many exciting events around the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. magnacarta800th.com/ is a rich website site that brings together information about the history of the Charter, events, articles, projects and exhibitions.

Ligatus/CERL Bookbinding Event and plenary session

www.cerl.org/services/seminars/ligatus_cerl_seminar_plenary_session



On 23 June, Ligatus and CERL organised an event attracting a mixed audience of early-career students and more experienced researchers and librarians. The first part of the day was dedicated to the Ligatus guidelines for bookbinding. With the help of the guidelines European cataloguers are more likely to arrive at a uniform and consistent description of bookbindings, which in turn greatly increases the potential of creating cross-searching of data.

The guidelines are accompanied by a thesaurus which contains a hierarchical presentation of specialist terms to describe binding, based upon

Getty's AAT (Art & Architecture) Thesaurus and an image-based database developed for the description of decorated paper. The Ligatus team are hoping to also add images to illustrate the bookbinding terminology, which will enhance the Thesaurus ease of use. The second part of the day was filled with more general presentations about the Ligatus guidelines, the CERL Bookbinding Working Group, CERL Network and activities, and the CENDARI project. The organisers were grateful for the support they received from the Chelsea College of Arts in London which made the rooms available, and the antiquarian bookseller, Maggs Bros, who kindly sponsored the drinks reception with which we concluded the afternoon.

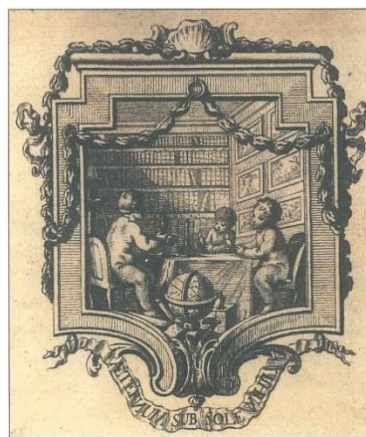
Ingeborg Versprille and Marian Lefferts, CERL

CERL Annual General Meeting and Seminar in 2015

Full programme: www.cerl.org/services/seminars/cerl_seminar_2015_programme

The University of Antwerp has extended a warm invitation to CERL to hold its Annual Meeting in Antwerp on 26-28 October 2015. The CERL Seminar will be held on 27 October, and the theme will be *Library History: Why, What, How?*

The seminar includes papers on studying the origins of libraries and reconstructing collections, through the examples of the Perugia Public Library, the Bodleian Library and the Warsaw University Library, and also through the study of the collections brought together by Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) and Cardinal Mazarin (1602-1661), as well as the readings of James Joyce (1882-1941) and Samuel Beckett (1906-1989). Special attention will be paid to the skills of librarians past and present and their cataloguing practices, as well as sources (inventories) and tools (e.g. databases) that are at their disposal for the purpose.



Ex Libris F Mols

The organiser of the Seminar, Dr Pierre Delsaerd, contacted the editors of the book historical journal *Quaerendo* (Leiden: Brill publishers). They have agreed to publish the papers in a double issue next year. *Quaerendo* is a peer reviewed journal and the seminar will thus receive additional interest from the scholarly community.

New project at the Berlin State Library presented at the CERL Workshop *Signa Vides in Vienna*

druckerzeichen.gbv.de/

http://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/powerpoint_presentations_vienna



Under the auspices of CERL, Prof Dr Anja Wolkenhauer (Tübingen), Michaela Scheibe (Berlin) and Dr Andreas Fingernagel (Vienna) have organised the workshop *Signa vides Researching and recording printers' devices: current activities and new perspectives*. Printers' devices combine pictures, texts (mottos) and printer-related information in very elaborate and variable ways, which asks for specific bibliographical tools. On 17 and 18 March 2015, participants from seven European countries came together to discuss current research activities and possible methods of description in order to link their initiatives and establish confirmed standards for recording printers' devices in future projects. The focus was on issues relating to a language-independent, standardised description and cross-border data-sharing, as well as on problems with the correct identification of printers'

devices; choosing the right elements and characteristics to be integrated into the description. The speakers concluded that the various approaches on researching and recording printers' devices are relatively similar in the different countries and they identified some essential tasks to work on, e.g. the issue of linking the devices to the edition in which they were found, and the need to integrate this into the daily workflow. The conference papers will be published in an issue of *CERL Papers* in summer 2015.



During the workshop Michaela Scheibe and Christina Schmitz (Berlin State Library, Department of Early Printed Books) presented their approach to use an already established infrastructure for a standardised recording of printers' devices: The Integrated Authority File (GND) hosted by the German National Library. This contains data records representing corporate bodies, conferences, geographic entities, topics and titles of works. These authority records constitute a common, conclusive reference system with persistent identifiers and interoperable metadata, and are part of the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF). Printers' devices have recently been accepted as a special entity in the GND; how to describe them in adequate authority records was tested by the speakers just before the workshop. The records in the GND allow linking to other authority records (e.g. the records for printers and publishers, artists, places) and data about measurements, motifs, mottos, period of use et al. The Berlin State Library uses a newly established wiki page to store images of particular devices and edit additional information about the printer and dates of use, as well as references and links to catalogues, digitised books and bibliographies. One alternative to the complex verbal description of motifs may be the use of image search methods. Some pre-tests by the Berlin State Library were very promising. Based on the open source software LIRE (Lucene Image Retrieval), the information scientists developed a first draft of a search system which can be programmed easily to identify identical and similar printers' devices in a collaborative database.

Christina Schmitz, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin



Promoting Europe's cultural heritage in print and manuscript

CERL wants to share resources and expertise between research libraries with a view to developing access to, as well as acquisition and preservation of the European cultural heritage in the form of printed books and manuscripts. This cooperation was formalised in 1992 as the Institute of Research Libraries in Europe (IRLE) and was renamed in 2002 to CERL. The organisation has since then been active in the field of research libraries in Europe, Eastern Europe and beyond. CERL also organises in 2014 the 10th CERL Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany, on 10-12 October 2014.

The CERL Security Network coordinates information about ongoing security issues of libraries for collections. [Read more...](#)

The Manuscripts Expert Group acts as a forum for national concerns and to enhance understanding and practical cooperation among libraries across Europe. [Read more...](#)

The CERL Bookbindings Working Group aims to foster collaboration

News from the Promotion Working Group

www.cerl.org/collaboration/work/promotion/main

The Promotion Working Group worked with Giulio Menna (the creator of the Digitized Medieval Manuscripts App and Sexy Codicology) and members of the CERL Secretariat to prepare a new home page for the CERL website. The carousel with pictures features CERL members, so let us know if you have an event that should be highlighted there. We have also developed a new Provenance leaflet.

Using the Collection Security questionnaire: the example of the Royal Library of Belgium

www.cerl.org/services/seminars/previous_cerl_annual_seminars

The Working Group of the Security Network finalised a collection security benchmark questionnaire within the framework of the Fourth LIBER Collection Security conference in The Hague in November 2012. The institutions of all the group members took part in this survey. The results were delivered in December 2013. The Royal Library of Belgium has tested how to use the results as a basic audit and thus as a valuable source for promoting projects which directly or indirectly enhance collection security.

The questionnaire resulted from of a concerted exchange of ideas inside the group including the larger national institutions, so we can take it as read that the questionnaire covers the aspects which are essential to meet the needs for the security of our collections. That notwithstanding, we thought it is important to keep in mind that zero risk does not exist and that risk analysis cannot be fixed; this obliges us to



Physical security			
N° question	Yes (%)	No (%)	In part (%)
64	40	30	30
65	80	0	20
66	60	10	30

stay vigilant and creative, continuously adapting and improving our procedures. The questionnaire contains around one hundred questions divided into six topics - governance and policy,

access and use, physical security, staff and processing areas, collection management and finally exhibition and transport - so it really constitutes a significant auditing tool. The questions were formulated so as to obtain the answers 'yes', 'no' or 'in part'. 76% of the questions were answered 'yes' by a minimum of 50% of us (91% by min 30% of us, 47% by min 70% of us) and none of us answered 'no' to 47% of the questions. Bearing in mind that the questions were formulated so that the answer 'yes' is positive for collection security, this shows the relevance of each of the issues addressed by the questions. This can be crucial when using the questionnaire to argue for projects within the institutions. The results suggest that we might consider the questionnaire as a standard guideline. Within such a simple system, when you present the overall results for each question of each domain one below the other (all institutions taken into account - see example at the end), simply colouring the column that corresponds to your answer - in green for 'yes', red for 'no' and orange for 'in part' - provides an immediate overview of the proportion of questions you have answered 'yes', 'no' or 'in part', with, as a corollary, a relatively accurate representation of your situation. You can directly point to the topics where you show weakness, and get an initial idea of the problems you have to tackle.

To go further, however, the evaluation must be refined. It would be wrong to focus only on the questions for which you answered 'no' or 'in part'. The questions answered positively also require analysis. Were you sufficiently critical when you answered? Are the existing solutions mature enough or really efficient? We have a duty to question some 'confirmed' solutions. We must adopt the new trend of admitting and learning from our failures as it happens nowadays in business and industry. You have to prioritise the problems that need to be addressed. At this level, the global results represent a significant help: a rule implemented within 80% of the institutions can either be considered as merely easier or as more significant than one implemented within only 20% of the institutions. Then you have issues such as whether the achievement of the solution is 100% within your control or not, the degree of difficulty, the cost, etc. When you deal with the questions you answered 'in part' you can analyse the reason for incompleteness, determine if the partial solution suffers from a lack of harmonisation or, more difficult to admit, you have to recognise that the reason why you cannot extend a rule to have wider validity is because it is inadequate.

Now, as the work to be accomplished can be sizeable, it's important to take certain aspects into account. First, we are not alone! The biggest institutions can certainly help, advise or inspire smaller ones. Taking an active part and daring to confront the issues is also important. All of this can be achieved through groups such as the security network. It is essential to avoid reinventing the wheel: sharing documents, forms or similar can lead to substantial savings of time and money.



Next, it would be a significant loss of energy and resources if you tackle problems without having a really good understanding of the environment. You must develop knowledge of your building that is as in-depth as possible: without this it is impossible to protect it. You also have to know what the means at your disposal are internally as well as externally, whether budgetary or from a human resources point of view. Forgetting the psychological aspect would also be a source of failure. Being conscious of the internal brakes towards changes, promoting the maximum participation of staff and investing time in education and communication is essential to guarantee comfort, acceptance and motivation. Promulgating a perfect rule without having the means to apply it would be absurd. It is better to get a less ambitious one which you have the means to apply properly and completely consistently.

Finally there are needs for security that encounter those for safety, preservation and conservation. It is important to spot those meeting points because it considerably increases the possibilities to convince other people in the organisation and to find support of any kind.

Jacqueline Lambert, Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

The Written Heritage of Mankind in Peril: Theft, Retrieval, Sale and Restitution of rare books, maps and manuscripts

www.bl.uk/events/the-written-heritage-of-mankind-in-peril

The Art Law Commission of the UIA teamed up with the British Library and the Institute of Art and Law in London to invite those who deal with rare books and other priceless written materials, including representatives of dealers, collectors, auction houses, national collections, law enforcement officials, security experts, attorneys and others, to present a seminar devoted to the theft of and illicit trafficking in rare books, maps and manuscripts. The seminar took place at the British Library, London, on 26 June 2015. Upon the conclusion of the seminar, the various participants and attendees were encouraged to continue the discussion and start on a comprehensive set of principles hopefully leading to the development of solutions to prevent widespread theft and trafficking and restore stolen items to their rightful owners for the benefit of everyone. A follow up seminar in New York in 2016 to assess progress in this area and plan future actions was planned.



CERL Thesaurus

www.cerl.org/resources/cerl_thesaurus/main

The average number of searches per month over the last year has been c. 25,000 (in 2013/2014 it was c. 23,000 searches per month; this figure excludes computer-generated searches). Search activity peaked in January 2015, when nearly 32,000 searches were counted.

Europeana Cloud project (2013-2016) – progress report

pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud



The Europeana Cloud project began its third and final year (the project ends on 31 January 2016) with its second review meeting which took place in The Hague on 6 March 2015. The result of the review was 'Good'. Concerns were expressed about data which was processed by The European Library team, but not ingested in Europeana due to the lack of adequate rights statements. The reviewers commented very favourably on the proposed Cloud infrastructure which they labelled 'sound and state of the art'. The proposals for future sustainability met with warm approval, as did the promotional materials used in the project.

Early in the year, the work package 4 led by CERL, published a [content ingestion plan](#). The project has a target of ingesting 5 million content objects. The bulk of this material will come from newspaper collections contributed by the National Libraries of Wales, Spain, Luxemburg and Belgium. In addition, project partners OAPEN, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the National Library of Technology in Prague, University College London and the National Library of Scotland offered digital objects for inclusion in the Europeana Cloud. A blog post on the topic was posted on the project website: <http://pro.europeana.eu/europeana-cloud/europeana-cloud-blog>.

The third Europeana Cloud Plenary Meeting took place on 10 and 11 June at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. The theme of the meeting was 'Validating Europeana Cloud' and the aim was to highlight how the Europeana Cloud development sits in the overall Europeana Strategy, which services were planned to be offered through the Cloud, and which business and governance models were envisaged for this undertaking. The second strand of the meetings focussed on Europeana Research. Through this offering Europeana aims to support researchers that want to make use of its wealth of data for research purposes. In the Europeana Cloud project the partners are developing a Content Strategy to ensure researchers have access to the data they want. In addition the project is looking at the kind of tools that researchers would like to have in order to make most of the data.

What do we lose when we lose a library?

kuleuvencongres.be/libconf2015

To commemorate the centenary of the destruction of the Library in 1914, the Goethe-Institut and the British Council Brussels and the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) are organising a three day international conference, titled: *What Do We Lose When We Lose A Library?* The conference will be held in Leuven, 9-11 September 2015. The conference themes are Library & Heritage and Library & Digital challenge.

The conference is addressed to scholars as pioneers of organising cultural memory through expertise and knowledge. The aim is to raise worldwide public consciousness of the important task of sharing collective and cultural memory, and to raise awareness of the challenges libraries face in performing this task. Keynote lectures will be given by: Abdel Kader Haïdara, Aleida Assman, Alan Kramer, David McKitterick, Ismet Ovcina, Wolfgang Schivelbusch, Michael F. Suarez, S.J., Herbert Van de Sompel and Father Justin.

Lieve Watteem, University Library of the KU Leuven



IFLA Guidelines for Planning the Digitization of Rare Book and Manuscript Collections

IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections group: <http://www.ifla.org/publications/node/8968>

IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections have drawn up an important set of digitisation guidelines addressing the specific needs related to planning digitisation projects for rare and special collections. They are written from the point-of-view of special collection managers, rare book librarians, curators, and researchers who study the physical object as an artefact bearing intrinsic historical evidence as much as for the intellectual content that it contains. Versions of the guidelines are available in English, Spanish, Korean, Italian and Turkish.

The twelve guidelines include recommendations for an extensive planning stage, anticipating the needs of the user, the provision of the richest possible metadata, making the digitised objects freely available, the use of persistent identifiers and clear rights labelling, which one would hope are, or are rapidly becoming, standard practice. Two recommendations are worth highlighting, however, as the notions of providing context and the enduring value of the physical collections (in conjunction with the digital) are also close to the heart of CERL and the Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage, in which LIBER and CERL closely collaborate:



* Leverage digitization projects to provide access to collections that have been hidden in the past and strive to unite them virtually with related materials at other institutions.

* Never discard the original collections after digitization. Interaction with a digital surrogate can never provide the full range of knowledge that is gained from interacting with physical collections.

PATRIMONiT: a two-year Marie Curie Individual Fellowship at CERL (Starting February 2016)

www.cerl.org/collaboration/projects/marie_curie

In February 2015 Dr Laura Carnelos (University of Venice Ca' Foscari) was awarded a two-year Marie Curie Individual Fellowship to carry out research at CERL's London office, under the supervision of Secretary Cristina Dondi. The project is financed under the EU Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme. Besides CERL, two other institutes are involved: the British Library (partner organisation), in the person of Dr Stephen Parkin (Curator, Printed Heritage Collections (1450-1600)), and the Istituto Centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche italiane e per le informazioni bibliografiche (ICCU, hosting secondment), in the person of Dr Rosaria M. Servello, the Managing Director of EDIT16, the National Census of all books printed in Italy between 1501-1600 and of books containing Italian texts printed elsewhere including contemporary or later counterfeits.



The objectives of the PATRIMONiT project are both bibliographical and historical. "From Cheap Print to Rare Ephemera: 16th-Century Italian 'Popular' Books at the British Library" aims to collect and catalogue an important part of the lesser known, popular tracts from the 16th century and to introduce a new methodology for analysing such ephemeral materials. The new database PATRIMONiT will be modelled on CERL's Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), created by Dr Dondi, in order to gather and analyse the physical evidence of 16th-century 'popular' books. The thus gathered bibliographical data will also be entered in EDIT16 and in the CERL Thesaurus, enhancing the two existing databases. Moreover, by using archival sources, Dr L. Carnelos will examine the historical circumstances related to the survival and international circulation of these popular books. With the project, and with the support of three centres of excellence, Dr L. Carnelos proposes to demonstrate that this ephemeral material, often forgotten in some storage, either completely uncatalogued, or catalogued inadequately, is really relevant for the reconstruction of the socio-cultural history of a country.

Laura Carnelos, lcarnelos81@gmail.com



HPB grows rapidly

www.cerl.org/resources/hpb/main

With the inclusion of the Leighton Library in Dunblane and the update of the Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund (GBV) Union Catalogue the HPB now contains over 6 million records.

LIBER Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage

www.cerl.org/services/seminars/dchforum2015seminar



In connection with the LIBER Annual Conference in Senate House, London, CERL and the LIBER Forum on digital cultural heritage organised a half-day workshop on 24 June under the heading *The State of Art of Image Recognition*. The LIBER Forum is chaired by Dr Claudia Fabian, who is also an active member of the CERL Coordinating Committee, and its secretary is CERL's Executive Manager Drs Marian Lefferts. This fruitful cooperation between CERL and LIBER has not only produced workshops at the start of several LIBER Conferences but also other meetings on themes of interest and value for libraries and researchers using the rich cultural heritage collections in member libraries.

Also this year's workshop was illuminating with proof of a very rapid development in a field of great importance to enriching institutional care of manuscript and printed material. The splendid presentations by no less than seven project leaders showed that the choice of speakers, made by the Chair and Secretary of the Forum, gave a wide range of examples of a successful image recognition development in many European countries.

One of the examples given related to epigraphs, e.g. stone fragments of texts in Greek and Latin, which could be identified with the help of image recognition tools, explaining both content and context. Similarity search was another example of a project aiming at large scale digital collections with a database finally containing some 50 million images. One can only imagine what assistance such a huge amount of images will give a researcher dealing with an image of unknown origin and meaning in another collection. As part of the 15cBOOKTRADE project (see p. 14 below) Matilde Malaspina presented how Venetian woodblocks can be used to trace the trade between printers. The seventeenth century is in focus for a project on broadsheet illustrations, their use and frequent re-use. Image recognition tools are also important to give evidence of the re-use, copying and manipulation of illustrations in a period before copyright law was introduced in Europe. The Gallica project will provide for image metadata and authority files to 20,000 manuscripts. The final presentation by Vlad Atanasiu is summarised at the end of this Newsletter, see p. 16 below.

After an all too short questions and answers session, the participants in the workshop continued their lively discussions in the coffee break. The workshop clearly showed the importance of large scale scanning of the rich collections in libraries and archives. The scanned files can, with the help of technological inventions, already be used in so many new ways for more than just for reading the content. The workshop indicated a continuous development with refined results. It also emphasised the need of a copy specific approach to a collection.

Ulf Göranson, CERL Chairman



Manuscripts in CERL

www.cerl.org/resources/cerl_portal and

www.cerl.org/collaboration/manuscriptexperts/main

Problems with OAI harvesting have been solved, so that the datasets from Yale, ICCU and Calames are functional again. The CERL Portal accessed a dataset via the SRU protocol for the first time and we are pleased that this way we could include the [Kalliope database](#).

The Manuscript Experts Working Group has updated its CERL webpages and renewed the section which provides per country concise information about the major manuscripts and archives collections, about the institutions where the collections are kept (website links, historical data, etc.).

15cBOOKTRADE project one year in

www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/research/15cBooktrade/



In the first year of the project, the team (Geri Della Rocca De Candal, Sabrina Minuzzi, and Alessandra Panzanelli) created hundreds of new entries; book in hand, for MEI and TEXT-inc. databases, from Oxford, the British Library, Venice, and other collections. Images of material evidence (former ownership notes, arms, stamps, decoration, binding, manuscript notes, etc.) are at present stored internally by the project, in anticipation of the creation of CERL space for provenance images.

Matilde Malaspina, the DPhil student member of the Team, has perfected the metadata descriptors for 15th-century Venetian illustration and started to capture and store images to be used by the Department of Visual Geometry of the Faculty of Engineering at Oxford for image-matching. Matilde will work on the largest collection of Venetian illustrated books of the 15th century in the next six months. The machine readable version of the new MEI database was delivered to Simon Walton, the engineer of the Oxford e-Research centre who started to work for the Project on 1 April 2015. In consultation with Prof Min Chen, Simon is now exploring MEI's structured data with the task of devising the most effective way to visualise the distribution and movement of books across Europe and the US, over the 500 years period.

The next eagerly anticipated phase in the project is the development of a new database structure by Data Conversion Group, Göttingen. A French and German version of MEI is also in preparation. The Text-Inc. database, though fully functioning at editing level, is still in preparation for its release to the public: Bodleian IT is implementing a collaborative management control system, and the search interface. We expect to be able to release this database to the public before the end of the year. The Liverpool IT team headed by Prof Paul Watry, in charge of the enhancement of ISTC (Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue, funded by the Project), is presently working on the introduction of a copy-counter which will offer immediate information on the number of surviving copies per edition, and the possibility of searching the database by number of copies. A proper project website is being prepared by Bodleian Library IT and will shortly be available.

The Project receives many expressions of interest in collaboration, from libraries, universities, and scholars, in Europe and the US. A tangible sign that the idea of the need to work together towards a common goal of enhanced research possibilities is well understood and acted upon. The 15thcBOOKTRADE project was presented at a number of workshops, seminars and conferences all over Europe and in New York.

Event/Activity	Date
Two sessions at the workshop <i>Digital Approaches in Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i> , Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School 2015, coordinated by Judith Siefring	Oxford University, 21 July 2015
Paper at Conference <i>Reading Copy-Specific Features: Producers, Readers and Owners of Incunabula</i>	Leicester, De Montfort University, Centre for Textual Studies, 30 June - 1 July 2015
Two sessions at the Early Book Society Biennial Conference	Oxford, St Anne's College, 2-5 July 2015
Two papers as part of a session on <i>New perspectives in text studies: digital frontiers for the history of the books and the interpretation of the text</i> , Congress of International Association for Neo-Latin Studies	University of Vienna, 2-7 August 2015
MEI training session	University of Antwerp, 26 October 2015
MEI presentations	National Library, Rome, 18 November 2015; Salamanca, March 2016

Cristina Dondi, CERL and University of Oxford

CENDARI project (2012-2016) – progress report

www.cendari.eu

CENDARI is an acronym for the Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure, a European Commission-funded project which will end in January 2016, and which



aims to integrate digital archives and resources. It is currently focused on medieval culture and the history of World War One. The aim of CENDARI is to produce a digital platform which will allow scholars to access historical resources across institutional and national boundaries. In the Note Taking Environment (NTE), historians, librarians and archivists can create and upload documents and notes, compile and comment on archival sources, visualise data geographically and chronologically and in the archive itself, which also includes a search functionality. Documents can also be annotated semantically and connected with controlled vocabularies and ontologies. Users can order their compiled documents, enhance their search for archival material and share and export the project. They will also be able to access prepared Archival Research Guides, based on transnational themes, and which are aimed at historians starting research on a new topic. Integrated onto the Virtual Research Environment is an Archival Directory, a large database of archival collections which includes both well-known collections and smaller local archives. Scholars can edit and add archival descriptions and institutions to the Archival Directory.

CERL is one of the partners in CENDARI and one of our tasks this year is to manage a Trusted User Group (TUG) that will review all the elements of CENDARI in development. There are two CERL projects officers working on CENDARI: Dr Stijn van Rossem and Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle. TUG members have different backgrounds (historians, archivists, digital historians, students) and have all been invited or have applied to assist in the testing of all the releases during the progress of this project. The format follows a monthly release of either a tool or aspect of CENDARI. An online webcast is arranged in which participants can hear from the developers, take part in an overview of the release and give their feedback and experience of testing the designated part of CENDARI. Apart from the monthly webcast, TUG members are also sent a detailed guide on the release, along with a training video. TUG members are encouraged to fill in a survey with their comments, but can also contact the project officers or use an allotted site on Basecamp. At the moment, eight monthly releases have been planned, and the TUG has been in operation since April. Some releases are very hands-on, for example encouraging members to create their own archival research guides based on their current use of archival and library collections, others explain how to use tools such as the Archival Directory or how to submit entities for recognition.

Kathleen Walker-Meikle and Stijn van Rossem, CERL

Thanks

Many thanks to the colleagues at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek and the Weston Library, Oxford, for hosting the meetings of the Coordinating Committee and the Directors in March and April. More photographs are available on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/99706868239/>.



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See through documents

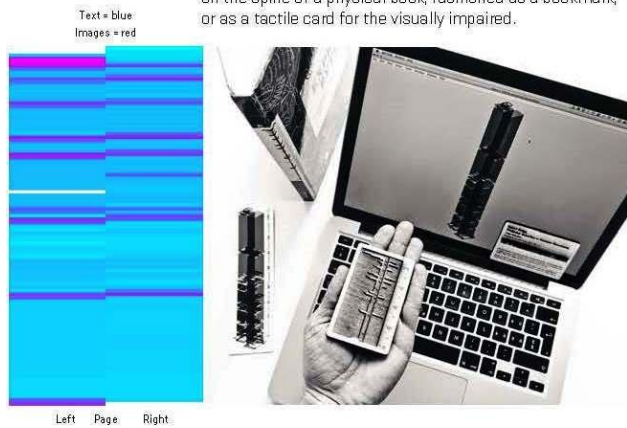
Call for evaluators of a document visualization software

The problem

Consider that you need to open a document to find out if it contains any images, how many and where they are. Consider, furthermore, how tedious roving becomes when it has to be repeated over an entire document collection.

The solution

Crystal is a software that lets you see through documents and reveals their three dimensional structure. It uses the architectural metaphor of "Twin Towers" for representing such entities as text paragraphs and images as "rooms" inside the physical boundaries of double-pages ("floors") of the document volume ("tower"). The picture below shows that you can use the visualization interactively on screen, printed alternatively as a histogram or color coded ribbon on the spine of a physical book, fashioned as a bookmark, or as a tactile card for the visually impaired.



Browse the book
on Amazon.com:
Vlad Atanasiu,
Expert Bytes,
CRC Press, 2013

An example

The red outlines in the perspective view on the right represent the virtual volumes of seven books and in blue the location, size, and shape of images. You can see that only three books have substantial amounts of images. In one they are spread over the entire document, while in the others the images are clustered at the end. This information is useful to the reader for faster navigation within the document, it has an impact on the price of the book (clustering images is cheaper to design and print), and might be used as a further element in a quantitative history of printing and book design. The color ribbon to the left shows the location and size of images in a single book.

For whom and what for

The representations address readers with or without visual impairments, librarians and archivists, researchers and publishers. They are expected to improve document triage, conservation, accessibility, navigation, analysis, and communication, while adding an aesthetic touch. Crystal can be used for electronic or physical collections, in native electronic (PDF) or raster formats (scans). Currently the visualized information is text, images, fonts, and perceptual page homogeneity. You can incorporate the visualization in the online description of a single electronic document or visualize the content of a document database.

Contact

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