

CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER

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Adding new bibliographic records to the HPB Database

The Hand Press Book Database now contains over 2.75 million records.

Since the file loads reported in issue 14 of this Newsletter (December 2006) the following have been added to the Hand Press Book Database:

- 19,402 National Library of Finland (Kansalliskirjasto, Helsinki) (FIHG) records loaded in April
- 24,115 National Library of Scotland (STNG) records loaded in May (replacing 14,284 records that had been part of the HPB since it went live in 1997)
- Just over 6,000 Szeged University Library (SZTE Egyetemi Könyvtár, Szeged) (HUSG) records loaded in May

All HPB Database file loading and file updating has now ceased, and will be resumed after the HPB Database has been migrated to the OCLC environment.

Access to the HPB Database: OCLC environment

After the migration of the Hand Press Book Database, which is currently scheduled for September 2007, the HPB Database will be available on a number of different platforms, each with its own special features. We recommend that you read the detailed information available to the OCLC website, as this Newsletter article can of necessity only offer you a short outline of all available options.

FirstSearch

FirstSearch is an online service which gives access to a rich collection of reference databases. The HPB Database will be mounted on this platform, which offers similar functionalities to RLG's Eureka interface. In fact, the facilities are even slightly more extensive, in that the platform also offers

- cross searching of up to three databases,
- multiple interface languages,
- search options that include operators for proximity and plurals, as well as wildcards, and
- highlighting of search terms in search results.

The FirstSearch interface will be enhanced to incorporate CERL's Assisted Searching functionality (based on the CERL Thesaurus and offering variant place and personal names) and the Annotations Facility that has already been successfully integrated in the CERL Thesaurus – so that HPB users may share their views on the record contents with other users.

New accounts and passwords

Access to the HPB Database during the migration period (summer 2007) will continue to be via the Eureka and RLIN platforms that were developed by RLG. It is anticipated that there will be a period of overlap, where the HPB will be available both in the (former) RLG and OCLC environments.

To accommodate access to the HPB Database in the OCLC environment, all CERL Members will be issued with new accounts and passwords in the course of August 2007. Necessary documentation and training to familiarise you with the FirstSearch and Connexion platforms will also be made available.

The following website provides you with a first introduction into the FirstSearch search capabilities
<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/using/basicsrefcard/FSbasics.pdf>.

In the First Search environment, the HPB Database will also be available through Z39.50. When the profile and set-up details have been defined they will be made available through the OCLC website (via http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/z3950/z3950_databases/default.htm).

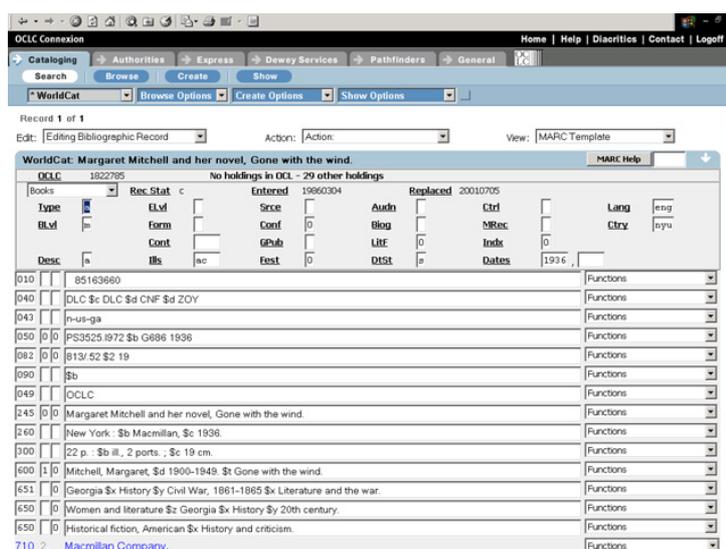
Connexion

For the first time, at the end of the summer CERL will be able to offer an editing facility for HPB Database records, as the HPB will be made available to CERL members only on OCLC's Connexion platform. Connexion is OCLC's cataloguing service: a powerful, flexible suite of tools with built-in access to WorldCat, used by many libraries to create and edit bibliographic and authority records.

The HPB will be made available through the OCLC Connexion Browser, which is MARC21 based and Unicode compliant, supports record

creation in Latin script and record viewing in a number of scripts including Cyrillic, Greek, and Hebrew, and which offers interfaces in English and French. Records may be exported in MARC-8 format, either to a file for downloading or to a local system via TCP/IP.

In addition, the HPB will be available through OCLC's Connexion Client, MARC21 based and Unicode compliant Windows-based software that supports record creation in Latin and some non-Latin scripts (such as Cyrillic, Greek and Hebrew), and interfaces in English, German, Spanish as well as a number of non-European languages. Records may be exported in MARC-8 or Unicode (UTF-8) format, either to a file on a PC or to a local system via TCP/IP.



For further information, the following three websites are recommended:

<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/default.htm>

<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/connexion/browser/>

<http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/connexion/client/>

CERL Thesaurus and Provenance Information



Since December last year, a number of files has been processed, so that relevant data might be included in the CERL Thesaurus. This has resulted in the inclusion of imprint names (just under 11,000 records) and personal names (well over 190,000 records) extracted from the Gemeinsamer Verbundkatalog and provenance information, extensive bibliographic descriptions and links to digitised images, extracted from the Katalog der Wolfenbüttler Lutherdrucke (some 1,000 records). Extensive editing of the personal names in the CERL Thesaurus has reduced the number of records, but improved the quality of the database as a whole. The total number of records available in May 2007 stood at 651,893 records.

SRU interface

The CERL Thesaurus is used to support assisted searching in the HPB Database and in the CERL Portal. CERL would be very happy for other projects and/or organisations to implement the CERL Thesaurus to help with searching in databases or portals they have developed. As the previous implementation of the interface for CERL Thesaurus access had several drawbacks in terms of network security issues, access control and flexibility, A. Jahnke (DCG) has developed and implemented an SRU interface. On the side of the CERL Thesaurus an SRU interface conceals the *avanti* database server from the public, so that access to the *avanti* server is limited to the SRU server itself while the firewall on the database server protects the DBMS against being connected to by any other host, thus minimizing the threat of third party interference or accidentally performed operations on the database. Organisations, libraries or projects that wish to use the CERL Thesaurus should contact the CERL Secretariat at secretariat@cerl.org.

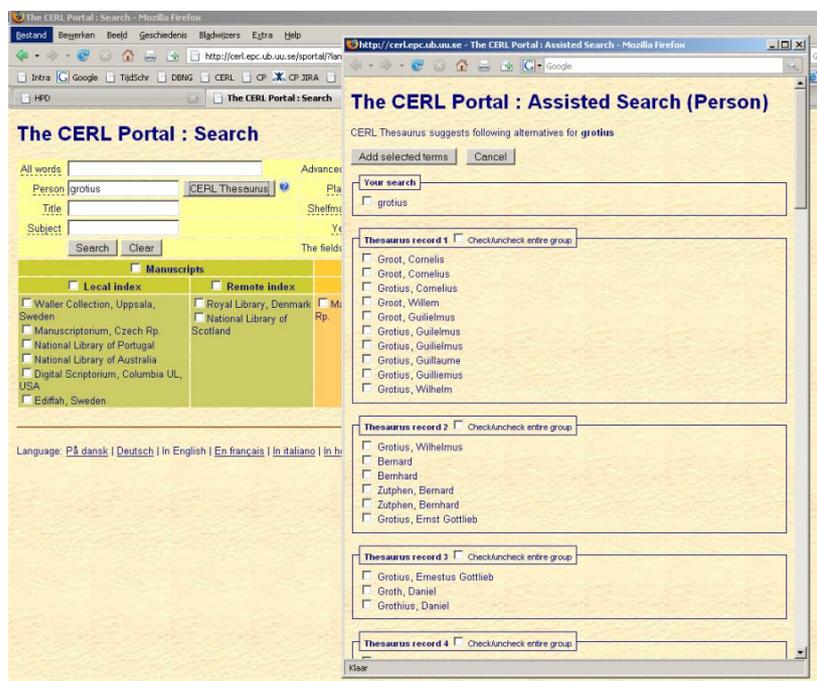
The CERL Portal in the first half of 2007

At a special meeting with Manuscripta Mediaevalia it was agreed that the German manuscripts database would be made available through the CERL Portal at the beginning of 2008. This commitment from one of the largest and most important manuscripts databases in Europe, is one of the signs that the CERL Portal is being noticed and valued for its worth by more and more institutions.

In the past months CERL has been invited to present the CERL Portal at several occasions, among which a round table discussion on online resources for medieval manuscripts, organised by the Centre for the Study of the Book (Bodleian Library, Oxford), the International Medieval Conference 2007 in Leeds and the 2007 LIBER conference.

Assisted searching

In the last six months, work on the portal has focussed on improving the interface, and the performance of assisted searching with the CERL Thesaurus. Assisted searching is an important feature of the portal, one which gives it added value in relation to similar search facilities. In close collaboration with the Data Conversion Group (DCG) in Göttingen, the Uppsala development team managed to fix the problems which had occurred after the first implementation. Assisted searching now works satisfactorily for personal names and place names.



New databases in the near future

While to date only one small collection was added this year (the Laurentius Library, Lund, Sweden) much work was done in preparing the addition of some major other databases. The following libraries have indicated their interest in participating, and a number of these databases are expected to become available in 2007 or the beginning of 2008:

- Yale University Library, US
- Wellcome Institute, London, UK
- Biblioteca Panizzi, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Saganet, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Medieval MSS West Midlands, Birmingham, UK
- Kalliope, Germany
- Manuscripta Mediaevalia, Germany
- MANUS, ICCU, Italy

Multi-language interface

At the back-end of the Portal a facility to add new languages to the interface was developed. This extremely useful tool enables us to offer the interface in any language we wish. New languages and alterations to the existing versions can be applied easily without technical support. The Portal is now available in eight languages: Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, and Swedish. The Spanish interface is in progress. Not only the interface, but the help texts and all database information have been translated in these languages as well.

User evaluations of the Hand Press Book Database

On 25 April 2007 the regular meeting of the Estonian Librarians Association's Committee for Antiquarian Book took place. The committee unites approximately 20 people from Estonian libraries, museums and archives whose work directly involves early printed books. The host was Tallinn University Academic Library (TUAL) which joined CERL as a full member in 2006. The topic of the meeting was CERL. Dr Kaugver, who is a member of CERL's Advisory Task Group, gave an overview of CERL services, databases, goals and role in researching European printed heritage. Colleagues from the Department of Baltic and Rare Books shared their experience in using CERL databases while compiling the Estonian retrospective national bibliography and re-cataloguing the old collections.

After the first three months we can say that access to the HPB has significantly helped to update the records for items in the Estonian national bibliography and to add data that has been missing until now. Equally important is the skill to use the CERL Thesaurus (CT) and the CERL Portal (CP). Although both have open access it appeared that not all members of the committee for Antiquarian Book were aware of these resources. The feedback from the meeting gives us grounds to conclude that this kind of introductory event was necessary and timely. TUAL believes that the professional information that is distributed through CERL (and is not classified) should be spread among specialists whenever possible. At the same meeting TUAL also introduced its newly established Centre for Early Printed Book (see below).

Katrin Kaugver, Head of the Department of Baltic and Rare Books

Useful resources: pre-1800 printers

Eileen L. Smith (Catalog Librarian, Rare Book Team, Yale University Library) has built up a list of "Resources available at Yale for establishing authoritative forms for the names of pre-1800 European book trade personnel": <http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/authorities/eurobooktrade.htm> (towards the end of 2007 this URL may alter. Revision 18 July 2007: the new URL is <http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/rarebookteam/eurobooktrade.html>). Ms Smith is in the process of reviewing the list by adding new material, and correcting mistaken entries and missing annotations – a task which she hopes to complete around 1 August 2007. CERL is very pleased to be able to inform its members that Ms Smith would be very happy for all colleagues to make use of the list she has compiled. Although it only lists resources available at Yale (and therefore with Yale call numbers) it is hoped that by providing a list of suggested resources other librarians can find the same printed resources in their own collections. Further references to relevant resources – particularly websites, as these are more accessible to a wider audience than some of the older printed resources – would be very welcome; please send suggestions to the Executive Manager, who will pass them on to Ms Smith.

Recent Publication: T. Katić, *Older Books: organisation of bibliographic information*



Tinka Katić, *Stara knjiga: bibliografska organizacija informacija* (Zagreb: Hrvatsko knjižničarsko društvo, 2007). XII, 202 str. (Posebna izdanja Hrvatskoga knjižničarskog društva; knj. 12). ISBN 978-953-6001-40-8

The book deals with information organisation of older books, produced between 1455 and 1850. In the introductory chapters the concept of the older book, its manifestation, curriculum vitae and fortune are discussed, as well as its user's habits and needs, which have fundamentally changed in the Internet environment.

The main, analytical part of the book considers the need for the revision of the traditional tools for bibliographic information organisation while taking recent conceptual models (entity-relationship model) into account. In conclusion, directions for establishing a complete bibliographic system of information organisation for the older book are presented. In order to set up an efficient bibliographic system it is not enough to define principles, aims and rules, but one also needs an educated specialist who can understand, inspire and realise the programs of national and wider interests. That is why this book will become an unavoidable manual in the university curriculum for students both of bibliographic control and library management.

With the parting gift from her colleagues on CERL committees (see also below), Mirna Willer has bought three copies of the book and donated them to the Library of the Department for Librarianship at Zadar University. This in support of the students taking the course on Rare Books that Tinka Katić will teach at Zadar University in 2008.

Centre for the Early Printed Book in Tallinn

In April 2007 the Centre for Early Printed Book was founded at the Tallinn University Library (TUAL, <http://www.tulib.ee/?LangID=2>). The aim of the Centre is to coordinate work at institutions with early collections of Baltic and rare books, to stress the importance of rare books as sources of research and objects of preservation and to support research topics in humanities and cultural history.

TUAL's historical collections date back to the collections of the Baltic German scientific union *Estländische Literarische Gesellschaft*, which was active in Tallinn from 1842 to 1940. The oldest part of this collection, dating back to the sixteenth century, originated from Tallinn St.Olaf's church library.

The work of the centre is managed by a council that consists of the Chief Treasurer, the Head of the Department of Baltic and Rare Books, the Head of the Restoration Department and the Head of the Marketing Department.



St Olaf, Tallinn

To reach its goals the centre is planning to organise exhibitions based on the TUAL early book collections, to carry out presentations of early printed and rare books in cooperation with scholars in the humanities, to host interdisciplinary seminars and workshops, to take part in training on preservation and restoration, to compile research results and sources and, finally, to cooperate with similar institutions both at home and abroad.

Katrin Kaugver, Head of the Department of Baltic and Rare Books

Mediaeval Manuscripts from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

In 2005, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek held an exhibition of a selection of mediaeval manuscripts in which interesting new discoveries were made during cataloguing. The exhibition catalogue was published as *Auf den Spuren des Mittelalters. 30 Jahre Handschriftenzentrum an der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek : Ausstellung anlässlich der Tagung "Die Katalogisierung mittelalterlicher Handschriften in internationaler Perspektive" 25. Oktober - 2. Dezember 2005* Hernad, Béatrice und Bettina Wagner (Ausstellung und Katalogredaktion). München : Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, 2005. Pp. 100, 31 colour plates. It includes a list of all manuscript catalogues published by the BSB since the 1970s and an article about manuscript cataloguing in Bavaria. As the catalogue has been out of print since January 2007, an electronic version (142 MB) has been placed online. You can access the file under "Lieferbare Publikationen der BSB" <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/265.0.html> or directly at http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/fileadmin/imageswww/pdf-dateien/BSB_Katalog.pdf.

The library has also set up a special website devoted to digitized manuscripts and manuscript fragments (mediaeval and modern, Western and Oriental) from its collections, which can be accessed through http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Digitale_Sammlungen.72.0.html; select 'Recherche starten' – 'Handschriften' to get a list of all projects and sub-collections (e.g. Latin manuscripts: Clm, German manuscripts: Cgm, early modern illustrated manuscripts: CodIcon). Among others, the list of projects includes a link to the *Forschungsdokumentation zu Handschriften und Seltenen Drucken der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek*, which records secondary literature on the BSB manuscripts and rare printed books. On the page of each individual project, you can display a list of all manuscripts for which digital images are available, and sort these in alphabetical or chronological order or by shelfmark.

Bettina Wagner, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

Centenary of the National Library of Wales

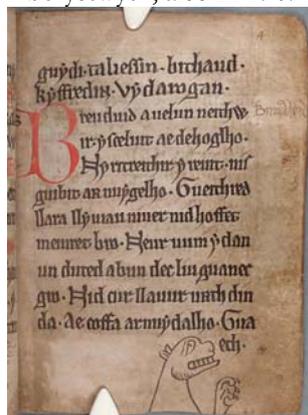
The National Library of Wales is celebrating its centenary in 2007. Though there was talk of a national library for Wales in the 18th century, it was only in 1873 that a serious campaign began. A committee was set up to collect Welsh material and house it at the University College in Aberystwyth. Members of Parliament and other leading Welsh people worked hard to establish a National Library and a National Museum. In 1905 the government promised money in its Budget, and the Privy Council appointed a committee to decide on the location of the two institutions. Aberystwyth was selected as the location of the Library partly because a collection was already available in the College. Sir John Williams, physician to the Royal Family and book collector, had also said he would present his collection to the Library if it were established in Aberystwyth. Cardiff was selected as the location of the National Museum.

Both the Library and Museum were established by Royal Charter on the same day, 19th March 1907. The building on Penglais Hill above the town of Aberystwyth was begun in 1911, and was first occupied in 1916. Several extensions have been added since then. In 1996 a large new storage building was opened, and in recent years many changes have been made to the front part of the building to make it more open and welcoming, including the opening of 'Drwm', a multipurpose auditorium, a Shop and Pen Dinas Restaurant. A new Royal Charter was granted in 2006. The history of the Library's first half century is recounted in *A Refuge in Peace and War: The National Library of Wales to 1952* by former Librarian David Jenkins, published by the Library in 2002.



© National Library of Wales

The National Library of Wales holds roughly 6 million books, journals and newspapers. It also houses large collections of manuscripts and records of various types, including ecclesiastical, estate and court records, in addition to maps, prints, paintings and the substantial holdings of The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales. The principal foundation collection is that donated in 1909 by Sir John Williams. It contains over 25,000 volumes, including 2 incunabula and 120 items published in the 16th century. It also includes 19 of the 22 Welsh books known to have been published before 1600. The second foundation collection is the Welsh library transferred from the University College of Wales Aberystwyth, also in 1909. This contains over 13,000 volumes including about 30 from the 16th century.



Other notable collections of rare books include the Bourdillon and Euclid collections. The material purchased in 1922 from the estate of Francis William Bourdillon contains 150 manuscripts and over 6,000 printed volumes, including 66 incunabula, circa 25 STC items, 50 Wing, and 320 printed on the Continent in the 16th century. Of especial interest are its Arthurian and other romances, including 23 editions of the *Roman de la Rose* printed before 1550. Sir Charles Thomas-Stanford donated 50 pre-1600 editions of Euclid's *Elements* in 1927-8. This collection has been enlarged by the Library, and now contains over 300 volumes representing 270 editions of works ascribed to Euclid, and dating from all periods.

The Library is a full member of CERL and has contributed two files of records to the Hand Press Book Database, mainly of British imprints. Further records, including those for continental imprints, will be added in due course.

Celebrations in 2007 have included a centenary exhibition, entitled "In This Place", based on the Library's collections, opened on 19th March and continuing until 3rd November. In addition to its regular events programme the Library has also organised numerous lectures including the Sir John Williams Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, 10th July and conferences including the International Group of Publishing Libraries conference; a television and radio series in Welsh and English, as well as publishing a milestone book by Trevor Fishlock, also entitled *In This Place*. On 19th March greetings were sent to the national libraries of the world, composed especially by Gwyneth Lewis, National Poet of Wales 2005-6.

Timothy James Cutts, National Library of Wales

Changes in the Advisory Task Group

Chairman

In February 2007, CERL learnt that Dr Mirna Willer wished to step down as Chairman of the Advisory Task Group because she would take up a teaching position at the University of Zadar. Members of the ATG, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat warmly thank Mirna for the tireless energy with which she supported and shaped the development of the Consortium from its conception in the 1990s until her last meeting as Chairman of the ATG on 16 March 2007. During the same meeting, the ATG elected Dr Gerd-J. Bötte as its new Chairman and asked Mr Ivan Boserup to act as his Deputy. This was endorsed by the Executive Committee in its meeting of the following day. CERL welcomes the new Chairman and his Deputy, and is confident that, under their leadership, the Advisory Task Group will continue to offer valuable and indispensable technical advice about CERL Services and their future development to its Executive Committee and Membership.

New ATG members

At beginning of the year, the Executive Manager invited a number of libraries (mostly those that joined CERL in the last year) to nominate a representative to take part in the work of the ATG. CERL received three positive responses: from the NL Latvia, the Academic Library in Tallinn and the KB Brussels. In addition, the University in Bologna offered to act as a corresponding member to the ATG. The new ATG members are Ms Inga Sildere, Ms Katrin Kaugver and Dr Jan Pauwels, the corresponding member is Dr Marina Zuccoli. In addition, Executive Committee member Dr Ingrid Svensson of the Royal Library in Sweden agreed to also join the ATG. The ATG very much looks forward to working closely together with all its new members, a full list of which may be found on the CERL website: http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl_organisation.htm.

Organisational

CERL's Executive Manager, Marian Lefferts, is expecting her first child at the end of November 2007. Dutch rules prescribe 16 weeks of maternity leave, which she intends to take from the middle of October 2007 until the middle of February 2008. The Secretariat is currently drawing up plans to cover her absence, details of which will be made available through the CERL website nearer the time.



Please note that the London office had to change its telephone number to + 44 20 7415 7134. The fax number remains unchanged at +44 20 7970 5643.

Promotion of CERL: presentations in the second half of 2007

- In June, M. Lefferts presented CERL in the US (Yale, Folger Shakespeare Library and RMBS).
- Also in June, I. Boserup presented the CERL Portal at a roundtable discussion held under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of the Book, Oxford.
- The Secretary organised a London area Seminar on 9 July at the Wellcome Library.
- I. Boserup introduced the CERL Portal at the LIBER conference in Warsaw in July.
- L. Oskamp presented CERL at the International Medieval Congress on 9–12 July 2007 in Leeds.
- I. Boserup will represent the Consortium at the annual workshop for Russian rare-books librarians organised at the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, in September 2007.
- I. Boserup intends to attend the second CARMEN meeting in Prato, Italy, on 28-30 September 2007.
- The Secretary has been invited to speak at a conference on the 18th-century Italian book to be held in Rovereto in October 2007.
- Annual Seminar, Uppsala: The theme chosen for the Seminar is 'Script, print and the internet: the early-modern book and its readers'; speakers are listed on the CERL website.
- I. Boserup will present the CERL Portal at the LIBER Manuscript Librarians conference in Berlin on 28–30 November 2007.
- The Secretary intends to set up an Edinburgh area Seminar in late 2007 or early 2008.
- Mrs Mura Ghosh (Senate House Library, University of London) intends to organise a workshop in Romania (Spring 2008).