Membership Fees and representation

CERL's main source of revenue is membership fees (over 95% in 2012, excluding European project funding). While in the last ten years the databases offered by CERL grew, interfaces were enhanced and new services were added, the CERL full membership fee remained stable at € 8,000 per annum. All full members have one vote, and may nominate staff to serve on the CERL Board and Committee.

Certain libraries elect to form groups, sharing the membership fee and nominating one member to vote on their behalf. Groups of up to sixteen institutions still pay no more than € 8,000 per annum. Staff from all member libraries are warmly invited to participate in CERL's Working Groups to guide the development of our services (the HPB, CT, MEI and CP Working Groups), or special interest groups (Manuscripts, Security Network, Bookbinding, Provenance and CERL Promotion).

CERL Executive Committee (October 2012)

CERL is a partner in two EU-Funded projects (both ending January 2016):

– CENDARI (cendari.eu) aims to integrate digital archives and resources for research on medieval and modern European history. Selected resources – including those from hitherto isolated archives and data silos – will be made available to researchers of medieval Europe and the First World War period, through the project's 'enquiry environment'.
– the Europeana Cloud (pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud) project aims to develop a cloud-based infrastructure for the network of Europeana, its content providers and its aggregators in which to store data, with a clear understanding of the legal, strategic and economic issues involved, presented in combination with a set of tools and services specifically for the academic researcher.

CERL Electronic Resources
The Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB)
The HPB offers scholars in all disciplines convenient and reliable access to over 4 million records of the European printed heritage from c. 1455 to c. 1830.

The CERL Thesaurus (CT)
The CERL Thesaurus contains forms of names for imprint places, persons and corporate bodies, printers and their devices, as well as provenance information.

The CERL Portal (CP)
The CP enables scholars to search across the contents of online manuscript databases, in combination with selected large databases of printed materials, thereby overcoming the historical differentiation of printed books and manuscripts in libraries.

Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)
MEI is a database for recording and searching the material evidence of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

Can You Help? – Identifying Provenance Evidence
This is a resource for public discussion and identification of provenance queries. It allows the sharing of queries with an extensive network of specialists and the contribution of expertise.

CERL at a glance
Accessing the record of Europe's book heritage

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES
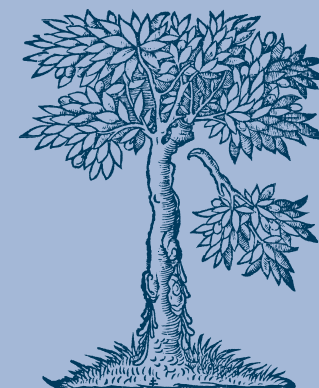

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General information about CERL

The Consortium of European Research Libraries is a membership organisation for all libraries, museums of the book, archives and other organisations with an interest in cultural heritage in the form of early printed books and manuscripts.

Collaboration
Together we develop services that increase the visibility and use of our collections, thereby supporting students, scholars, researchers, archivists, special collections librarians, information professionals and cataloguers in their work.

Cultural heritage
We bring together under one umbrella descriptions of books, biographical information about printers, information about book production (such as printers' marks, size of print runs, watermarks and bookbinding), and extensive information about book ownership (owners' marks and library stamps). In this way our collections are placed in a wider context, allowing us to shine a bright light on our shared European cultural heritage..

Digital humanities
Many of CERL's databases are linked to digital copies of original materials held in our libraries. Our search interfaces are especially tailored to the specialist data we hold, allowing for detailed searching and granular retrieval results. Our CERL Thesaurus is published as Linked Open Data, and may be reused both to build connections between databases and to facilitate searching in large data sets.
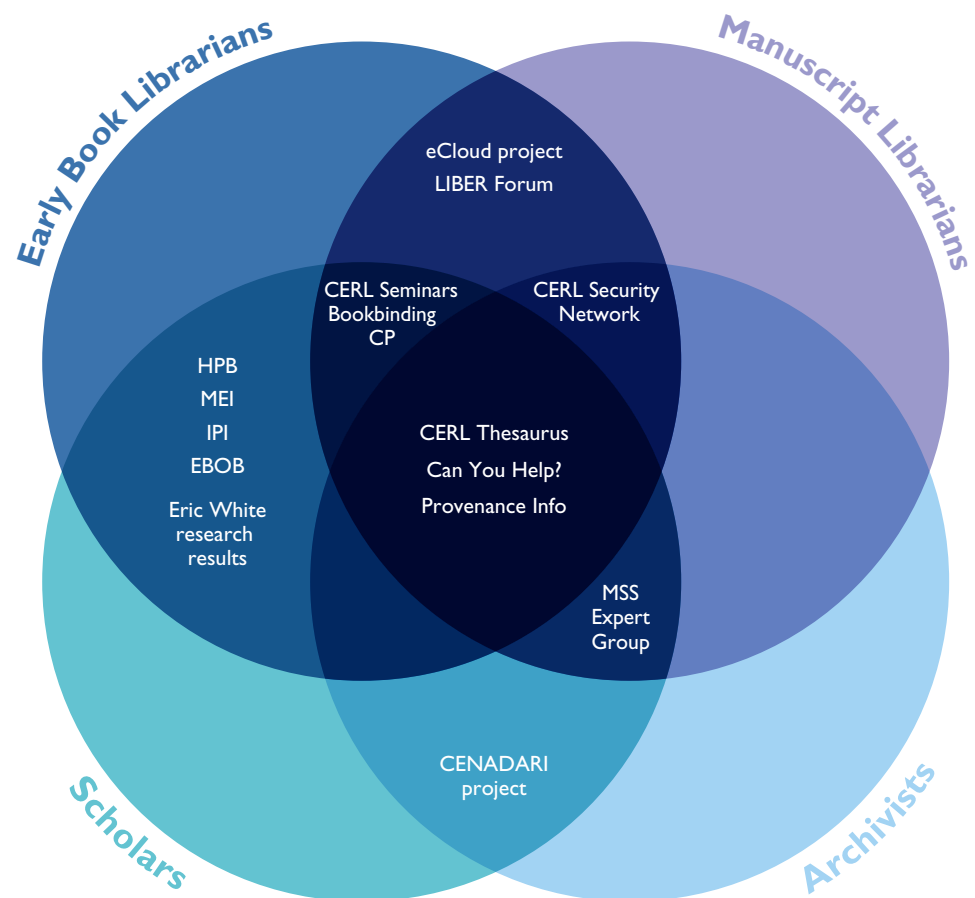
A Network for Sharing Expertise
In our network we discuss and develop standards (e.g. for describing provenance information and bookbinding), we support institutions in protecting their collections against theft and criminal damage, and we support the exchange of expertise (e.g. the Expert Group for Manuscript Librarians and the LIBER Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage). We also promote the exchange of knowledge through our website, seminars, conference proceedings and the Can You Help? resource.

Follow us: FB / twitter / LinkedIn

M. Lefferts, Executive Manager: *'Our strength lies in the network, which so clearly demonstrates the value of international collaboration to achieve a common goal.'*

Details on the CERL electronic resources named here are presented overleaf.

Other offerings by CERL include:

CERL Security Network
The Security Network aims to coordinate information about security issues, to provide guidance on building collection security police and to organise events for information exchange.

Eric White – print runs
280 records with details on edition sizes of incunabula, made available via the CERL website.

Early Book Owners in Britain
Research by Christie's Margaret Lane Ford into private ownership of printed books in the late 15th and early 16th century.

CERL Manuscripts Librarians Group
This group acts as a forum for curatorial concerns, and aims to enhance the understanding and practical cooperation among manuscript curators across Europe.

Index Possessorum Incunabulorum (IPI)
CERL offers access to Paul Needham's list of 32,000 entries of personal and institutional names, monograms and arms evidencing ownership of incunabula.