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.

Second Collection Security Summer School (BNC Rome, 5-7 September 2018)

CERL warmly invites you to attend the second Collection Security Summer School, which will be held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome, 5-7 September 2018. This year's Summer School is organised by Mme Jacqueline Lambert of the Royal Library in Brussels, who is also the chairman of the CERL Security Network.

The Summer School will see presentations by Fabio Massimo Bertolo of Finarte-Minerva Auctions, Giovanni Prisco of the Operational Department, Antiques Section, Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Italian Carabinieri in Rome, our host Andrea de Pasquale and several of his colleagues at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome, as well as Mme Lambert, Adrian Edwards of the British Library, Nina Korbu of the National Library of Norway, Denis Bruckmann of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and Angela Dellebeke of the National Archives in the Netherlands.

During this Summer School curators and security officers from libraries and archives have the opportunity to share knowledge on all matters related to collection security. We will explore topics around the themes of a) basic prevention, e.g. through access control, b) prevention at a time when there are exceptional circumstances in your institution, and c) what happens in the unfortunate event of a theft. Our Summer Schools aim to create a network of security officers and curators who work together on best practice, who alert each other to potential areas of threat, and who generally support each other in security matters. To register, simply send an e-mail to Marian.Lefferts@cerl.org. The costs are 50 Euro for CERL members and 70 Euro for non-members.
Making the Heritage of the Printed Book Database freely available

The HPB was made freely available on Wednesday 10 January 2018. The news was announced on Thursday 11 January just before noon, via the CERL mailing list, on the CERL home page (HPB info pages on the website were edited to reflect the new situation), and the CERL twitter account.

By Monday 15 January 9.00am, on Twitter there had been 150 retweets of the original message and 154 likes. On Tuesday 16 January at 9.30am this had grown to 163 retweets and 171 likes. By 6 March 2018, this had grown to 189 likes and 178 retweets. Additionally, there were several followers who rephrased the news and sent out their own messages – which in turn were liked and retweeted (some examples of 16 January 2018 are shown here). In total, 17 messages were shared and these received a total number of 264 likes and 202 retweets. An article appeared in the Newsletter of the Flemish Heritage Libraries.

As a side effect, the CERL twitter account acquired ca. 20-25 new followers. But the best news is that HPB use figures have improved considerably. In the first five months (January – May 2018) the number of searches has doubled, the number of full presentations of records has tripled and the number of downloaded records has gone up by 58%.

Dutch books in Roman libraries

Former MEI-intern Ruben Celani invited me on a tour of the Biblioteca Casanatense, the Biblioteca Angelica, the Biblioteca Vallicelliana and the Library of the Accademia dei Lincei, the Biblioteca Corsiniana. The aim was not only to see these exceptional libraries, but also to search their collections for books printed in the Low Countries in order to expand the Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN), the national pre-1801 bibliography of the Low Countries. This visit was very promising: Low Countries books can be found in all these collections and some of them turned out to be not yet described in STCN. We are very grateful for the warm welcome by our Roman colleagues and hope this visit is the start of further expansion of the STCN with unique Roman Low Countries books.

Marieke van Delft, Curator of Early Printed Editions in the KB, National Library of the Netherlands
The conference brings together the work of the 15cBOOKTRADE Project (funded by the European Research Council – ERC) and the many institutions and individuals who collaborated with them over the years. The first day will focus on the cost of living and the cost of books in 15th-century Europe. The second day on the transmission of texts in print and the distribution and reception of books. The third day on illustration and digital tools. There will be 40 Speakers (18 Italy, 11 UK, 4 US, 2 Germany, 2 Lithuania, 1 France, 1 Spain, 1 Netherlands. 23 female, 17 male). The first day will conclude with a Lectio magistralis by Prof. Martin Stokhof, Vice-President of the ERC (Social Sciences and Humanities), and by On. Dario Franceschini, Italian Minister for Culture (2014-18). There will be simultaneous translation Italian / English.

On Wednesday 19 September participants will be treated to a private viewing of the exhibition (see below) in the Correr Museum and Sale Monumentali of the Marciana National Library, and a cocktail reception in the Ball Room of the Correr Museum, with greetings from Martin Stokhof, Dario Franceschini and Taco Dibbits, Director of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

On Thursday 20 September the participants will have the opportunity to attend a concert at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, at the special rate of 20 Euro; further information will be provided to the participants. On Friday 21 September the participants will have the opportunity to visit the library of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini on the isle of San Giorgio.

Exhibition
Printing R-Evolution (1450-1500): Fifty Years that Changed Europe
Promotional video: 15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/video/

In addition to the conference (above), which is followed by the CERL Annual General Meeting (on 23 September), C. Dondi and her colleagues from the 15cBOOKTRADE Project¹ have, in collaboration with Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia – Biblioteca del Museo Correr and the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, organised a large exhibition.

This exhibition shows the impact of the printing revolution on the economic and social development of early modern Europe. It brings to the general public (in both Italian and English) the results of years of research based on data contributed by over 360 European and American CERL libraries and coordinated by the 15cBOOKTRADE Project.

¹ Maria Alessandra Panzanelli Fratoni (British Library-based), Sabrina Minuzzi (Venice-based), Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Matilde Malaspina, Birgit Mikus, the project administrator (all Oxford-based). With the support of Dott.ssa Laura Nuvoloni.
Dozens of incunabula from the Correr and Marciana collections are complemented by hundreds of digital images generously provided by European and American libraries, and by digital tools which allow tracking of the circulation of these books over time and space. Other research projects contributed their digital tools, such as the Atlas of Early Printing (curated by Gregory Prickman, new Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library of Washington) and the Venice Time Machine (directed by Frédéric Kaplan of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne).

Video stories will introduce the books to the public in innovative ways to present various themes, such as: which were the most printed books in the 15th century, which were the most sold then, and today are among the rarest in our collections, the cost of books in relation to the cost of living (food, wages, other goods) and the money necessary to purchase them (advisors Alan Stahl of Princeton University Library and Cristina Crisafulli of the Correr Museum), the role of the Church, female authors and printers, the printed books read by Leonardo, the circulation of key books such as the Gutenberg Bible (curated by Eric White of Princeton University Library), the virtual reconstruction of the collection of San Giorgio Maggiore of Venice, now dispersed. A press and printing material is kindly brought to the exhibition by the Tipoteca of Cornuda.

Among the important concepts fostered by the exhibition is the fact that high-quality data survive in the thousands, and we have used it; an intelligent use of technology to support scholarly research; the essential role of digitisations not only for scholarship and conservation, but also for public engagement; the comparison with the digital revolution; but above all, the value and achievements of large collaborative projects which bring together university and heritage institutions, humanities and science and technology, Europe and the US.

The exhibition opens on 1 September 2018, and can be viewed at the Museo Correr, Venice (until 7 January 2019) and the Sale Monumentali della Biblioteca Marciana (until 30 September 2018). After the exhibition closes, all digital material prepared for the exhibition will continue to be available, through both an online teaching resource and a curated catalogue. We are pleased to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Banca Intesa Sanpaolo, and the support of Venice in Peril and Fedrigoni Papers. Fundraising continues.

Cristina Dondi, CERL
New EU rules for the Import of Cultural Heritage Goods

In June 2017, the EU published a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the import of cultural goods. The initiative aimed ‘to prevent the import and storage in the EU of cultural goods illicitly exported from a third country, thereby reducing trafficking in cultural goods, combatting terrorism financing and protecting cultural heritage, especially archaeological objects in source countries affected by armed conflict. For this purpose it proposes to: establish a common definition for cultural goods at import; ensure importers exercise diligence when buying cultural goods from third countries; determine standardised information to certify the goods are legal; provide for effective deterrents to trafficking; and promote the active involvement of stakeholders in protecting cultural heritage.’

The proposed regulations caused some concern in the rare books community, and especially among antiquarian booksellers, as witnessed by this article by Jim Hicks, published in viaLibri (March 2018). IFLA’s Stephen Wyber and CERL Chairman Kristian Jensen reviewed the proposals. Although we declined to comment on matters specific to the trade we welcomed the Commission’s initiative in proposing the draft Regulation on the Import of Cultural Goods, and together with our members in the EU and elsewhere, look forward to stronger controls that remove incentives to steal and traffic cultural goods.

While there is frequently a focus on archaeological finds in debate on such subjects, it should not be overlooked that manuscripts, books and other documentary heritage is of immense value to societies everywhere, as set out in the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation. Our amendments to the text focus on ensuring that the rules will also work for this type of heritage, and reflect the practices of libraries and archives (as opposed to just museums). They promote a proportionate, risk-based approach, which will enable libraries to continue to do their jobs, while also providing high levels of protection where necessary. They also underline that digitisation is an increasingly important reason for the temporary importation of cultural goods.

Together, CERL and IFLA submitted amendments to the text, which Stephen Wyber summarises as: ‘In the spirit of ensuring that the new rules work effectively for documentary heritage, the proposed changes argue that it should be simple to import works temporarily in order to digitise them, that efforts should be focused on higher risk materials, and that requirements imposed should reflect the needs and practices of different sectors.’

Kristian Jensen / Marian Lefferts, CERL

General Data Protection Rules - GDPR

It was nearly impossible to miss the fact that the EU General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) came into effect on 25 May 2018. GDPR refines existing privacy legislation and generally strengthens the position of the customer, e.g. through the right to be forgotten. Although CERL does not store much personal data, and already avoided sharing such data with third parties, we have made use of this opportunity to re-examine our policies and procedures in this respect.

We have written to all colleagues who engage with the CERL mailing lists, the CERL website and/or the CERL database editing facilities to ask for confirmation that CERL may record some personal information. The Data Conversion Group has also revised all editing facilities to ensure that, upon request, editors’ personal data may be removed from CERL electronic resources. If you have questions about CERL’s data policy, or wish to have your data removed, please write to secretariat@cerl.org.
HPB Development: Tracing Printing Places

Linking bibliographical records to authority records has a long-standing tradition in the cataloguing of bibliographical databases. Ideally, the linking is done when the bibliographical data is recorded, but with some restrictions, such links can be added retrospectively by applying automated procedures.

Unambiguous identification of people, places or even works is a huge advantage in every circumstance. Linked Data offers a vast variety of new ways to make use of these types of interrelated resources. Therefore, the two great resources hosted by CERL, the CERL Thesaurus and the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB) should, where possible, also be linked in this way. One of our stated aims in the HPB Development Plan that was presented to the CERL members at the AGM in October 2017 was to expand the current linking structure by adding links to CERL Thesaurus place name records from the printing places recorded in the HPB. This is not an easy undertaking, as the HPB records hold cataloguing in many different languages according to a vast variety of different cataloguing instructions. In addition to this, historical place names can be quite ambiguous and therefore difficult to match with the correct CERL Thesaurus record. Over the course of the past months, Maike Kittelmann at the Data Conversion Group in Göttingen has explored the available options and step-by-step developed a workflow for the procedure. We used the HPB download that was created five years ago for the migration from OCLC to DCG/VZG, as it was readily available and some 3 million records less to process and therefore more manageable than the current HPB which contains over 7 million records.

From our test data we learnt that it will not be possible to add a CERL Thesaurus place name link to every single record of the HPB. There are catalogue records that simply do not provide a printing place, there are records for imprints where the imprint place has not been recorded (‘s.l.’), and records that hold alternate scripts (Cyrillic, Greek, etc.) or variants of names that the CERL Thesaurus does not (yet) record. Also, in many cases, the place name is not easily identifiable within the MARC field used for place of printing as other comments are included there as well. And finally, there is the small risk of erroneous matches which, of course, we try to avoid as much as possible. Despite these challenges, the Data Conversion Group calculate that for more than 80% of those HPB records that provide printing place information a link to a relevant CERL Thesaurus record can be provided. This percentage is far more encouraging than we anticipated, so that we decided to roll out this linking procedure to the live HPB. As we did during the testing phase, most of this will be done by automated routines. However, for a small number of ambiguous place names, we will need to enlist the help of editors. Let us know if you would like to be involved! The links to the CERL Thesaurus records will be available in a separate field in the HPB. We aim to present the result at the CERL conference in September 2018.

Providing HPB records with a link to CERL Thesaurus records has been a first step in improving HPB data to support end users. Apart from the fact that we are now able to provide a valuable link between HPB and CT, the past few months have also helped us to understand what we need in terms of hardware and software to manipulate our HPB data. And this in turn will help us to deliver the rest of the HPB Development Plan.

Maike Kittelmann, Data Conversion Group, Göttingen

Seminar – Incunabula: people, places, products and their relationships
Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland, 24 October 2018

This one-day seminar, organised by Anette Hagan and Robert Betteridge, marks the completion of the NLS incunabula cataloguing project. It aims to explore the relationships between 15th-century printed books and their places of production, authors, printers and aspects of material culture found in illumination, rubrication and bindings. The NLS’s over 600 incunabula are described in the online catalogue complete with provenance and binding information. In due course the records will be discoverable in COPAC and the CERL Heritage of the Printed Book Database. The Library is in the process of adding the provenance descriptions to CERL’s Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) Database. For more information contact a.hagan@nls.uk or r.l.betteridge@nls.uk.
Benefits of CERL Membership
www.cerl.org/membership/benefits

In January 2018, the HPB was made freely available (see above). With this membership benefit to be taken off the list, the CERL Directors took the opportunity to review our presentation of membership benefits for both members and potential members and identified six key messages which can be relayed to Library Boards and managers that decide on funding:

- As an international network of libraries with important collections of early-printed books and manuscripts, CERL increases the visibility of the Special Collections Community.
- CERL creates and sustainably maintains services that members could not develop on their own.
- CERL works closely with the researcher and research organisations assuring that our services respond effectively to their research questions and also that we gain insights into user needs which may be shared with CERL members.
- As a special-interest group, CERL organises the exchange of high-level professional expertise on an international scale, to ensure that members have access to relevant information about the latest developments, products and projects.
- CERL represents the special collections community in international fora and projects.

Additional paragraphs that refine the six statements above are available on the CERL website (see URL above). We have also clarified the benefits for each membership categories of Single, Group, Cluster, Special and non-members. The full table of which you see a small image here has been attached as the final page of this newsletter (and is available via the URL above).

EDPOP
edpop.wp.hum.uu.nl/

On 7 and 8 June 2018, the international conference of the EDPOP network took place at the University of Utrecht, the alma mater of project coordinator Dr Jeroen Salman. The title of the conference was *The European Dimensions of Popular Print Culture. A comparative approach* and the programme is available on the project website. During the conference, speakers reflected on key concepts in popular print culture, as well as the life cycle of European popular print. The project proposal for an extension to the EDPOP project that was submitted in the autumn of 2017, called DATAPOP, was not awarded with a grant, but the current project still runs to January 2019 and the project partners plan to prepare another proposal, which we hope will be more successful.

Publication: The Invention of Rare Books

In this recent publication, David McKitterick, examines the development of the idea of rare books, how the idea took shape in the 16th and 17th centuries, and how collectors, the book trade and libraries gradually came together to identify canons that often remain the same today. He argues that, as books are one of the principle means of memory, this process of selection created particular kinds of remembering. And, in the prologue to his book, he urges us to consider ‘What criteria do we, and should we, use for our decision-making? What evidence concerning current use should we apply when trying to think not just about ourselves, but also about our obligations to future generations?’
When on or after 18 June 2018 you opened the CERL Thesaurus, you were greeted by a new interface. This was the outward manifestation of a mountain of behind-the-scenes work undertaken by the Data Conversion Group, Göttingen (DCG), in support of their migration of the CERL Thesaurus to a new hosting environment. At launch, the new interface was available in English, German and Italian, but more interface languages are planned to be added. Like the MEI databases, the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, the Scottish Book Trade Index and the other databases that CERL hosts, the CERL Thesaurus is now supported by an Elastic Search environment and all the benefits that come with it.

The presentation of the records is both cleaner and richer, and capitalises fully on the options for presenting both external and internal links to related information. In place name records you will find clickable links to, for example, all who worked in that place and whose births or deaths were recorded there, or images of watermarks recorded for that place. In the records for persons you may find links to biographies, to name authority files, to related CT records, as well as clickable links to places of activity and images of printer’s devices.

In connection with the migration, the editing workflow has also been updated and modernised, which makes the work of the team of CERL Editors much easier. Now that the migration is completed and the editing interface has been updated, we are in a position to open the CERL Thesaurus up for more editors and researchers who can contribute to improving and de-duplicating CERL Thesaurus records. What has not changed, we are pleased to note, is that data recorded in the CERL Thesaurus is also available as Linked Open Data under the terms of Etalab’s Open Licence, which can be considered equivalent to ODC-BY and CC-BY 2.0. Feedback on the new interface may be shared with us by sending an e-mail to marian.lefferts@cerl.org.
LIBER WG for Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage
libereurope.eu/strategy/digital-skills-services/digitalhumanities/

During the 2017 LIBER conference in Patras, Greece, the LIBER Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group was launched. The Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage, that Claudia Fabian and Marian Lefferts had chaired since 2013, was subsumed by this Working Group.

One year later, the Working Group will use the workshop at LIBER 2018 to present the work done so far and invite participants to join the WG in thinking about the work to be done in its second, and final, year. As became apparent in the Patras workshop, many academic libraries share similar questions, experiences and activities when being or becoming active in the field of digital humanities. However, it is sometimes difficult to find your way in the flood of information, just as our users can experience in their research. There is also a lack of use cases from European libraries even though a lot is happening in our network.

The working group has therefore worked towards curating relevant literature and tutorials for libraries in DH working around 4 themes:

1. Enhancement of skills in the field of digital humanities for librarians.
2. Cooperation and relationship between libraries and research communities.
3. Roles of libraries in digital humanities and awareness raising in academic libraries.
4. Recommendations for identifying and establishing policies and profiles regarding digital humanities' portfolios.

For each theme a reading list has been created, which is available from the WG’s page on the LIBER website (see above). The WG has also gathered use cases from different European libraries (and welcomes more!) around the same themes. The WG wishes to expand this first result into an overview of activities around DH in European libraries (through a survey). To facilitate the process, the WG’s session at LIBER 2018 ‘Digital Humanities in the European research library’ (Lille, 4 July 2018) will work with the participants to formulate potential survey questions. The workshop is set up in two parts. The first part will be used to present the work the four teams have done in our first year, followed by a coffee break. The second part will be an interactive session in a world café-style. Participants can suggest questions, topics of interest and information for the survey, as well as new use cases.

Lotte Wilms, KB, National Library of the Netherlands / Marian Lefferts, CERL

Invitation to apply for a Researcher-in-Residence programme
lab.kb.nl/news/call-proposals-kb-researcher-residence-2019

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), National Library of the Netherlands, is seeking proposals for its fully paid Researcher-in-residence programme in 2019. This programme offers a unique chance for early career researchers of all disciplines to work in the library with the Digital Scholarship team and KB data. In return, the KB learns how researchers use the data of the KB, what kinds of possibilities it offers and how services could be improved.

You will be assisted by one of the KB’s research software engineers, an advisor and collection and data specialists. The output of the project will be incorporated in the experimental platform of the KB, called the KB Lab, and is ideally beneficial to a larger (scholarly) community. Book historians are warmly invited to apply. The deadline is 30 September 2018.
Britain in Europe – recording British Authors printed Abroad

I spent last year calendaring books by British authors published outside Britain, supported by the British Academy: This year, supported by the Fell Fund, I spent the first part of the year gathering bibliographical evidence from international digital resources on Scottish authors, as pilot for creating a database of British authors printed abroad, linked with the CERL Thesaurus. Because of the existing work of Harry Aldis, *A List of Books Printed in Scotland* (Edinburgh: National Library of Scotland, 1970), the most useful thing from a Scottish point of view is a list of books by Scots printed not in Scotland – i.e., in all other countries, including England. I have accordingly searched the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) for Scots, in addition to excerpting writings by Scots from the main database, thus creating a ‘Scottish Authors Published Abroad’, which can feed into the ongoing Scottish National Bibliography project. The raw numbers stand thus: BAPA (British Authors…): upwards of 13,000 editions, and upwards of 1,300 authors. SAPA: upwards of 5,000 editions, and upwards of 500 authors. This data suggests that the extent of Britain’s engagement with, and impact on, Europe in the early modern period is grossly underestimated: the ESTC, which covers books printed in Britain, or in the English, Scots, Welsh and Irish languages, privileges a master-narrative of the rise and development of the English language; and tends to conceal, or elide, less insular currents in early modern British cultural history. My data also reveals that substantial numbers of British people, for one reason or another, were book-users, but were not dependent on London for their information, and instead, were participant in alternative cultural networks and systems of knowledge exchange. Together with CERL, I am exploring how my data may best be recorded in the CERL electronic environment.

*Prof. Jane Stevenson, Faculty of English, University of Oxford*

---

Two books by former CERL Secretary, Dr Lotte Hellinga

Dr Lotte Hellinga recently published her book *Incunabula in Transit* (Brill, 2017 - ISBN: 978-90-04-34035-0). In this book, Dr Hellinga explores how and where incunabula were first disseminated. In order to market hundreds of books, early printers formed networks with colleagues, engaged agents and traded Latin books over long distances. They adapted presentation to suit the taste of distinct readerships and implemented typographical innovations to accommodate publishing in the vernacular. In the final chapters of the book, Dr Hellinga and Margaret Nickson explore early book-collecting. Dr Hellinga’s previous volume *Texts in Transit* (Brill, 2014 - ISBN: 978-90-04-27900-1), contains twelve case-studies exploring what is revealed in printer’s copy and proofs (of diverse printing houses), covering the period from 1459 to the 1490s, and ranging from Rome and Venice to Mainz and Westminster. Together, these books are the culmination of her long career in incunabula studies and Dr Hellinga’s lasting legacy to all students of incunabula who follow in her footsteps.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Vote</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
<th>Div/CC</th>
<th>Working Group</th>
<th>Join Security Network</th>
<th>mailing list</th>
<th>Other fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Single           | £8,000| 1    | Max. 15. Additional libraries at a fee of £500 each | Yes    | Yes           | Yes                   |              | • Discounted registration fees  
• Hosting of dbs at cost  
• Priority data processing  
• No charges for adding records to CERL electronic resources |
| Group (max. 16 libraries) | £8,000 (shared by all group members) | 1 | 0 | 1 from the group | Yes | Yes, each library in group |              | • Discounted registration fees  
• Hosting of dbs at cost  
• Priority data processing  
• No charges for adding records to CERL electronic resources |
| Special          | £1,000| No   | 0      | Exceptually, by invitation | Yes | Yes |              | • Discounted registration fees  
• Hosting of dbs at cost  
• No charges for adding records to CERL electronic resources |
| Cluster libraries| 0     | No   | 0      | No     | No            | Yes                   |              | • Full registration fee  
• Hosting of dbs at cost + fee  
• No charges for adding records to CERL electronic resources |
| Non-members      | 0     | No   | 0      | No     | No            | No                    |              | • Full registration fee  
• Hosting of dbs at cost + fee  
• Adding records to CERL electronic resources at cost |

**Effective April 2018**