Adding new bibliographic records to the Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database

The loading of the outstanding files delivered to OCLC in UNIMARC format has nearly been completed.
- The Regione Toscana file has been retrievable through the HPB since March 2010.
- The National Library of Russia (NLR) updates were loaded in May 2010, after some further conversion revisions on newly dispatched files in UTF-8 encoding. Some minor display issues will be adapted in FirstSearch to optimise the display of Cyrillic script information.
- The records from the Polish Microfilm Material have been available in the HPB since August.
- The SBN(A) update from ICCU needs a final conversion revision so that the records can be loaded in early 2011.

Loading of MARC21 files is advancing without delay.
- The file of the Law Societies' Mendham Collection housed in Canterbury Cathedral Library was made available in the HPB immediately after delivery to OCLC in March 2010.
- Records from the Academic Library of Tallinn University were loaded in two batches after analysis and pre-processing at the Data Conversion Group (DCG), Göttingen, in March and August 2010.

Files currently being processed are:
- Updating the Yale University records that are already in the HPB (*c.* 8,000 new MARC21 records).
- Pre-Brinkman records from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague (*c.* 33,000 MARC21 records).
- Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw (initial load of c. 1,350 MARC21 records, with regular additions).
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris (*c.* 800,000 records), the first UNIMARC file that will be converted to MARC21 by DCG before loading by OCLC. The conversion will be re-used for the records of the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon (*c.* 13,000 UNIMARC records).

Numerous updates are scheduled to be processed over the next year. They are all announced in MARC21 format and will undergo the usual analysis and pre-processing which is a routine procedure for updates.

> **Capacity of new files and update deliveries**
>
> Please contact Marian Lefferts or DCG Göttingen to arrange for new additions to HPB from your library or of data that you are in the position to convey to CERL.
>
> Updates to existing files are also most welcome. Preferred formats remain MARC21 and UNIMARC.

VD16 in HPB

CERL is very pleased to announce that links to VD16 digital objects have now been integrated in the VD16 records held in the HPB Database. Users of the HPB now have easy and direct access to this rich resource, and CERL thanks the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München, for supporting this enhancement of the records.

In memoriam – Dr Vladimir Zaitsev

It was with great regret that we learnt of the death (on 27 October 2010) of Dr Vladimir Zaitsev, the General Director of the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg. He worked for the Library 25 years from 1 September 1985 until he died.

Dr Zaitsev had been a CERL Director since 1996, and CERL owes him a great debt of gratitude for all his efforts in furthering the cause of the Consortium and for his unfailing commitment to collaboration in Europe.

Honorary doctorate for CERL Chairman, Prof. Dr. Elmar Mittler

Prof. Dr. Elmar Jakob Nikolaus Mittler, Librarian and Professor Emiritus for Book and Library History at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Institut für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Elmar Mittler and Dean Michael Seadle (16 November 2010)

Seminar: Digital Editions and Research Libraries

The Seminar (organised by the Forschungsschwerpunkt Medienkonvergenz of the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (JGU), together with the Zentrum für digitale Edition der Universität Würzburg, the Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik, and the Zeitschrift 'Bibliothek und Wissenschaft') will examine the relationship between research libraries and publishers and users of digital editions. An international group of librarians and scholars will exchange views on the opportunities and challenges, and examine the potential for collaboration. The seminar will take place on 13-14 January 2011, at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz.

Seminar: Tools for Provenance and Bibliographical Research

The Seminar (organised by CERL) will present CERL resources for provenance information (HPB Database, CERL Thesaurus (CT), CERL Portal (CP), Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), *Index Possessorum Incunabulorum* (IPI), Can-you-help?-pages), as well as the Bodleian Library's Image collection. The seminar will take place on 3 March 2011 in Oxford, at Merton College's T.S. Eliot Lecture Theatre.

CERL Portal: Manuscripts and Early Printed Material

The file-selection facility of the Portal's search interface has been changed (see CERL Newsletter of June 2010). Since the number of harvested databases is outnumbering the databases accessible only by Z39.50, the latter are now considered as exceptions, and are marked with an asterisk which refers to a brief explanation and warning. If too many variants are entered as search terms, access to the databases searched through Z39.50 frequently times out, and no search results are retrieved. CERL encourages all contributors to the CERL Portal to make their data available through OAI-PMH.

CERL is pleased to announce the inclusion of the following in the CERL Portal:
- Manuscripts of Ghent University Library (5,000 records; downloaded file in Dublin Core format).
- Digitised Manuscripts in BSB München (2,000 records OAI-harvested in Dublin Core format).
- Deutsches Literaturarchiv, Marbach (DLA) (Remote access by Z39.50).
- *CALAMES* (Manuscripts and archives in French university libraries, by ABES) (75,000 records OAI-harvested in Dublin Core format).

Preparations are underway to access the following through the CERL Portal:
- Manuscripts of Western Midlands (MWM), University of Birmingham.
- ACPC-CAT, Lisbon (OAI).
- Universitya Complutense, Madrid (Z39.50).
- National Library, Vienna.

In 2011-2012, CERL hopes to include access to the results of the Europeana Regia project in the CERL Portal, supported by multilingual access to its metadata. The project aims to bring together digital copies of Carolingian manuscripts (425), manuscripts of the library of Charles V (167), and the manuscripts of the Aragonese kings of Naples (282), from the BnF Paris, the BSB München, the University Library in Valencia, the Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, Brussels, and the Hertzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel.

CERL Thesaurus
http://thesaurus.cerl.org

At the end of October 2010, the CERL Thesaurus contained 768,426 records (recording over 1.4 million variants). The average search count remained stable at between 10-12,000 searches per month (2008/2009: 10,425; 2007/2008: 9,857; 2006/2007: 6,465). With the introduction of the new web interface, the Thesaurus has been opened to being indexed by Google. From June to September 2010 we registered *c.* 900,000 page hits by Google's web crawlers (Googlebot). *C.* 60,000 records are currently available from the Google index. Further statistics are available from http://www.cerl.org/web/intern/atg/cerl_thesaurus/webstat.

In July this year, the new web interface of the CERL Thesaurus was launched. It now has the look and feel of the CERL Website, was moved to a sub domain on the CERL server and has a new URL (see above).

The new interface offers a full-text search as the default search approach. Similar to a search in Google, the user can input one or more search terms into one simple search field. The search is then performed over the headings and variant name forms, as well as identifiers (CT identifiers and identifiers from the source file) and activity and geographic notes. Thus, the recall of a user-performed search is now typically higher than before.

The search results are grouped according to the category to which they belong (i.e. there are separate result sets for places, printers, authors, etc. – see illustration). The user can select the categories that should be visible; the default groups are places, printers, persons and corporate bodies. Additional groups are reference works, records with provenance information and records with images of printers' devices attached. Further improvements were made to the search screen. It is now possible to sort result sets alphabetically or chronologically and to add records to a personal clipboard and examine them at a later point in time or download them for personal reference. As with the former web interface, a virtual keyboard is available to facilitate inputting search terms in non-Roman scripts (e.g. Cyrillic or Greek). The alphabetical browse lists, which have been the default way of navigating through the CERL Thesaurus in the previous interface, are still available; however, they were improved, too, and show the full list of headings associated with an index entry, instead of the number of records only. The record's full display was improved dramatically, as well. A structured page layout shows all the information available about a person, place or corporate body on one screen without opening new windows for certain pieces of information, as was the case in the former web interface. This includes the annotation feature (Scholar's notepad), the links to provenance catalogues, related records, links to digitised printers' devices and other online resources as well as the display of the records in the internal UNIMARC-based format. The user will see at the first glance what information is available on a described entity. The higher visibility of this information will lead to a better use of these so far under-used functions of the CERL Thesaurus (see also illustration of full CT record display below).

The design of the new interface is modular, which makes it easy to add new features and functionality, for example a search in Europeana (see below). The new web interface is multilingual, thus providing better usability to users throughout Europe who can now work with the database in their own language. With the help of colleagues from member libraries and CERL staff, the interface has so far been translated into German, Italian, Dutch and French. Danish, Russian and Hungarian versions are in preparation.

A. Jahnke (Data Conversion Group)

Europeana added to the CERL Thesaurus

In the new year Europeana will begin distributing its new Europeana Search API, which allows for remote searching of digital objects in Europeana.

CERL was very pleased to have been given an early opportunity to test this API in the CERL Thesaurus. After a search, a selection of related Europeana results is displayed in the margin of the CERL Thesaurus record. The links then allow users to launch a new search in Europeana using all variant name forms of the CERL Thesaurus record. The display of the relevant digital objects is in the Europeana web environment.

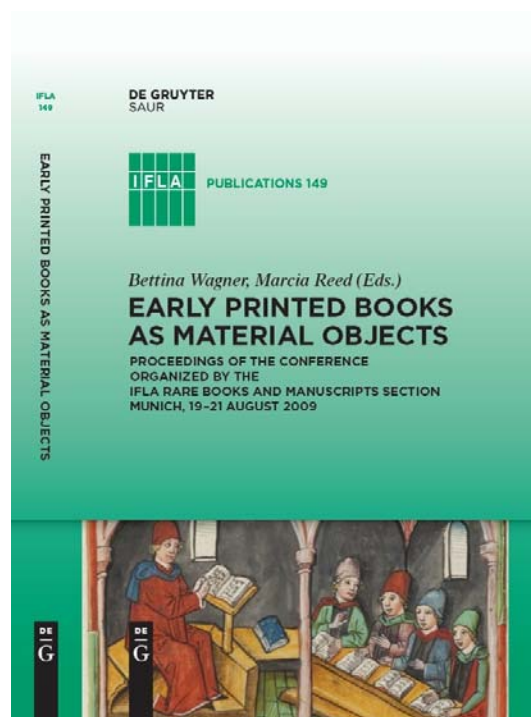Visit this latest addition to the CERL Thesaurus at http://thesaurus.cerl.org/

IFLA pre-conference, München 2009
Proceedings published

In December 2010, the proceedings of the conference organised in August 2009 by Bettina Wagner on behalf of the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (and sponsored by CERL) will be published as volume 149 of the series 'IFLA publications' by de Gruyter Saur: Bettina Wagner and Marcia Reed (eds.), *Early printed books as material objects. Proceedings of the conference organized by the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, Munich, 19-21 August 2009*. Berlin: De Gruyter Saur, 2011. ISBN 978-3-11-025324-5. The volume is expected to sell for € 99,50.

The volume contains 18 papers, including papers presented by CERL Secretary Cristina Dondi, CERL Director Kristian Jensen, and former CERL Director David Pearson. The papers were presented at the pre-conference in Munich and at the main IFLA congress in Milan. The book also includes an introduction by Bettina Wagner and indexes, totalling *c.* 380 pages and 48 full-colour plates. All costs of publication were covered by IFLA, with a subsidy from the annual budget of IFLA RBMS.

Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)
http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl

Available now through CERL's Provenance Research pages is a new database specifically designed to record and search the material evidence (or copy specific, post-production evidence, provenance information) of 15th-century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

MEI is linked to the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC), from which it derives the bibliographical records, and it allows the user to combine search of bibliographical and copy-specific records. MEI has been designed to contain new data from book-in-hand examination or from card catalogues, as well as what can be gained by retrospective conversion of data from published catalogues of incunabula. Records can be downloaded in MARC21 or UNIMARC Holdings for integration into local OPACs.

Records are being inserted at the moment by a number of libraries. Contribution of records to MEI is free and welcome: any library with incunabula holdings is encouraged to insert their copy-specific records. Please get in touch with CERL's Secretary, Cristina Dondi at c.dondi@cerl.org

Seminar: Book bindings

The seminar (organised by CERL and Ligatus) will consist of a public session examining the electronic resources available to scholars studying book bindings, and how they may wish to use these resources. A private session will bring together those who are working on the electronic resources, and will focus on how these resources can be made interoperable. The seminar will take place on 9-10 June 2011, venue to be announced.

Digitised incunabula from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

The project (funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) for digitising the incunabula of the BSB, München recently crossed the threshold of one million digital images (or pages). To date, nearly 4,200 incunabula have been digitised. The project will continue until mid-2012.

The digital images are accessible via the following databases:
-   Digital Collections of the BSB: http://mdz12.bib-bvb.de/~db/ausgaben/uni_ausgabe.html?projekt=1157526886
-   BSB OPAC: http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/OPACplus.92.0.html
-   BSB catalogue of incunabula: http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Inkunabelkatalog-BSB-Ink.181.0.html
-   Bavarian Union Catalogue / Gateway Bayern: http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Gateway-Bayern.88.0.html
-   Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz: http://www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke.de/
-   Incunabula Short Title Catalogue of the British Library Londo : http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html

It is being investigated how HPB access to the images is best achieved.

Europeana Libraries (a CIP Objective 2.2 proposal)

CERL joined The European Library, the EDL Foundation, LIBER, and various European research libraries in the Europeana Libraries project proposal. The bid was successful and the project will begin in January 2011, with a kick-off meeting on 26 and 27 January 2011, in The Hague.

CERL has hired a new member of staff to work with us on the project. Stephanie Ruehle will be based at the Data Conversion Group in Göttingen, and will participate in further development of the Europeana Semantic Elements, the Europeana Data Model, a review of data aggregation into the Europeana and The Europeana Library, as well as data enhancement.

Provenance Working Group
http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/main

In order to alert users to all CERL data sets relating to provenance information, a new search box has been introduced on the CERL Provenance pages. The search box brings together access to the CERL Thesaurus, to MEI, to the IPI and to the CERL Can-you-help?-pages.

Index Possessorum Incunabulorum
http://ipi.cerl.org

Paul Needham (Scheide Librarian, Scheide Library, Princeton University Library) has made his *Index Possessorum Incunabulorum* (IPI) available to CERL for inclusion in its resources. While CERL works on preparing the data for inclusion in the CERL Thesaurus and the Material Evidences in Incunabula Database, a website which supports full-text searching of this invaluable resource is already available.

Searching for Provenance Information?

Former Owners

Starting with a former owner's name you may retrieve the books owned by that person or corporate entity from library catalogues linked to the **CERL Thesaurus**.

[Search]

Former Owners of Incunabula

Lookup former owners in P. Needham's **Index Possessorum Incunabulorum**.

[Search]

Provenance of Incunabula

You may retrieve former owners and extensive descriptions of the copy specific evidence of 15th-century editions in the **Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)** database.

[Search]

Identifying Provenance Evidences

If you would like help to identify a book plate, a binding stamp, a library label or stamp, or to read and identify an owner's inscription, you may search the **Can You Help - identifying provenance evidences** database or post your own query there. You are also invited to help others with the identification of provenance evidence.

[Browse Provenance Evidences]

The IPI contains some 32,000 entries of personal names, institutional names, monograms and arms pertaining to the ownership of incunabula. They were extracted by Paul Needham from some 200 published catalogues of incunabula with provenance information, augmented with information from his personal research, and placed in a word file of some 1,267 pages or 500,565 words. Of course most of these entries are of relevance to provenance research on manuscripts and later printed books as well, as these individuals owned and collected books of many periods, not just incunabula.

Joint LIBER / CERL Working Group for Heritage Collections

The LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collections and Preservation (SCHCP) has drawn up a Work Plan for 2011-2012, which will be made available on the LIBER website once the new site is launched (early 2011). In the autumn of 2010, the SCHCP started a Group on LinkedIn.com, which you are warmly invited to join: http://linkd.in/c4VqeU.

Among other activities, the SCHCP plans to organise two Workshops:
- **Preservation and collection management strategies** (Prague (to be confirmed), 24-25 March 2011). Experts from the British Library's Preservation Advisory Centre will describe the importance of preservation policies as frameworks for thinking about the long-term aspects of collections management. During the workshop participants will discuss the purpose and benefits of a preservation policy, receive guidance on writing a policy and hear examples of how policies are used by a number of different organisations.
- **Making the case for heritage collections and preservation** (Barcelona, 28 June 2011). The workshop will highlight issues relating to advocacy within an organisation, advocacy aimed at the general public, advocacy aimed at funding agencies, advocacy aimed at the scholarly community, advocacy for long-term digital preservation, advocacy aimed at partners in projects and potential data hosts

CERL Annual General Meeting and Seminar 2011

The 2011 Annual General Meeting will take place at the Vatican Library, on Saturday 12 November. The AGM will be preceded by meetings of the Advisory Task Group and the Executive Committee on Thursday 10 November and the annual Seminar on Friday 11 November. The theme for the Seminar is yet to be announced.

Now available: CERL Papers X

Urban Networks and the Printing Trade in Early Modern Europe (15th-18th century) (Renaud Adam, Ann Kelders, Claude Sorgeloos and David J. Shaw, eds.). Papers presented on 6 November 2009 at the CERL Seminar hosted by the Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels. London, Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2010. ISBN 978-0-9541535-9-5. [Four papers in English and three in French.]

Contents

- **Claude Sorgeloos** (Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels): Les réseaux commerciaux de Guillaume Fricx, imprimeur et libraire à Bruxelles (1705-1708)
- **Stijn van Rossem** (Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent): Books and the City. The Urban Networks of the Verdussen Family 1585-1700)
- **Sébastien Afonso** (Université Libre, Brussels): L'imprimé officiel: enjeu et objet de rivalités entre imprimeurs dans les villes du sud des Pays-Bas méridionaux au XVIIe siècle
- **Alexandre Vanautgaerden** (House of Erasmus, Brussels-Anderlecht): Pourquoi Bâle? Imprimerie et humanisme à Bâle avant l'arrivée d'Érasme en 1514
- **Cristina Dondi** (University of Oxford and Consortium of European Research Libraries, London): Printers, Traders, and their Confraternities in Fifteenth-century Venice
- **David McKitterick** (Trinity College, Cambridge) The London book trade in context, 1520-1620
- **Jean-Dominique Mellot and Anne Boyer (with the collaboration of Pierre-Louis Drouhinand Nathalie Fabry)** (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris): The French printing and publishing network through the corpus of the Répertoire d'imprimeurs / libraires of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (15th-18th century)

CERL Annual Meetings and Seminars in 2010

The 2010 Annual General Meeting took place at the Royal Library in Copenhagen on Saturday 6 November 2010, preceded by a meeting of the CERL Advisory Task Group and the Executive Committee on Thursday 4 November, and a seminar on reconstructing collections on Friday 5 November 2010.

A special gathering

On the afternoon of Thursday 4 November, a session was held to discuss the strategic plans of various organisations with a special interest in the cultural heritage preserved in libraries. Guests included Lisa Carter (Association of Research Libraries, Washington DC), Graham Jefcoate (LIBER), and Per Culhed (IFLA Preservation). The representatives from IFLA RBMS, LIBER, CERL, IFLA Preservation, ARL, and OCLC, as well as CERL EC and ATG members examined the strategic aims and work plans of the various organisations. It was agreed that the organisations will inform the others of intended activities and special focus areas at an early stage. Where there is overlap, the organisations expressed an interest to collaborate. On this note, both CERL and LIBER were very pleased to receive an invitation from the Flemish Heritage Libraries (Vlaamse Erfgoed Bibliotheek) and the IFLA RBMS to participate in organising a conference on training special collections librarians (Antwerp, January 2012).

Seminar

The title of the annual CERL Seminar, which this year was organised in collaboration with the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collections and Preservation, was 'Virtual Visits to Lost Libraries: reconstruction of and access to dispersed collections'. Participants in the seminar, which took place in the prestigious Harsdorff Hall in the old Royal Library building, now part of the National Archives of Denmark, agreed they looked forward to the publication of an interesting and thought-provoking set of papers (scheduled for November 2011).