CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER

Hand Press Book (HPB) Database
CERL announces RLG as host for the Hand Press Book Database from 2006

The Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) has recently announced that RLG (originally the Research Libraries Group), California, will host its Hand Press Book (HPB) database from September 2006.

'RLG is extremely pleased to have the opportunity to continue our hosting of the Hand Press Book database,' said Ms Susan M. Yoder, Director of Product Management at RLG. 'The HPB is a strong component of our strategic offering of unique, primary materials and we look forward to working with CERL in ongoing support of the scholarly community.' RLG, http://www.rlg.org, was incorporated in 1975 by Columbia, Harvard, and Yale Universities and The New York Public Library, as The Research Libraries Group. Today, as RLG, it is an international, not-for-profit membership organization of over 150 universities, libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions with collections that support research and learning. RLG designs and delivers innovative information discovery services, organizes collaborative programs, and takes an active role in creating and promoting relevant standards and practices.

Dr Ann Matheson, Chairman of the Consortium of European Research Libraries, said: ' We look forward to working with RLG, and continuing to build the Hand Press Book database as a unique integrated online resource for the distributed European printed heritage of the hand press period'. With its 1.6 million records, regular file additions and updates, the HPB offers a unique resource for scholars and researchers who work in the field of interpreting European cultural heritage up to the middle of the 19th century, and for research librarians, the antiquarian book trade, museums of the book, and others involved with European printing during this period.

HPB file loading

Because of its migration, RLG has not been able to load HPB records since March 2005. They report: 'Normal data loading will resume at the beginning of June, starting with records from the Library of Congress. Next we will restart individual ongoing catalog contributions, ongoing updates to other Eureka databases, and then loads for new contributors.' The timetable for CERL files that are currently awaiting loading into the HPB will be notified as soon as it is available.

In the meantime, CERL continues to prepare files for loading. Files from the NL Hungary (c. 13,000 records), the NL Lithuania (c. 2,700 records) and the NL Wales (a file update of c. 5,400 records) are with RLG, awaiting loading. CERL is about to send c. 77,000 records from the KB Denmark to RLG, and is preparing records from the UL Helsinki (c. 19,000 records) as well as various file updates, from, for example, SUB Göttingen, the BN Spain, Oxford University Libraries and the Wellcome Library, London.

Access denial

CERL members' overall usage of the HPB has increased since 2000, as is shown here. HPB users share a number of access points to the database. CERL would like to ask its members to report any access denial they experience, so that we can make adjustments to this number of access points if necessary.

CERL Thesaurus file

The number of records on the CERL Thesaurus increases steadily – see table below.

By far the largest contribution was the *Personennamendatei*, but also the corporate names file of the English Short Title Catalogue should be mentioned here. The integration of this file and a small file from the University Library of Warsaw enriched the Thesaurus by offering corporate name records.

	12/6/02	11/3/03	5/3/04	1/3/05
Personal Names	12,173	62,436	85,948	594,289
Corporate Body Names			1	3,725
Imprint Names	6,068	12,252	13,804	13,812
Imprint Places	2,808	3,624	3,642	3,599
Sources	3	11	15	2,104
Total number of records	**21,037**	**78,325**	**103,410**	**617,529**

Corporate name records had been defined as a record type long since, but had not been included in the CT to date. In addition to adding new records, much effort has also been put into de-duplication of the data file.

The CERL Thesaurus is a free resource, which is already used extensively by CERL members and non-members alike.

In the year 2004 the CERL Thesaurus was visited an average of 5,000 times each month.
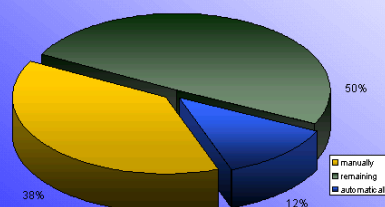
CERL would like to invite it members to include a link to the CERL Thesaurus from the 'Research Tools' section on their websites.

Please link to
http://www. cerl.org/Thesaurus/thesaurus.htm.

Deduplicating of personal names and place names records
- Records merged since Aug. 2004: 11,319
- Merger rejected since Aug. 2004: 19,204
- Records processed manually s. Aug. 2004: 23,241
- Records remaining to be checked: 29,861

50%
manually
remaining
automatically
38%
12%

Cataloguing of Mediaeval Manuscripts
Conference to be held at the Bayerische Hauptstaatsarchiv, München, 24-26 October 2005

The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek is organising an international conference on 'The Cataloguing of mediaeval manuscripts', which is sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and will take place from 24 to 26 October 2005. The programme focuses on four topics:
- Manuscript cataloguing: methods and aims
- Manuscripts and the internet
- Illuminated manuscripts
- Aspects of the study of manuscripts and their provenance

The CERL Manuscripts Project will be presented by a member of the Manuscripts Working Group, Dr Fabienne Queyroux (Paris).

The conference is mainly directed at scholars involved in the cataloguing of mediaeval manuscripts. If you are interested in participating, you have until 31 July 2005 to send in the registration form, which may be found on http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/hsstagung/index.htm.

Cross-searching Manuscripts and Early Printed Material

In 2004 two companies were invited to build pilot demonstrators of a federated searching facility for manuscripts. Testers reviewed the pilots and advised that the Crossnet pilot was the more adequate in terms of results and performance. The AGM then decided to take the project into a second stage, aiming for a) enhancements to the Crossnet pilot; b) an investigation into technical solutions for federated searching as adopted by The European Library; and c) formulating a clear view on how to proceed with an operational search engine after the project phase.

CERL appoints Project Manager
In March 2005, CERL appointed Drs Liesbeth Oskamp to take up the post of Project Manager for the Federated Searching facility for manuscripts and early printed books. Her appointment is for 18 hours per week and will run to 30 November 2005. Her e-mail address is liesbeth.oskamp@cerl.org and she is based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

At the AGM, Professor U. Göranson suggested investigation of the work being carried out by the Electronic Publishing Centre (EPC) of the University of Uppsala , which has developed a search portal to the Waller collection, making use of the Open Archives Initiative protocol to harvest data. Since the AGM, CERL has been in contact with EPC and a pilot is under construction. In order to finance this pilot,

O p e n A r c h i v e s I n i t i a t i v e while remaining within the budget set by the AGM, the Project Manager and the Chairman of the Manuscripts Working Group have proposed to limit enhancements to the Crossnet pilot to adjusting the search fields in the search engine. As a result, comparing the search results of both pilots is expected to be more effective, as both the Crossnet and the Uppsala pilots will offer equal access points. After consulting the Advisory Task Group, the Executive Committee ratified this proposal at its Copenhagen meeting in June 2005.

Four databases have been selected to supply content for the OAI pilot (to be executed by EPC, Uppsala):

▪ Uppsala University Library, Sweden	Waller Collection: More than 20,000 items representing the history of medicine and science from the 15th century onwards.
▪ Manuscriptorium, Czech Republic	Memoria Project: More than 50,000 bibliographic descriptions of historical documents and digitised manuscripts from the Czech Republic and some other (Eastern European) countries
▪ National Library of Australia	Digital Object Repository, Manuscripts: Letters, diaries, notebooks, speeches, lectures, drafts of books and articles, photographs, drawings, minute books, agenda papers, logbooks, financial records, maps
▪ Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague	Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts: Some 500 medieval illuminated manuscripts, containing over 8,000 images

The OAI pilot is planned to be operational at the end of September and will be presented at a meeting of the Manuscripts Working Group in October 2005 in Uppsala.

With both pilots operating we will be able to compare two technical solutions to federated searching: searching distant databases through the SRU- and Z39.50 protocols, and searching a central index containing data harvested through the OAI protocol. As two collections – the medieval illuminated manuscripts of the National Library of The Netherlands, and the Czech Manuscriptorium – are included in both pilots, it will be possible not only to compare reliability and performance, but also the adequacy of search results. We will always have to keep in mind that most databases support either the OAI protocol, SRU or Z39.50, so a hybrid solution may very well be what is required.

See also http://www.cerl.org/Manuscripts/manuscripts_working_group.htm.

Responsible Stewardship towards Cultural Heritage Materials

IFLA Pre-Conference to be held at the Kongelige Bibliotek, København, 11-12 August 2005

Prior to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section is organising an exciting international pre-conference on 'Responsible Stewardship towards Cultural Heritage Materials'. The subscription fee is

WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS: 71ST IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

"Libraries - A voyage of discovery"

August 14th - 18th 2005, Oslo, Norway

Euro 75,- including lunch, coffee, tea and receptions. There are still places available, so please stimulate colleagues in your institutions or country to subscribe! Information on registration can be found at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/satellite10prg.htm.

Database of Missing Books - Royal Library, Copenhagen

The Royal Library in Copenhagen recently published a list of missing books http://www.kb.dk/kb/missingbooks/index-en.htm. The site is of interest because of the detailed information that is provided. After having suffered numerous thefts, the Royal Library conducted an inventory of its stacks, from 1979 to 1999. A list of books in the older collections that were then found missing is published on the website (though the list also includes some items which were known to be missing before the 1970s). At present the list of missing books comprises books printed in the period 1501–1800, chronologically arranged by year of publication, and provides antiquarian book traders and auction houses with an efficient way to establish whether a given book is listed among the books missing in the Royal Library.

The list is based on shelflists dating from c. 1820 and onward, but every record has, as far as possible, been verified in other library catalogues, and the bibliographical information has been expanded and brought up to date. Bibliographical data was collated from information retrieved from the *Hand Press Book database*, the *Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog* (KVK), and from bibliographies and other printed sources, e.g. the VD 16 (*Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 16. Jahrhunderts*). Copy-specific information (e.g. hand-written notes, important provenance information, binding features) on the shelflist has also been included in the list of missing books. Of particular interest is the website's survey in pictures and words of physical means of identifying items belonging to the Royal Library collections. The site gives detailed information on owner's marks, both inside and on the binding, the way shelfmarks were constructed in the Royal Library, and also details on royal monograms and the Danish national coats of arms. CERL believes that this initiative sets an excellent example, and considers creating a shared portal for CERL members' collection identifying marks.

Databases: National Library of Australia, CURL and Deutsche Bibliothek

CERL members used to be offered access to the databases of CURL, the National Library of Australia and Deutsche Bibliothek through their Y7.xxx accounts. In the new server environment, the RLG Union Catalog no longer provides gateway access to these catalogues. Instead, these heavily-used catalogues are being loaded directly into the RLG Union Catalog.

Records from the National Library of Australia were loaded directly into the RLG Union Catalog last year. See also the December 2004 issue of RLG Focus: 'National Library of Australia Contributes to the RLG Union Catalog,' (http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20480#article2).

The process of loading CURL members' records into the RLG Union Catalog began late last year and will take place over time. When this is completed, they will be integrated with the holdings of other RLG member institutions. Use of the Deutsche Bibliothek Database has been insufficient to warrant re-implementation in the new environment, and RLG no longer provides access to it.

CERL Study: Implementing Persistent Identifiers

CERL's Advisory Task Group commissioned a report on Persistent Identifiers from the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen. The authors of the report, Dr Hans-Werner Hilse and Dr Jochen Kothe, give detailed descriptions of six systems currently in use (e.g. DOI, ARK, PURL, etc.) and offer recommendations for persistent identification in a local system, as well as guidelines and infrastructure to be shared by multiple institutions. CERL intends to publish this excellent 60-page report.

Rarebooks.info subscription offer for CERL members

www.rarebooks.info provides a comprehensive bibliography of books on rare books available for consultation on the internet. Rarebooks.info so far comprises many 100,000 pages of key out-of-print bibliographies that can be browsed and searched transversally online. To date nearly 70 reference works are on line. Important reference books available online include Goff, Brunet, Sabin, Darlow and Moule, Westwood and Satchell, Lipperheide, Goedecke, Lowndes, among many, many others. Subjects covered include incunabula, early printing, botany, hunting, maps and globes, costumes, classical literature, science and mathematics, Newton, angling and fishing, Americana, Bibles, magic, American Indians, etc. There are out-of-print and difficult-to-find sales catalogues, as well as more standard sources. Many of the references are not available in reprints. These are not e-texts; they are scanned facsimiles of the actual books. Rarebooks.info also offers a Reference Gateway, which provides bibliographic resources to books on books in more than 100 subject categories. An annual scanning program adds 15 to 20 key reference books each year. A distinguished Board of Advisors oversees choices of bibliographies and other matters of content. Rarebooks.info offers a unique and unparalleled tool for researchers.

www.rarebooks.info proposes a special subscription offer for members of CERL: the "CERL Associate Membership Agreement." According to the terms of the Agreement, CERL members would be offered Standard Subscriptions (3 simultaneous users, remote access) at 10% off the annual price of € 750. Once 15 members subscribe, the discount would increase to 25% for any new members and 25% for renewals for all members. Cluster libraries would be eligible to join individually at the Basic Subscription rate (1 user, no remote access) of 10% off the annual price of € 450, moving to 25% once there are 15 members in either category, but they would not be able to share the subscription of their Full Member parent. Larger Associate Members, for whom the "Campus Wide Subscription" (unlimited users, remote access) of € 1,200 per annum is most appropriate, will be offered the same discount scheme of 10% initially and 25% once 15 members are reached.

As a means of increasing publicity for CERL and for www.rarebooks.info each organisation will create links to the other on their respective websites. www.rarebooks.info will also create a link to the CERL Thesaurus as an additional resource on the main search page. CERL and www.rarebooks.info will explore the scope for further collaboration.

Members or cluster members of CERL interested in an Associate Membership to www.rarebooks.info according to the terms of the above scheme should contact Secretariat@cerl.org by 30 September 2005.

Membership
New CERL Members
The latest Cluster Libraries to have been added by Full Members are:

▪	Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen	Universitätsbibliothek, Oldenburg Universitätsbibliothek, Rostock Universitätsbibliothek, Greifswald
▪	Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid	the Biblioteca Marqués de Valdecilla (the rare books library at the Universidad Complutense), Madrid

All Members are encouraged to invite other potential CERL member libraries in their countries to contact the CERL Secretariat for further details of how they can become members, and to arrange for a trial period of use of the HPB database.

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

Election of Directors
There will be elections for three Directors at CERL's Annual General Meeting in Rome in November. M. François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles steps down at the end of his time as Director of ENSSIB, the French national library school . Dr Vladimir Zaitsev (National Library of Russia, St Petersburg) and Dr Kai Ekholm (Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland) come to the end of their three-year terms as Directors of CERL. Dr Ekholm will be eligible for re-election, as he has been a Director for one term only.

There will be an official announcement of the election and a call for nominations in early October.

David Shaw, Secretary

Promotion of CERL
Presentations in 2005

- March 2005 – seminar in Zagreb
- March 2005 – Table ronde, Salon du Livre, Paris
- August 2005 – IFLA pre-conference: "Responsible Stewardship towards Cultural Heritage Materials," København
- September 2005 – Journées des incunables, Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours
- November 2005 – CERL Seminar

CERL Seminar – 11 November 2005, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome:

This year's Seminar will be on the theme of 'Many into one: problems and opportunities in creating shared catalogues of older books, such as access points, levels of completeness and uniformity of bibliographical information'. Speakers will include

- Professor Mauro Guerrini (University of Florence)
- Professor Neil Harris (University of Udine): Tribal lays and the history of the fingerprint / Canti tribali e la storia dell'impronta
- Dr Marco Paoli (Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico, Rome)
- Dr Marina Venier (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome): The Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale's database of Italian printed devices of XVIIth century
- Professor Géza Bakonyi (University of Szeged): Old in the New: The XML Database of the Hungarian Shared Catalogue of Older Books
- Mme Valérie Tesnière (Catalogue collectif de France, Bibliothèque nationale de France): The Catalogue collectif de France: today and tomorrow
- Mr Edwin Schroeder (Yale University Library): How do patrons find what they didn't know they were looking for: the growth in the use of access points in rare book cataloging: an American rare book library perspective.

Further details will be available soon. The Seminar will start at 9.30am and will be followed by a reception at 5.30pm. Attendance at the Seminar is free to all.

CERL Papers V: Conference Proceedings

CERL's fifth collection of conference papers will be published under the title *Books and their owners: provenance information and the European cultural heritage.* Papers presented on 12 November 2004 at the CERL Conference hosted by the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. The publication will be available at the Annual General Meeting in November 2005.

Third LIBER Library Security Conference

The third LIBER Library Security Conference will take place in April 2006, and will be hosted by the Royal Library, The Hague. Further detailed information about the Conference will be available in due course on the LIBER website at http://www.kb.dk/liber.

Members are reminded about the LIBER Security Network, which has been set up as a safe information and communication network for European Library Directors and Heads of Security, and is hosted by the Royal Library, Copenhagen. Further information is available at http://www.kb.dk/liber (go to 'LIBER Current Professional Initiatives', and then click on 'LIBER Security Network'). Libraries that are already LIBER members need only register using the online application form. Other libraries may join the Network by first joining LIBER (details available on the LIBER website).

Ann Matheson, Chairman