



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 just under 3 million records.**

After the successful migration of the Hand Press Book Database to OCLC, CERL is very pleased to announce that HPB file loading has now resumed. CERL has sent records from the Regione Toscana, the Pre-Brinkman records from The Hague and the records from the Polish-German microfilm project "Shared European Heritage" (all UNIMARC), as well as an update from University Library Warsaw and a new file from the Complutense University Madrid (both MARC21). A sample file from ICCU (UNIMARC) has been analysed by OCLC and DCG and it is hoped all new and updated SBN(A) records will be part of the HPB before November of this year.

The first file to have been loaded by OCLC included 13,500 records from Regione Toscana, Florence. The conversion has been reviewed by members of staff at OCLC, CERL, DCG and the Regione Toscana and some small improvements to the records will be implemented shortly. CERL is extremely pleased that new records are now added to the HPB, and enjoys the collaboration with staff at OCLC. We have a full schedule for the coming year. In addition to the files list above, CERL is also looking forward to including records from the Bibliothèque national de France, and updates from the KB The Hague, NL Russia, Yale University and the Gemeinsame Bibliotheksverbund in Germany.

### **Assisted Searching in FirstSearch**

The Advisory Task Group is in the process of reviewing the implementation of the Assisted Searching functionality, with the specific aim of improving Assisted Searching on Personal Names. Several amendments to the Assisted Searching output from the CERL Thesaurus have been set up in the Test CT and its impact on the effectiveness of Assisted Searching is currently tested and discussed. Improvements include new CERL Thesaurus indexing to allow for greater flexibility in formulating Assisted Searching queries. Once the development work on Assisted Searching in HPB has been finished, these indexing principles will also be applied to the CERL Thesaurus production database.

### **OCLC Now Offers EZproxy®**

<http://www.oclc.org/us/en/ezproxy/default.htm>

OCLC's EZproxy® is simple and effective authentication software that allows an institution to deliver secure user access to Web-based eContent. EZproxy® can perform single sign-on to eContent using existing library-issued credentials, such as a library card/PIN or username/password. EZproxy® software allows an institution to manage access and authentication configurations through a proxy server so that users do not have to make any configuration changes to their personal Web browsers. The purpose of EZproxy® is to provide a simple system that allows the creation of one set of Web pages that can be used by both on-site and off-site library users to gain access to licensed databases. It has already been purchased by more than 2,500 libraries and institutions in more than 60 countries.

EZproxy® connects to a large number of content providers, including Britannica, ebrary, EBSCO, OCLC FirstSearch®, Gale, Lexis-Nexis, NetLibrary®, Newsbank, Ovid, ProQuest, SilverPlatter, and most others. It also connects to a wide variety of authentication services (including LDAP, SIP, Athens and Shibboleth) which reduces the number of authorizations/passwords and provides a better end-user experience.

## A Demonstration of OCLC's Connexion Browser

<https://oclc.webex.com/oclc/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=25177687&rKey=C872B65B7E797780>

CERL is now, for the first time, able to offer an editing facility for HPB Database records. Those organisations that have contributed records are given the opportunity to edit their own records directly in the HPB, through OCLC's Connexion client and browser facilities. Others users may edit HPB records and download them for use in their own systems. Two live demonstrations have been held by OCLC to introduce CERL members to the Connexion browser interface. A recorded version of the demonstration is now available through the CERL website for all first time users (see URL above).

## CERL Portal: Manuscripts and Early Printed Material

<http://cerl.epc.uu.se/sportal/>

In the first half of this year, particular attention has been paid to implementing improvements to accessing databases that had been included previously, such as the Lund Mediaeval Manuscripts, and to the integration of new databases. CERL is very happy to announce the inclusion of MANUS, the Italian project developing descriptions and digital reproductions of manuscripts held by Italian libraries. At present about 130 libraries and research institutions are collaborating in the project, which is directed by the Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico e per le informazioni bibliografiche (ICCU). For a long time MANUS worked in many different local archives; from April 2008 the CERL Portal gives access to a new web based MANUS application ('New MANUS'), where full manuscript descriptions are updated in real-time. Eventually all c. 51,000 descriptions from the old databases will be imported into this new facility, and thereby accessible via the CERL Portal.

## Use Statistics

Basic statistics have now also been implemented for the CERL Portal. These are freely available at <http://cerl.epc.uu.se/awstats>. In June the CERL Portal received on average 31 visits per day; 146 out of a total of 932 visits lasted more than five minutes.

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2008	346	857	9817	18264	56.51 MB
Feb 2008	341	776	12012	22945	80.41 MB
Mar 2008	371	779	9019	17073	61.15 MB
Apr 2008	424	1205	13743	24845	111.92 MB
May 2008	388	1000	8423	16703	61.71 MB
Jun 2008	358	932	9330	16044	67.98 MB
<b>Jul 2008</b>	23	34	395	791	3.61 MB
Aug 2008	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2008	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2008	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2008	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2008	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>5583</b>	<b>62739</b>	<b>116665</b>	<b>443.29 MB</b>

## Work plan

A number of databases are scheduled to be made accessible through the CERL Portal:

- Medieval Manuscripts in Dutch Collections (MMDC) (OAI)
- Biblioteca Neerlandica Manuscripta (BNM) (Z39)
- Oriental manuscripts held at the SUB Göttingen (Z39)
- Western Manuscripts held at the BSB München (Z39)
- Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 17. Jahrhunderts (VD17) (Z39)
- European Register of Microform and Digital Masters (EROMM) (Z39)

In addition, CERL, together with the Electronic Publishing Centre in Uppsala, will implement the standard questionnaire for potential databases (Z39, OAI, SRU) that has been developed.

## CERL Thesaurus

<http://cerl.sub.uni-goettingen.de/ct/>



At the end of May 2008, the CERL Thesaurus contained 685,931 records. A list of all files that have been included in the CERL Thesaurus is available at [http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl\\_thesaurus/contents](http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/contents).

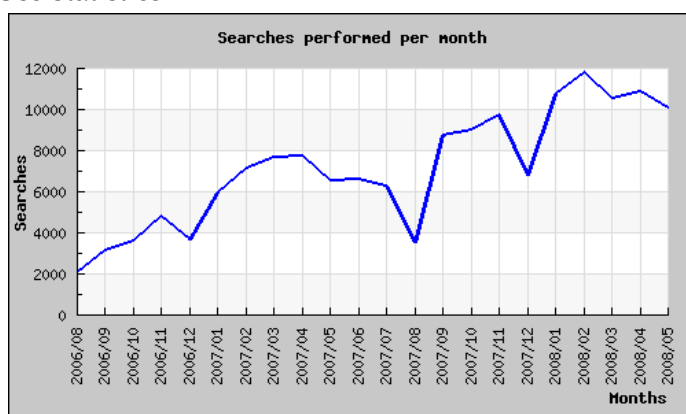
At [http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl\\_thesaurus/statistics](http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/statistics) you can see how many records are available in each category (imprint name, place name, etc.) and how many variant forms in each of the categories the CERL Thesaurus contains.

### Upcoming file loads

The CERL Thesaurus is constructed on the basis of members' authority files. A regular programme of data loading improves and expands the CERL Thesaurus. The following data sets are in the pipeline:

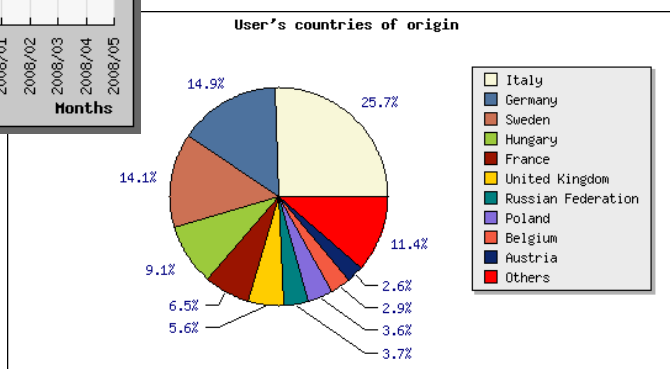
▪ Personal and corporate body names from the NL Croatia	TEST CT
▪ Provenance names from the Mendham Collection (Canterbury Cathedral Lib.)	TEST CT
▪ Imprint names from F. <i>Vindel</i> ; <i>Escudas y marcas de impresores y librerios en España</i>	TEST CT
▪ Personal and imprint names from the pre-Brinkman file (KB The Hague)	file received
▪ Update of personal names from the UL Warsaw	file received
▪ Update of imprint and place names from the NL Croatia	file received
▪ Update of imprint names and reference works from EDIT16 (ICCU)	announced
▪ Personal names form EDIT16 (ICCU)	announced

### Use Statistics



After reaching a peak of 11,793 searches in February 2008, the use of the CT has slightly levelled off to a very respectable 10,000 plus searches in March, April and May. Users mainly search for personal names (42%), followed by imprint names (37.6%) and place names (18%).

The top three users are Italy (25.7%), Germany (14.9%) and Sweden (14.1%), followed by Hungary (9.1%), France (6.5%), the United Kingdom (5.6%), Russia (3.7%), Poland (3.6%), Belgium (2.9%) and Austria (2.6%).



### Digital Resources – Printers' Devices

From the imprint names in the CERL Thesaurus users can link through to images of printers' devices. After Ronald B. McKerrow. *Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland 1485-1640* (London, 1913) and Philippe Renouard. *Les marques typographiques parisiennes des 15e et 16e siècles* (Paris, 1926), the Royal Library in Copenhagen is now digitising *Francisco Vindel, Escudas y marcas de impresores y librerios en Espana durante los siglos XV a XIX (1485-1850)*, comprising 601 printers' names and 1,200 links to digitised devices. The Berlin State Library (SBB-PK) is currently undertaking the digitisation of Alsatian printers' devices as found in: *Elsässische Büchermarken bis Anfang des 18. Jahrhunderts / hrsg. von Paul Heitz; Mit Vorbemerkungen und Nachrichten über die Drucker von Karl August Barack. - Strassburg : Heitz & Mündel, 1892. - XXXIV, 160 S. : Ill. (LXXVI Taf.). - (Die Büchermarken oder Buchdrucker- und Verlegerzeichen ; [1]).*

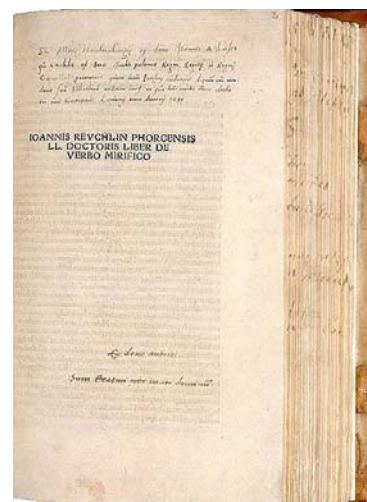
## Provenance Working Group

<http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/main>

Ms Julianne Simpson (Wellcome Library, London) has joined the Provenance Working Group so that it now consists of 10 participants. The working group's remit is to make recommendations about CERL's activity in the area of recording provenance data, to look at ways of encouraging participation by scholars in the recording of provenance data, and to identify and prioritise concrete projects CERL might undertake in this field. A number of such concrete projects have now been identified and the Working Group intends to send all CERL members and other interested parties a short questionnaire asking about their recording of provenance data.

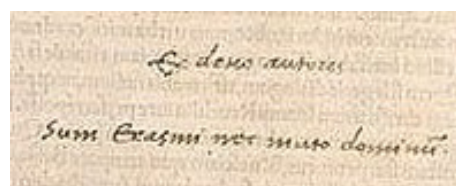
In the meantime, CERL continues to add relevant provenance resources to the CERL Thesaurus and to the CERL website. To date, provenance names from the following libraries have been added to the CERL Thesaurus:

- Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
- Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen
- SUB Göttingen Cluster libraries (Franckesche Stiftungen Halle Bibliothek, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek, Hannover, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg, Universitätsbibliothek Rostock)
- Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid
- Herzogin-Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek, Weimar
- Herzog-August-Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel
- Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon



© Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek, Emden

**Libraries are encouraged to offer files of provenances names for inclusion in the CERL Thesaurus or notify the CERL Secretariat of relevant links to provenance information.**



## Europeana: digital paintings, books, films and archives

<http://www.europeana.eu/>

Europeana – the European digital library, museum and archive – is a two-year project that began in July 2007. It is scheduled to produce a prototype website giving users direct access to some 2 million digital objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers. The prototype will be launched by Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, in November 2008. The digital content is selected from material which is already digitised and available in Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections. The prototype aims to have representative content from all four of these cultural heritage domains, and also to have a broad range of content from across Europe.

In the current EU project, concentrating on building of the prototype website, CERL is represented on the group dealing with WP1 Human & Political Interoperability. CERL is also a founding of the EDL Foundation, which has been set up to facilitate formal agreement across museums, archives, audio-visual archives and libraries on how to cooperate in the delivery and sustainability of a joint portal, as well as to provide a legal framework for use by the EU for funding purposes and as a springboard for future governance of the Europeana portal. The EDL Foundation has prepared a new project proposal for the eContentplus 2008 4<sup>th</sup> call, Europeana v.1.0, which is to be the successor network to the current EDLnet thematic network and will turn the Europeana prototype into an operational service. CERL has agreed to participate in the proposal and will take part in WP1 Developing the Partner and User Network.





## CERL sponsors the IFLA pre-conference in Munich, August 2009

### Early printed books as material objects

In recent years, early printed books have become available in increasing numbers in electronic form through large-scale digitisation projects. Such services, however, seem to have led to a shift in focus: historical books are perceived less as physical objects than as a 'virtual entity', witnessed by the tendency to link virtual reproductions to records of editions rather than individual copies in library OPACs; presenting digital reproductions for page-by-page browsing rather than as two-page book openings; and many digitisation projects ignoring aspects of the books such as fly-leaves and bindings.

In order to counter this trend, the conference aims to raise the awareness for the material nature of books produced in the hand-press period (incunabula to c. 1840), the relevance of individual features for book-historical and wider cultural studies, and ways of recording such copy-specific information in catalogue descriptions (OPACs, special databases) and linking it to digital reproductions. The conference will address such issues as

- provenances, specifically aids for identifying and best practices for recording owners (e.g. authority files)
- bindings, including conventions for describing bindings, special databases for recording bindings, and conservation issues
- paper, especially paper research and watermark databases as well as conservation issues
- manuscript additions, e.g. annotations or fragments of manuscripts in printed books
- illustration, e.g. hand decoration in printed books

The conference will be accompanied by an exhibition presenting highlights of the incunable collection of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.

*Bettina Wagner, BSB München*



## News from the ESTC (English Short Title Catalogue)

### A report from ESTC North America

The ESTC contains some 490,000 records, over 3 million locations from over 2,000 libraries around the world. The first records to be created were those for imprints of the British Isles, 1701-1800. There are approximately 294,000. When the ESTC was first conceived and the cataloguing rules were composed the decision was taken by the British Library to design a record to conform as closely as possible to entries in its general catalogue. Once the general catalogue was retro-converted the ESTC records would file easily.

When the U.S. team began cataloguing and canvassing U.S. libraries we offered to give libraries sets of our records with their holdings attached to load into their online public catalogues. Libraries responded that the records as designed did not meet their needs. The headings, based on BL rules would not file, title-page data was truncated, and the records lacked subject headings. The lack of conformity to North America standards was first addressed in the mid-1980s when the headings were all changed to LC standards and added to the LC online name authority file. It was a major task taking a number of years. Ultimately the headings to be changed exceeded 30,000 in number.

When the catalogue was extended backwards in time to incorporate British printing from its inception, ca. 1473, the decision was made to employ a full MARC record following AACRIr/DCRB cataloguing rules. We still continued to follow the earlier rules for eighteenth century British imprints for several more years until the decision was taken to employ the new standard for all new records. The records for North American imprints, created by the American Antiquarian Society, followed AACRIr/DCRB. However, in order to have them conform more closely to the BL c18 model they had been shorn of subject headings at the time they were loaded.

The lack of consistency and the truncations continued to be a point of controversy. It was brought to a head several years ago when an ad hoc committee chaired by Jeff Garrett at Northwestern University was organized from among libraries which had purchased Eighteenth Century Collections Online distributed by Gale. The electronic records set distributed by Gale with the set was created by the ESTC team at UCR and therefore displayed all the same limitations. The ECCO committee was created to see if its members could supply the lacunae. We joined the committee and agreed now was the time to try and make the entries more consistent. With the cooperation of OCLC, and drawing upon the ESTC itself and contributed records we were able to add subject headings for roughly half the 136,000 items in ECCO. We engaged HTC to create subject headings for the balance. Gale gave HTC access to ECCO to facilitate the process. Subject headings have now been created for all the ECCO items and have been loaded into the ESTC. At the same time we obtained a complete set of the records for North American imprints from the AAS and loaded them into the file, overlaying the existing records. In a parallel effort we contacted Apex and contracted with them to fill out the contractions for title-page data in the ESTC records for ECCO items. Gale again cooperated by giving Apex access to the digitized title pages. Apex was able to enhance some 102,000 records and the edited records have also been added to the ESTC.

In sum, approximately one third of the 294,000 records for items published in the British Isles now boast full title-page transcriptions. Nearly one half have subject headings. The full records created by AAS have now supplanted the truncated versions. We are now developing a plan to complete the title-page enhancements for at least another third and at the same time add subject headings for all the remaining abbreviated records. Step by step we are working to update the ESTC and create a more homogenous file to enhance its utility for its users.

*Prof Henry L. Snyder, Riverside, California*

### **Codices iconographici at the BSB**

<http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/codicon/start.html>



The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich has recently completed its project to catalogue and digitise its holdings of early-modern Codices iconographici (pictorial manuscripts with little or no explanatory text). Within the project, 117 manuscripts dating from the 15th to mid-17th centuries were catalogued and made available in digital reproduction online. Further information about the collection, which currently comprises c. 550 items, is provided from the early 19th century inventory drawn up by Johann Andreas Schmeller, which was converted into full electronic text.

The collection includes the libraries of Johann Jakob Fugger at Augsburg, the Nuremberg humanist Hartmann Schedel (the author of the 'Nuremberg Chronicle'), the Florentine humanist Petrus Victorius (died 1585) and his descendants, the orientalist Quatremère and the banker Paul Joseph von Cobres (Augsburg), the electoral library at Düsseldorf, various monasteries, and the city library of Regensburg. For some 19th-century items, additional materials are kept in the BSB's collection of modern papers (e.g. Klenziana, Schlagintweitiana, Zieblandiana).

*Bettina Wagner, BSB München*

### **CERL Annual Meetings in 2008 and 2009**

The 2008 Annual General Meeting, committee meetings, and Seminar will take place at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, (6-8 November 2008). The theme of the Seminar will be 'Linking the worlds of script and print: Catalogues of European manuscripts and early printed books'. It is expected that there will be elections for Directors and Executive Committee members. An announcement will be made in early October.



The 2009 Annual General Meeting and accompanying meetings will take place at the Bibliothèque royale de Belgique / Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België (Bruxelles/Brussel, 5-7 November 2009).

## International Seminar for rare-books librarians

5 June 2008, Salón de Actos, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid

The Seminario internacional sobre fondo antiguo was organised by the Biblioteca Nacional in conjunction with CERL with the intention of offering presentations on current rare books and special collections projects and electronic resources in Spain and the wider European rare-books community.



© Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid

The 150 librarians from Spain and Portugal who attended the Seminar were welcomed by Milagros del Corral (Directora General de la Biblioteca Nacional de España) and David Shaw (Secretary of CERL). The Seminar gave the opportunity to present European initiatives with which the Biblioteca Nacional is collaborating (especially ENRICH and CERL) as well as Spanish and Portuguese projects including the Portal on the Theatre of the Golden Age and provenance work at the National Library of Portugal.

The following presentations were made:

- Ms Jana Hentschke (Data Conversion Group, University of Göttingen): *Introduction to CERL's electronic resources*
- Dr Kristian Jensen (British Library, London): *Security issues in rare books collections*
- D<sup>a</sup> Fernanda Campos (Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal): *Provenance research at the National Library of Portugal*
- Dr David Shaw (CERL Secretary): *Provenance studies: Spain in the European dimension*
- Mr Tomas Psohlavec (AiP Beroun s.r.o. Czech Republic): *ENRICH: Towards a European Digital Library of manuscripts*
- D<sup>a</sup> Isabel Moyano (Jefa de Reserva Impresa de la BNE): *El Portal de Teatro del Siglo de Oro de la Biblioteca Nacional*
- D. Luis Rodriguez (Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Cervantes): *El Fondo antiguo en la Biblioteca virtual Miguel de Cervantes*

The presentations can be downloaded from <http://www.bne.es/esp/bne/cerlseminantiguo.htm>.

## CERL's Development Plan 2008–2012

Following discussions at the Finance Committee in September 2007, it was agreed to postpone the creation of a new Development Plan for the Consortium. Instead, a Working Group on the Future of CERL was set up with representatives from CERL's Directors, Executive Committee and outside advisers. The work of the Future Group will provide material for the new Development Plan. It is hoped that a draft of the Working Group's report will be posted on the web site for consultation in September 2008. A preliminary report will be discussed by the Annual General Meeting in November and ideas developed from that will go into the next version of the Development Plan.

The Development Plan for 2002–2007 can be found on the CERL web site at <http://www.cerl.org/web/en/about/development>.

## Promotion of CERL

### Presentations in 2008

- In addition to the workshop in Madrid, D.J. Shaw gave a presentation about CERL and its electronic resources at the Journées ABES at Montpellier on 21 May 2008.
- As in previous years, the National Library of Russia (St Petersburg) will organise an autumn seminar for librarians in Russia. Dr Katrin Kaugver, Head of the Department of Baltic and Rare Books, Academic Library of Tallinn University, will represent CERL at this seminar.
- CERL's Chairman, Dr Elmar Mittler, attended the LIBER annual conference in Istanbul, and will represent CERL at the annual CARMEN (Co-operative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network) meeting later this year.

### Leaflets

The Executive Officer continues to be responsible for updates to CERL's promotional literature. In particular, a new English-language leaflet for the HPB has been prepared taking account of recent file loads and the transfer of the service to OCLC. German, French, and Italian versions will be available shortly. The Executive Officer is producing these leaflets in-house, using new desk-top publishing software. This will facilitate the cost-effective production of more frequent updates and versions in a variety of languages. Leaflets may be downloaded from <http://www.cerl.org/web/en/publications/leaflets>.

