Consortium of European Research Libraries

Newsletter 8
December 2003

New files on the Hand Press Book (HPB) database
VD16 Supplement – c. 26,900 records
Together with the records in the K17 file, the records in the VD16 file form a set of German records of a high bibliographical standard, and are a major supplement to the records from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München (over 500,000 records), already present in the HPB database.

The VD16 Supplement file contains over 26,000 entries that were not previously included in the printed catalogue *Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachbereich erschienenen Drucke des 16. Jahrhunderts* (VD 16), which appeared in 22 volumes from 1983-1995. In addition to newly catalogued items, editorial work has also been carried out on works which were recorded in the printed volumes only on the basis of a bibliographic reference but which have now been revised from an existing item. These newly edited records keep the original VD16 numbers, which are part of the internal ID number of the HPB and are displayed in the Standard numbers field. The new VD16 Supplement records have ID numbers beginning with ZV (Zusatzverzeichnis). Due to VD16's aim to indicate accurately everything visible on the title-page of the printed work, the conversion to the HPB format has posed some interesting problems for CERL and RLG. The best display of VD16 is achieved in RLG's RLIN Terminal for Windows display.

To be loaded shortly:
- Yale University Library (over 275,200 records)
- National Library of Hungary (c. 13,000 records)
- Updates of the University of London Libraries (c. 7,200 records) and Oxford UL (c. 83,790 records)

HPB files in progress:
- National Library of Lithuania (over 2,000 records)
- Polish microfilm material (c. 30,000 records)
- KB Copenhagen (c. 51,000 records)
- UL Helsinki – Fennica file (c. 25,000 records)
- Canterbury – Mendham collection (c. 5,000 records)
- File updates from the National Library of Edinburgh, ICCU (c. 52,000), National and University Library, Croatia (c. 6,500 records), National Library of Russia (c. 2,000 records of the Cadets Corps).

University Library, Warsaw
The University Library in Warsaw has sent a file update of just over 1,000 records. After their earlier contribution of letters A and B, this file update now contains the letter C for WUL's 16th-century material, of which theological materials (both Catholic and Protestant) form a substantial part. The so-called 'Polonica' collections comprise about 10% of the whole.

A selection of further files that have been offered for inclusion in the HPB
- University of Salamanca – University General Library (c. 4,500 of c. 60,000 records in total)
- Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon – Elsevier, Spanish, Portuguese 16th and 17th-c. material Brancacciana collection in the Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples (c. 90,000 records)
- Regione Toscana – Libri Antichi in Toscana (c. 10,000 records)
- Zeitschriften Datenbank – the München, Göttingen and Berlin holdings in the German national serials catalogue (c. 11,450 records)

CERL Thesaurus file

Enhancing data from the STCN for the Thesaurus

The Data Conversion Group is in the process of adding various Personal Name files to the CERL Thesaurus (e.g. the English Short-Title Catalogue and Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands authority files, as well as the German *Personennamendatei*). The example below demonstrates how DCG can enhance data (here STCN records) through automated processing, using multiple files.

It is standard STCN procedure to create more than one authority record for one single person, when that person used a pseudonym. In most cases these two records are linked to each other (see 038A and 038B below). In addition to the authority records, more information on an author may be obtained from bibliographic records (in the STCN system authority and bibliographical records are linked). In the example below two personal name authority records are merged into one and supplied with extra information from the bibliographic file.

A recent development is that the CERL Thesaurus now lists the earliest and latest relevant work from the relevant bibliographical source (the 956 fields below), which will in future allow hyperlinking to the relevant database.

Original data from STCN authors authority file: Two personal name authority files

```
000 $006927015                          000 $011976603
001A $01996:20-04-83                     001A $01996:09-06-94
001B $01004:01-11-00$t08:28:38.959       001B $01996:09-06-94$t09:18:45.077
001D $01996:20-04-83                     001D $01996:09-06-94
002@ $0Tpv                               002@ $0Tpv
003@ $0069270155                         003@ $0119766035
028@ $dEverard$cvan$aReid                028B $dIreneus$aAmmonius
028@ $dEverdus$aReidanus                 038A $zpseud. van$9069270155
028B $dEverhard$cvan$aReyd                    $8Everhard van Reyd
032A $a1550-1602
038B $zzie ook$9119766035
     $8Ireneus Ammonius
```

The first conversion results for the CERL Thesaurus: Two personal name files

```
0RL 00210nz###22000853##45##           0RL 00130nz###22000613##45##
001 cnp00000987                         001 cnp00000988
100 ##$a20020417xmuly0103####ba         100 ##$a20020417xmuly0103####ba
200 01$aReyd$bEverhard van              200 01$aAmmonius$bIreneus$naut
    $f1550-1602$naut$cNL$5NeHKB             $cNL$5NeHKB
```

The new enhanced record for the CERL Thesaurus with colour coded origins:

First record   Second record   Bibliographic file

```
001 cnp00000987
0RL 00000nz  22000003  45
100   $a19830420 xmuly0103     ba
200 01$aReyd$bEverhard$bvan$cNL$5NeHKB$f1550-1602
291  1$aHistorie der Nederlantscher oorlog... / By Everhard van Rey...,
       1650$bSTCN$n831957662
291  1$aTrouhertighe vermaninge aen het ve... / By Een liefhebber d...,
       1605$bSTCN$n860140725
400 01$aReid$bEverard$bvan
400 01$aReidanus$bEverdus
400 11$aAmmonius$bIreneus
801 01$aNL$bNeNKHB$n069270155
801 01$aNL$bNeNKHB$n119766035
956 4 $nSTCN$zFirst bibliographic record$u860140725
956 4 $nSTCN$zLatest bibliographic record$u831957662
```

Adapted from Julia Haase - 30 October 2003

The CERL Thesaurus is at http://www. cerl.org/Thesaurus/thesaurus.htm.

Organisational news

Annual General Meeting, St Petersburg, 14 November 2003: Chairman's Note

Participants in the Voltaire Library in NLR / Sadovaya ul
© Jan Bos

The Annual General Meeting of the Full Membership took place in the National Library of Russia in St Petersburg, in a very special year marking the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city, and the opening of the Library's New Building, after many years of concentrated work. Dr Vladimir Zaitsev, General Director, and a CERL Director, welcomed members most cordially to the Library. Warm thanks are also due to Dr Natalia Verbina and her colleagues for the splendid organisation of the visit. One of the outstanding highlights was a wonderful visit to the Library's Rare Books and Manuscripts Departments, where curators presented some of the notable items from the Library's rich collections. We were all deeply impressed by their knowledge and love of the collections in their care. A number of important issues were discussed during this year's Annual General Meeting. Members discussed the need to widen access to the Hand Press Book (HPB) database, and, in particular, to find a way to involve libraries in Europe, and in continents such as South America and North Africa, that have collections rich in pre-1830 European imprints but are impeded from taking up membership by acute long-lasting economic factors. A proposal to set up a Membership Working Group to examine this issue was accepted by the membership. Another important milestone was reached with the presentation of Dr Hellinga's report on the Manuscripts Project. Members accepted its central recommendation that pilot projects for a searching facility for online manuscripts databases to meet the needs of both printed books and manuscripts scholars should be invited from the two companies whose proposals came out as lead choices from three independent technical assessments. The recommendations of the Services Working Group report, presented by its Chairman, Dr Fabian, were well received. Priority will be given to developing the website to include an extensive range of common information, facilities and services based on a questionnaire to members; investigation of cross file searching with RLG; and the phased development of a 'portal' approach. Thanks are due to the Chairmen and members of the Consortium's Working Groups for their work over the last year. Members also accepted the proposals for a further extension of the Consortium's existing contract with the Research Libraries Group (RLG) from 1 September 2004 to 31 August 2006, and discussed the post-2006 position.

Annual General Meeting 2004 - Edinburgh

The 2004 Annual General Meeting will take place in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh (13 November 2004). This, too, will be an important year, since it will mark the tenth anniversary of the Consortium's formal inauguration in 1994, although the history of the initiative dates back to the first International Conference held in Munich in 1990. We hope to invite a number of those colleagues who have been influential in the Consortium's history and development to join us.

©Doug Simpson

Ann Matheson

The Annual CERL Seminar, St Petersburg, 13 November 2003

European cultural heritage in the digital age: creation, access and presentation

This year's CERL seminar was held in the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, in the Conference Hall of the New Building on Moskovsky Prospekt, which was opened by President Putin earlier this year. Participants were welcomed by Dr Ann Matheson, Chairman of CERL, and Dr Vladimir Zaitsev, General Director of the National Library. Simultaneous translation in Russian and English was provided which facilitated a good communication in this multilingual environment.

- Dr Ludmilla Kiseleva (Manuscripts Department, National Library of Russia) spoke on 'Marginalia in manuscripts and books as a source for historical research', looking in particular at some of the Library's foundation collections and at evidence of literacy and book ownership in peasant communities in 18th- and 19th-century Russia.

- Dr Natalia Elagina (West European Collections, National Library of Russia) demonstrated the Library's new digital facsimile of the Insula Gospels on CD-Rom, discussing the history of the printed facsimiles in the 19th century and the use of digital techniques in areas such as paper research.

- The 19th-century St Petersburg manuscript of Gregory of Tours was investigated by Dr Vladimir Mazhuga (Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences) in his paper 'Study

Participants are shown around the NLR library building on Moskovsky Prospekt
© Jan Bos

of the script of medieval manuscript fragments for dating and localisation with use of a database'. A detailed examination of letter shapes in a number of manuscripts enabled Dr Mazhuga to link the manuscript to another fragment in Wolfenbüttel, and to suggest a location for the scriptorium where it was produced.

- The next paper was given by CERL's new Treasurer, Drs Jan Bos (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague), who described the work of some projects with which he is associated: 'Bibliopolis, the Memory of the Netherlands, and the Dutch and Flemish STC projects'.

- After lunch Dr Luisa Buson (Centro di Ateneo, Padua) demonstrated a number of Italian World Wide Web portals in the rare books field: 'Digital tools to improve access to the printed cultural heritage: the Italian situation'.

- This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by another of CERL's directors, Dr Kai Ekholm (Helsinki University Library, National Library of Finland), who emphasised that digitisation projects create new types of collections and new audiences for them. His paper was entitled 'Digitising the cultural heritage: a strategy for managing the task'.

- The seminar was concluded by a short presentation by Dr Claudia Fabian (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich) on the CERL Thesaurus, in which she discussed problems relating to the incorporation of information from authority files for names found in early printed books.

Dr Zaitsev gave a final address to bring to a close a very successful seminar. It is hoped that the six main papers will be published as *CERL Papers IV* in time for the next seminar in November 2004 (Edinburgh, 12 November 2004, on the theme of provenance information).

David Shaw

CERL Committee Members

For a list of all Committee members, see http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl.htm, Organisation.

CERL Chairman

In November 2003 Dr Ann Matheson's three-year term of office came to an end. The Directors and the Executive Committee had nominated Dr Matheson for a second term. The AGM was extremely pleased to learn that Dr Matheson had accepted this nomination and approved Dr Matheson's election by acclaim.

Directors / Treasurer

At the 2003 AGM there were an unusual number of vacancies because of directors retiring or leaving their post. Drs Jan Bos (KB The Hague), Dr Fernanda Campos (BN Lisbon), Mr Ivan Boserup (KB Copenhagen), and Dr Osvaldo Avallone (BNC, Rome) were elected to the posts of Director for a three-year term. No nominations were received for the fifth vacancy, and the AGM meeting asked Professor Dr Elmar Mittler (SUB Göttingen) to continue as a CERL Director for a further term, a request to which he graciously agreed.

Normally, the Board of Directors would nominate of one of its members as Treasurer. As there would not be a meeting of the Directors until April, the AGM meeting agreed to appoint Drs Jan Bos as Treasurer, subsequently endorsed by all Directors not able to be present at the AGM.

Ann Matheson and Jan Bos
© Kai Ekholm

Executive Committee (EC)

There were three vacancies to be filled, and the AGM elected Dr Gerd-J. Bötte (SBB, Berlin), Mme Eve Netchine (BnF, Paris), and Dr Claudia Leoncini (ICCU, Rome) to the Executive Committee.

CERL warmly welcomes all new Directors and Committee members and looks forward to working with them. Warms thanks are due to departing Directors Dr Livia Borghetti, Mme Alix Chevalier, Mr Graham Jefcoate, Dr Tomas Lidman, and to Committee member Dr Cristina Magliano, for their invaluable contributions to CERL's work.

DataConversionGroup, Gõttingen

There has been a change in personnel at the DataConversionGroup in Göttingen. Julia Haase moved to the microform and non-books department in the SUB Göttingen, and is now responsible for electronic journals. Her successor is Alexander Jahnke. Alexander Jahnke trained as a librarian with an emphasis on computing as well as management of special libraries, and has knowledge of the 'classical' languages Latin, Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew, as well as of Russian and Modern Greek. He graduated in August 2003 and his thesis was about the development of an XML-based publication system, which should become the technical basis for an electronic monograph series in the field of information- and knowledge management. He gained his first practical experience in libraries of various types in Hannover and Thessalonica (at CEDEFOP, an agency of the European Commission). CERL would like to thank Ms Haase for her patience and unfailing good cheer in dealing with CERL's many format questions, and wishes her well in her new post. We welcome Alexander Jahnke to the DCG and very much look forward to working with him.

New CERL Members

Full Members and Clusters

Over the summer, Yale University Library joined the Consortium, thereby becoming its first Full Member in North America. The Library has immediately contributed its records, which will be added to the HPB shortly. CERL's Cluster scheme continues to prosper. For 11 CERL members a total of 83 Cluster libraries have been approved by the Directors.

For a full list of all current CERL members, see http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl.htm.

Manuscripts Working Group

In this year, much progress has been made on the development of a cross-searching facility for online manuscript databases. The proposal of a manuscripts project was first raised in Padua (2000) by C. Dutschke (Digital Scriptorium). The AGM at The Hague (2003) commissioned a technical report, which was submitted in March 2003 and was presented by L. Hellinga, M. Lefferts and D. Shaw at a meeting of the LIBER Manuscripts Expert Group in The Hague. Ms M. Ghosh from the University of London Library joined the Working Group, led by Dr Lotte Hellinga, having experience from her work on the ULL Manuscript Studies Portal. In June, the Executive Manager drew up a specification for a system for cross-file searching of manuscript catalogues, and five potential service providers submitted proposals. These proposals were referred for technical assessment by three independent consultants: Professor A. Prescott (University of Sheffield, formerly the British Library); the Systems and Electronic Resources Service (University of Oxford); and Mr Kim Wilson (implementer of the CLCi software for

CERL and author of the first version of the Working Group's first report). All three came to the same conclusion, that two of the five proposals would fulfil CERL's requirements. Dr Hellinga prepared a report that was discussed at the Advisory Technical Group, Executive Committee and Annual General Meeting in St Petersburg.

The meetings felt strongly that the work of the Manuscript Project is also of great relevance to developments needed for the HPB. The choice of technology for the Manuscripts search facility should therefore be consistent with CERL's future technological requirements, and in this context CERL should keep in touch with the work of the The European Library (TEL) at the KB in The Hague. Those present at the meetings agreed to take the project further in discussion with the two identified companies by inviting them to build pilot projects, incorporating three manuscript catalogues, a printed books catalogue (HPB) and the CERL Thesaurus. The pilots will provide a good opportunity to elicit views from the potential MSS search facility users, both printed books and manuscripts.
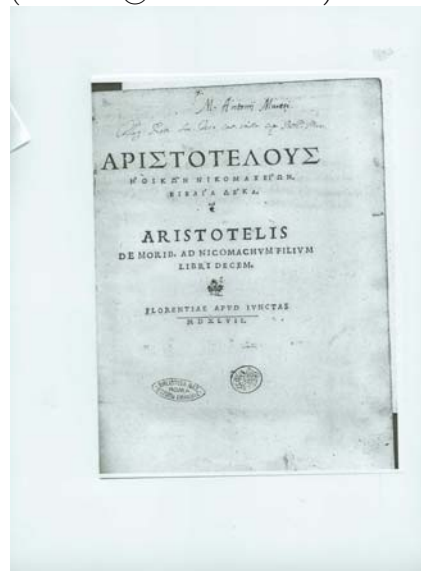

Book and Manuscript Library,
Columbia University, New York –
Plimpton MS 168 Rare

Provenance description and access

Books collectors and libraries of the past: a computerised data management.
The SBN(A) database (the Italian database for ancient books) includes an owners' archive, currently only available through an on-site search facility. It is, however, possible for off-site users to write by e-mail (catantico@bnc.roma.sbn.it) to the ancient printed book department and to ask about specific owners.

Muret – owner mark   *©BNCR*

The file functions were worked out jointly by BNCR programmers and by librarians working on ancient book cataloguing, with particular regard to this file's special requirements for data entry and queries. Since some manuscript names or notes can only be deciphered with difficulty, it is possible to link to the accepted name form and all the different corresponding cross references. Thus we can correct, erase or change the accepted form into the one used by the cross reference and *vice versa*. It is also possible to join the same headings. BNCR distinguishes between 'owners' and 'last owner'. For each item there can only be one last owner, and this is the person from whom the library received the copy. Both 'owner' and 'last owner' can be linked to one or several inventory numbers, identifying each item owned by the person. It is possible to insert or erase these links and to change 'owner' to a 'last owner' indication, or the reverse.

The most interesting part for the user is the search function. The starting points can be the owner's identification number or his name and inventory number. When using the name as a search term, the system shows the linked records with a full edition, description, inventory number and shelf- mark, the copy description (binding, pages missing, manuscript notes), and makes it possible to reconstruct the library of each owner and his interests. Starting from the inventory number, it is possible to find out all the owners of the copy, thus tracing the item's history. For the BNCR,. because of its ancient collection and its history, this research will be particularly interesting; BNCR holds the ancient collections of about 70 monastic libraries, but their books are not longer held as separate collections.

GESUITI- Biblioteca del Collegio Romano

©BNCR

At present the owners' file includes about 4,000 headings, the results of cataloguing 75% of BNCR's 16th-century books (c. 26,000 copies). It has been expanded by cataloguing 30,000 of BNCR's 17th-century editions and it will be increased again by the cataloguing of the remaining 25% of its 16th-century editions and 17th-century material (34,500 editions, from about 40,000 copies), which is in progress. The largest proportion of BNCR's books comes from the Gesuitic Bibliotheca Maior in Collegio Romano. This collection

S. Maria in Aracoeli – Roma

Biblioteca Cardinale Giuseppe Maria FONSECA da Evora

sec. XVIII

©BNCR

includes donations of important private libraries, such as the libraries of Marc Antoine Muret (16th-century French humanist), and Giovanni Battista Coccini (Decanus of the Auditores Rotae, who left his library to Collegio Romano in 1640). It will be possible to take part in finding copies of dispersed libraries, like Albani's and Colonna's: some items they owned are, in fact, in BNCR. Many Italian and foreign users have shown a keen interest in the owners' archive, and the BNCR is considering setting up off-site public access.

BNCR are also considering the possibility of having an integrated image file showing owner's manuscript notes and owner's stamps.

Marina Venier (BNC Rome)

Membership Working Group
In the light of the discussion on the paper 'Widening Access to CERL Membership and the HPB database' at the AGM in St Petersburg in November 2003, Members decided to establish a Working Group to investigate the scope for widening access to the Consortium and its activities, taking particular account of the situation of libraries with important European collections in countries in parts of Europe, and also in the wider European 'diaspora', for example, Central and South America and North Africa. The work will be taken forward through a core Working Group, chaired by Mrs Gunilla Jonsson (KB Stockholm), which will communicate with a wider corresponding group whose members will feed in views and ideas. Input from all member libraries will be very much welcomed. The Working Group will present recommendations to the Members for discussion at the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh in November 2004.
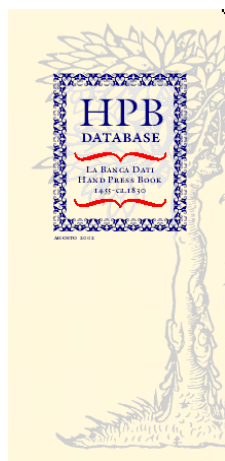
LIBER Security Network: Royal Library, Copenhagen
CERL Members are reminded that LIBER has now established the LIBER Security Network, which is run and maintained by the Royal Library in Copenhagen. The aim of the Network is to assist national, university and other important libraries with rare and valuable collections to anticipate and deal with potential thefts, and many European libraries have already joined the Network. **Libraries seeking further details about joining the LIBER Security Network can find them at www.kb.dk/liber/news/library.security.htm, along with an application form.**

Promotion of CERL

CERL Leaflets

The leaflet in English has been updated and reprinted.

Workshops

- September 2003 – Monique Hulvey, *NLR 5th annual workshop*, St Petersburg
- September 2003 – David Shaw, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- October 2003 – Marian Lefferts, *Religious Book Culture in Europe and Hungary from the end of the 15th to the late 18th century*, Sárospatak, Hungary

Presentations in 2004

- January 2004 – *CERL*, Oxford, United Kingdom
- April 2004 – *Biblioteca Baltica*, Greifswald, Germany
- May 2004 – *CERL/ENSSIB*, Chantilly, France
- July 2004 – *SHARP conference*, Lyon, France
- September 2004 – *NLR 6th annual workshop*, St Petersburg, Russia
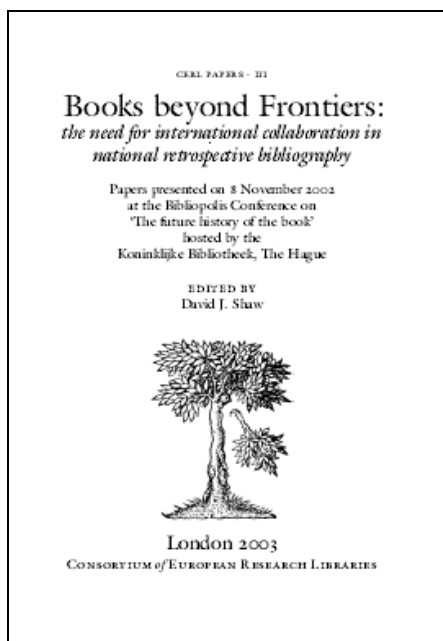
CERL Conference Proceedings

The third volume of *CERL Papers* has appeared:

Books beyond Frontiers: the need for international collaboration in national retrospective bibliography. (David J. Shaw, ed.). Papers presented on 8 November 2002 at the Bibliopolis Conference on 'The future history of the book' hosted by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague. London, Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2003. ISBN 0-9541535-1-0

Contents:

- Introduction by David J. Shaw
- John Goldfinch: The international context of national bibliography.
- Goran Proot and Stijn van Rossem: Grey areas in book historical research. Can international co-operation offer a practical solution?
- Judit Vízkelety-Ecsedy: The search for hidden Hungarica.
- Galina Rieder: Die Erschließung der Altbestände der Russischen Nationalbibliothek in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Consortium of European Research Libraries.

All members of CERL will receive one copy of this book. Further copies can be ordered from the Secretariat, price £15.00 (£10.00 for CERL members), plus post and packing.

**The Secretariat wishes
all colleagues in CERL member institutions
a very happy and productive 2004.**