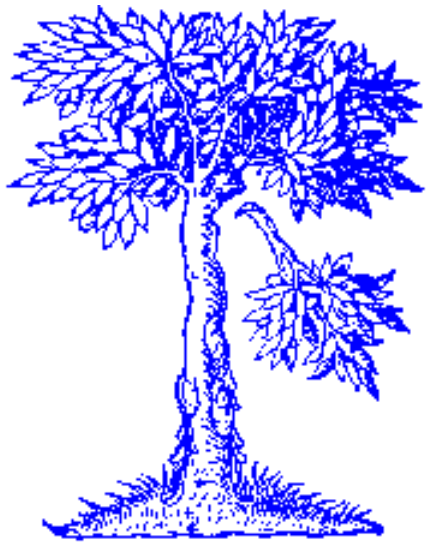


INTRODUCTION TO CERL AND ITS SERVICES: The state of the art and the future

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The European Manuscript & Hand Press Book Heritage
The role of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

Dubrovnik, Thursday 31 May 2007



Background

- The Consortium was formed in 1994 on the initiative of research libraries in many European countries.
- CERL's logo is based on the printer's device of the 16th-century Estienne (Stephanus) family in Paris and Geneva
  - It represents the tree of knowledge (olive), with a branch dropping to earth



CERL's mission

- CERL's primary objective is to record **the European printed heritage**: all books printed in Europe during the hand-press period, i.e. before c.1830, in our Hand Press Book database.
- This has been extended to include **cross-searching of manuscript databases** through the CERL Portal.
- CERL aims to provide **support and resources for rare books specialists** (librarians and scholars), for example by offering the CERL Thesaurus.



CERL Membership

- We currently have 42 full and group members, 12 special members, and 83 'cluster' libraries attached to a full member.
- Members in 20 European countries and the United States
- http://www.cerl.org/Membership/listmembers.htm

Hand Press Book Database

- Nearly 3 million bibliographic records for European printing from c.1450 to c.1830.
- Contains bibliographic records from the most important European and North American research libraries
- Regularly updated.
- Individual records may be downloaded (in MARC21 or UNIMARC format), and used for derived cataloguing.



Hand Press Book Database

The HPB database now combines

- 2,788,369 bibliographic records
- compiled from 27 files
- contributed by 24 institutions
- in 16 countries, 15 European and the US

http://www.cerl-org.de/web/en/resources/hpb/content

More records are added each year



HPB - Future file loads 2007-2008

- Regione Toscana (c. 14,800 records)
- KB The Hague – Pre-Brinkman (c. 33k records)
- Polish microform material (Gdansk, Wrocław, Warsaw and Szczecin, c. 35k records)
- Bibliothèque nationale de France (c. 800k records)
- KB Stockholm – legal materials (SOT, 13,3k records)
- UL Complutense (c. 27,500 records)
- UPDATES: NL Croatia, ICCU (SBN(A)), BNE, NLR, Yale and Oxford

HPB - Future file loads

- Hungary – Mokka-R network
  - Updates
    - Hungarian National Library
    - University of Szeged, University Library
  - New records from
    - University of Debrecen
    - The University Library of Eötvös Loránd University
    - The Ráday Library of the Danubian District of the Hungarian Reformed Church



Access to the HPB

- http://eureka.rlg.org
- At OCLC the database will be in the First Search environment
- Z39.50 access will also be offered
- CERL members will have the opportunity to edit HPB records through OCLC's Connexion client and browser



CERL Portal

- Freely available at http://cerl.epc.ub.uu.se/sportal/
- Crossing searching of online manuscripts databases.
- Combined with databases of early printed materials.
- Currently includes 12 databases.
- OAI-based, but Z39.50-compatible too.



CERL Thesaurus

- Freely available at http://cerl.sub.uni-goettingen.de/ct/.
- Nearly 675,000 records for variant forms of place, personal, imprint and provenance names.
- Brings together authoritative forms used in major European Libraries.
- Links to digitised images of printers' devices and provenance information.
- Scholars may share their specific knowledge with other users through the annotations facility

CERL Digital Resources

- A programme for digitisation of reference works
- Adds value to the digital copy by linking the online version with the CERL Thesaurus.
- Currently links to R B McKerrow's *Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland* and Renouard's *Les marques typographiques parisiennes*, as well as printers' devices held in EDIT 16.
- To be extended with material from Spain (Vindel or Haebler) and Italy (linking to MAR.T.E.)

Recent Publications

- *CERL Papers VI. Many into one: Problems and opportunities in creating shared catalogues of older books* (David Shaw, ed.). Papers presented on 11 November 2005 at the CERL conference hosted by the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome. London, CERL, 2006. ISBN 0-9541535-5-3. [Eight papers in English.]
- Hans-Werner Hilse and Jochen Kothe, *Implementing Persistent Identifiers: Overview of concepts, guidelines and recommendations*. London / Amsterdam: CERL and ECPA, 2006. ISBN 90-6984-508-3. PDF version: http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:gbv:7-isbn-90-6984-508-3-8
- *John Michael Smethurst, Bibliography & Essays with Postscript* (Ann Matheson, ed). CERL Occasional Publications I. London, CERL / OCLC., Inc., 2006). ISBN 0-9541535-4-5. Compiled by Michael John Crump. Essays by Franz Georg Kaltwasser & John Winthrop Haeger. Postscript by Henry Leonard Snyder.
- For publications in previous years see: http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl_papers.htm



Current Initiatives

- Co-operation with the Register of European Microform Masters (EROMM)
- Participation as partner in EDLnet request for EU funding
- Facilitating researchers' access to member libraries by a 'European passport' scheme (under investigation in liaison with LIBER).
- Working with the EU-funded Bernstein project (concentrates on paper)



New Development Plan 2008-2011

- CERL aims to increase awareness of the Services it offers, and promote increased use of the Services (both in terms of the number of searches that are executed and in terms of the types of users that make use of the Services).
- CERL aims to foster dialogue between its library members, by allowing them to share knowledge and expertise on issues relating to books written or printed before the middle of the 19th century.
- CERL aims to be a serious and unavoidable participant in the international dialogue on issues relating to enhancing access to and interpretation of our European cultural heritage and will specifically champion issues relating to books written or printed before the middle of the 19th century.
- CERL aims to improve its suite of interrelated Services – in terms of quality, the range of data resources to which they provide access, and the platforms on which these Services are made available.

CERL Contact information

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