

<http://www.cerl.org>  
ISSN 1680-4546 (appears twice a year)

CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

# NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 25

June 2012

## Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database in 2012

### HPB migration

At the beginning of this year, OCLC informed CERL that it would no longer host third-party databases, including the HPB database. OCLC offered CERL the opportunity to transfer its hosting contract from OCLC to EBSCO. After careful consideration, this offer was declined and CERL decided to find a new host for the HPB. Contact was established with R. Diedrichs (VZG, Göttingen) to investigate whether it might be possible to host the HPB in the GBV environment (see also <https://www.gbv.de>). VZG/GBV is firmly anchored in the library environment. It hosts the catalogue for libraries in Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thüringen and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (representing roughly half the academic libraries in Germany). It is also involved in developing the German national authority file (GND), it hosts EROMM, and a number of other third-party databases.

All CERL members were informed that this option would be further explored, and they were asked to suggest alternative hosts. One such alternative was suggested and was further explored. Ultimately, in June 2012, this alternative option was not deemed viable. The HPB database will therefore be hosted by VZG Göttingen in the GBV environment. A first extraction of all records currently in the HPB has been made available to VZG/GBV and is currently being converted from MARC21 to Pica+, which is the format in use at GBV. CERL and VZG/GBV aim to have a first test conversion and interface available at the end of October, in time for the CERL Annual General meeting. In parallel, OCLC will continue to make the HPB available via FirstSearch and Connexion until April 2013. New records will be added to the HPB at OCLC at least until October 2012, after which time file loading may be taken over by VGZ/GBV.

### Future file loads

In this year, BSB and OCLC continue to update the VD16 records with links to digital copies. Before long, we hope to add c. 20k records from the database of rare prints and old maps (*Databáze starých tisků a map NK ČR (1501-1800) - STT*), which is the first contribution to HPB from the Czech Republic. Preparatory work on c. 21k records from the University Library in Tartu is nearly completed, and the file is about to be dispatched to OCLC for loading. The Data Conversion Group in Göttingen, who prepare all HPB datasets, have nearly completed work on the UNIMARC to MARC21 conversion, and are now testing it on the c 950k records offered by the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Once these records have been sent to OCLC, the conversion will also be used for the records of the Bibliothèque municipale in Lyon. On the programme for this year are also an update of the half a million short BSB records that have been part of the HPB since it first went live in 1997; a contribution of around half a million records from the French libraries that collaborate in ABES; and around 30k records from the Royal Library of Belgium.

### HPB User survey

Following the proposal made at the 2011 AGM for a user study on the HPB, to find out more about users, their research needs and whether the HPB was adequately answering those needs, the CERL office started to make contacts with relevant people in our member libraries. However, the decision of OCLC to cease HPB hosting altered the situation, since one of the objects of study was whether the current hosting arrangements gave the best user experience, whether it attracted significant numbers of users, and so forth. The User survey has therefore been postponed until the new interface at VGZ is firmly in place.

## CERL Thesaurus now available as Linked Open Data

<http://www.cerl.org/namespaces/thesaurus/>

CERL is very proud to announce that a new interface that returns an RDF/XML representation of a CERL Thesaurus record has been implemented, which is an essential step forward to the integration of the CERL Thesaurus into the Linked Data cloud.

The RDF output uses standard vocabulary wherever possible, such as the RDA Vocabulary (<http://rdvocab.info/>), but a variety of others (e.g. the Europeana Data Model (EDM)) have been employed as well. For the representation of the imprint Name records a new ontology has been developed. It includes properties to describe fictitious name forms for Places, Persons and Corporate Bodies, which are missing in the RDA Vocabulary. This ontology, in turn, was also made available as Linked Data on the CERL web server and will be registered with the Open Metadata Registry in due course. Documentation on the Linked Data service is available from the CERL Thesaurus section on the CERL website.

The URIs assigned to the entities described in the CERL Thesaurus follow the pattern <http://thesaurus.cerl.org/record/{CTidentifier}>. According to the Accept header in the HTTP Request either a human readable HTML page or a machine readable RDF/XML representation is returned from this URL. The RDF output is accessible from the CERL Thesaurus web interface; together with the two internal representations of a record (modified UNIMARC Authorities and JSON). Links to external data sources have so far been established to the Gemeinsame Normdatei (the successor of the PND). Linking the CERL Thesaurus records to dbpedia and VIAF will be the next step.

*Alexander Jahnke, Data Conversion Group*

## CERL Thesaurus

<http://thesaurus.cerl.org>

The CT currently comprises 908,750 records, and remains a well-used resource. The use of the database has increased from an average of 10k searches, last year, to a new average of 15k searches per month (and peaks of over 20k searches in October-November 2011 and February 2012). In February/March of this year, around 775k records from the CERL Thesaurus had been indexed in Google. At that time, CERL Thesaurus turned up in 370.000 Google result pages. The turn around was 6.25% - that is to say if a CERL Thesaurus record was displayed on Google 16 times, it was clicked once and ignored 15 times. These clicks are not included in the tally of 15-20k searches per month. So, adding the searches made in Google, we may double the tally of the number of CERL Thesaurus searches to around 30-40,000 searches per month.

Interest from the community in the CERL Thesaurus can also be measured by the willingness to contribute data to the CERL Thesaurus. There have been many such offers and to highlight but a few:

- The Data Conversion Group recently integrated around 200 records for Scottish printers extracted from the online resource 'the Spread of Scottish Printing' (see <http://digital.nls.uk/printing/>), including links to sample digitised imprints in online resources.
- The University Library of Barcelona would like to integrate into the CERL Thesaurus the indexes for their databases of printers' devices and of provenance ('Marques d'impressors': [http://www.bib.ub.edu/fileadmin/impressors/home\\_eng.htm](http://www.bib.ub.edu/fileadmin/impressors/home_eng.htm) and 'Antics posseïdors': [http://www.bib.ub.edu/fileadmin/posseidors/home\\_eng.htm](http://www.bib.ub.edu/fileadmin/posseidors/home_eng.htm)).
- The Index of 6,115 religious institutions which owned books surveyed by RIC I have been offered to CERL for inclusion in the CERL Thesaurus of Provenance. The RIC I data base contains the transcription of the detailed documentation produced by the Italian religious orders at the end of the sixteenth century required from them in the context of the investigation by the Congregation of the Index (see also <http://ebusiness.taiprora.it/bib/index.asp>)
- Colleagues from Catalonia were keen to ensure that their native name forms were included, and have offered the Catàleg d'autoritats de noms i títols de Catalunya (CANTIC) for integration in the CERL Thesaurus.

CERL is very grateful for these contributions that enrich the CERL Thesaurus as a stand-alone database and enhance its value as a tool for Assisted Searching on the Heritage of the Printed Book database.

## Recording Provenance: Mapping vocabularies

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

Many libraries in Europe are discussing how best to record provenance information, and several are exploring how to record provenance information in the MARC21 format used for recording bibliographical information (e.g. university libraries in the Netherlands) or have already completed this task (e.g. the Vatican Library for its incunabula). In order to ensure interoperability and support effective cross searching of datasets for researchers, it would be advisable for libraries across Europe to adopt the same standard. A survey of fields and subfields that have already been defined would expedite matters.

The need for such a survey was raised by the exchange of communication within the CERL Provenance Working Group, following enquiries by the Provenio project. This project conducted at the Library of the National Museum in Prague and led by Dr Jaroslav Kašparová, explores 'The Method of the Book Provenance Research'. The group is preparing a spread-sheet with parallel, comparable content. Cristina Dondi included all fields

relating to Provenance in MEI, in its English and Italian version. Maricke van Delft (KB The Hague) added a Dutch translation.

The provenance fields adopted by the incunabula cataloguing project into Newton, at Cambridge UL, have been provided by Laura Nuvoloni.

The Provenance Thesaurus of the Bibliothèque Municipale of Lyon was

inserted by Monique Hulvey. Shortly, UNIMARC and MARC21 provenance fields will be added to the mapping, as well as the MARC21 provenance description fields devised by the Vatican Library, by the Provenio project, and the Antwerp City Library.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	MEI ENGLISH	MEI ITALIAN	UNIMARC	MARC21	Cambridge, Newton Cat. Incunabula	MEI DUTCH	Provenance thesaurus EM Lyon	
2	Evidence	Provenienza	317 Provenance note	561 Provenance	561 Provenance	Bewijs	Marque, indication de provenance	
3					563 Binding			
4	Editing Status: Certain	Situazione dell'editing: Attendibilità dei dati verificata			599 any other	Status: zeker	Status: indéterminé	
5	Editing Status: Uncertain	Situazione dell'editing: Attendibilità dei dati da verificare			599 Variant format variants	Status: niet twijfel	Status: indéterminé	
6	Source: Book in Hand	Fonte: libro in mano			599 Decoration	Bron: autopsie	Source: lire en main	
7	Source: Bibliography	Fonte: bibliografia/separati			599 Annotations	Bron: bibliografie	Source: bibliographie	
8	Source: Library Catalogue	Fonte: catalogo della biblioteca			599 Other eds bound in a	Bron: bibliotheekcatalogus	Source: catalogue de la bibliothèque	
9	Source: Auction/Sales Catalogue	Fonte: catalogo di vendita/asta/antiquariato			599 Other eds bound in a	Bron: veiling/veerkoopcatalogus	Source: Catalogue de vente	
10	Source: Hist. Library Cat. / Accession Journal	Fonte: catalogo a schede/accessioni			599 Other eds bound in a	Bron: aanwinstenregister	Source: anciens catal. de bibliothèque / registres d'acquisitions	
11	Source: Unknown / Other	Fonte: sconosciuto / altro				Bron: onbekend	Source: inconnue / autre	
12	Place	Luogo				Plaats	Lieu	
13	Place name	Nome di Luogo				Plaatsnaam	Nom de lieu	

A number of these provenance description projects were devised in collaboration with CERL or presented to CERL for consultation. These examples underline the very positive perception of CERL's role in provenance research, but also our need to act: the mapping of the vocabularies should be a useful tool in this direction.

*Cristina Dondi, CERL Secretary*

## Early Book Owners in Britain now available through the CERL website

<http://www.kallimachos.net/cgi-bin/ebob/spc.pl>

For several decades there have been efforts throughout Europe to investigate the national histories of books, their printing and the book trades. The history of the book in Britain, which started in the early Middle Ages and continues to date, comprises not only the printing of books in Great Britain, but also the import and sales of books. The private ownership of printed books has been, up to now, a barely investigated question.

Margaret Lane Ford (Christies, London) has addressed the private ownership of printed books in the late 15th and early 16th century. For a contribution to *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain* she has gathered evidences of provenances for the time period in question from over 4,300 printed works, which she has kindly allowed to be made publicly available through the CERL website. CERL is grateful to students of the Fachhochschule Hannover, who have made use of the library software Allegro-C to prepare access to Margaret Ford's research on private book ownership in the 15th and 16th centuries in Britain. A direct link from names in EBOB to the CERL Thesaurus is provided.

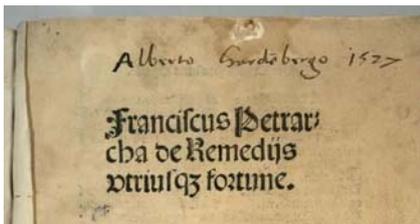
## Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI): an update

<http://incunabula.cerl.org/cgi-bin/search.pl>

The database and the editing interface of Material Evidence in Incunabula continue to be developed. A further grant by the British Academy has enabled the implementation of a mechanism to either retrieve an existing provenance record from the CERL Thesaurus, automatically transferring all biographical data, or to create a new CT record of personal or institutional ownership from within the MEI database. This allows the direct inclusion of new provenance records from MEI into the CERL Thesaurus in real time.

Some refinement of the database's analytical descriptions has taken place, such as the introduction of the method of acquisition via "Institutional Transfer" to include, and easily retrieve, the many books that entered public libraries as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries and the confiscation of their libraries. 'Drawings' has been included among the types of manuscript notes, to accommodate the description of the collection of the Accademia dei Lincei (Rome), particularly rich in incunabula with drawings.

And finally, the Data Conversion Group in Göttingen, which undertakes the technical hosting and development of MEI, has implemented an autocomplete function for the name of contributing libraries, as well as an autocomplete function for "bound with" incunabula, where only the insertion of the ISTC number is now required and the full bibliographical record is automatically retrieved from ISTC.



© Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek, Emden, Philos 4°, Petrarca, De remedijs utriusque fortune, c. 1490 (ISTC ip00408000)

Members of the Commissione nazionale Libro Antico of AIB recently raised an important point of discussion: can we catalogue in MEI incunabula which once belonged to known persons or institutions as evidenced by extant catalogues and inventories, but whose present location is unknown to us today?

In order to accommodate the integration of records from inventories and catalogues of libraries later dispersed, a solution where a heading 'Historical Copy' is added to the field for library location is currently being considered. Once a historical copy can be matched with an item previously only known from an inventory, 'historical copy' may be replaced with the actual library location and shelfmark.

The following contribute to MEI:

1. Regione Lombardia (which includes some 120 libraries, among which Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, B. Università Cattolica, B. Trivulziana and B. Provinciale dell'Ordine dei Carmelitani Scalzi, Milan; B. Univ. Cattolica, B. Queriniana and B. del Seminario, Brescia; B. Morcelliana, Chiari)
2. Padua University Library; Biblioteca del Seminario, Vescovile
3. British Library, London
4. Middle Temple Library, London
5. Senate House Library, London
6. Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome
7. Cristina Dondi, book-in-hand records from Venetian Libraries, as well as retrospectively from published catalogues
8. Biblioteca Real, Madrid
9. National Library of Russia, St Petersburg (conversion of manuscript card catalogue into short-title electronic entries using MEI)
10. Biblioteca del Museo Correr, Venice
11. Biblioteca Comunale 'G. Tavani', Bagnacavallo
12. Biblioteca de la Universitat, Reserva, Barcelona
13. Perugia University Library
14. Smith College Library, Northampton, MA

Other libraries getting ready to add records are the Biblioteca Casanatense and the Biblioteca dei Lincei, both in Rome; the Biblioteca Civica in Bergamo, the National Library of the Netherlands in The Hague, and the Royal Library in Copenhagen. Other MEI editors are getting ready to input records from paper catalogues, as well as experimenting with inputting electronic records.

## Eric White donates research on edition sizes of the 15th century to CERL

Over the years, Eric White, Curator of Special Collections, Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, has been gathering data on the edition size, or print-run, of incunabula, a notoriously elusive subject. He has kindly agreed to make the c.280 records available to the wider community via CERL.

## CERL Seminar in October 2012

‘Accessing heritage research collections through digitisation: models and use’

Main Auditorium, British Library, 30 October 2012

Digitisation initiatives around heritage library materials are now underway across Europe. They range from single libraries working with commercial content providers, through to national, Europe-wide and even global programmes. At this one-day conference, we will hear from those involved in the creation of these products and services, and about issues such as funding, licensing models, content selection, product design, and sustainability. We will also hear about the experiences of researchers and educators who use these digital resources in their work.

Speakers will include: Aly Conteh (British Library), on planning a digitisation project; Rachel Marshall (British Library), on licensing models; Rachel Heuberger (Goethe University Library, Frankfurt), on Judaica Europeana; Eric Dussert (Bibliothèque Nationale de France), on Gallica; Marieke van Delft (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague), on working with commercial partners; and Gabriel Egan (JISC Historical Books Advisory Board, UK), on addressing the needs of researchers.



King's Library © British Library

The day will conclude with a panel discussion where researchers will share their experiences of working with digitised research collections, and the impact that content selection, licensing and product design have had on their work. The event is organised in association with the British Library and the Rare Books & Special Collections group of the Chartered Institution of Library & Information Professionals. It will provide an opportunity for librarians, students and researchers to make contacts, ask questions, and share information. Attendance is free, but please register by email with your name and any institutional affiliation at: [secretariat@cerl.org](mailto:secretariat@cerl.org).

## Joint LIBER / CERL Working Group for Heritage Collections

LinkedIn Group: <http://linkd.in/c4VqeU>

The Steering Committee for Heritage Collections and Preservation, chaired by Claudia Fabian (BSB München), has continued with its programme of workshops. Together with the Rinascimento Digitale in Florence and the National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague, the SCHCP organised the 2nd LIBER international workshop on digital preservation, called ‘Partnerships in curating European digital resources’. The programme was published (see <http://tinyurl.com/7b43ts8>) and comments, summaries, powerpoints, photos and blog posts are available via the LIBER website (see <http://tinyurl.com/7rdntxu>).

In the picture members of the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collections and Preservation presenting their poster at the 41st annual LIBER conference (Tartu, June 2012). The poster visualizes various aspects of European cultural heritage items which have escaped the user's notice until now. Today, digitisation reveals a good deal of information that was hidden from the user before and thereby enables and encourages a number of new approaches to the collections. It increases the possibilities for comparison and allows users to discover where collections – across national borders - complement and contrast. The poster will also be presented at the IFLA meeting (August 2012).



The SCHCP also organised a well-attended session at the LIBER conference, with the title ‘Increasing the impact of digital cultural heritage’. Speakers included Hendrik Defoort, University of Ghent, Belgium on ‘Digital Humanities in

Everyday Life and Research, the case of Ghent University’; Mette Kia Krabbe Meyer, Royal Library, Copenhagen, ‘Acquisition and Communication of Digitally-Born Images - Possibilities and Problems’; Per Cullhed, Uppsala University Library, Sweden, ‘Digitisation as a Method of Preservation’; and Marcel Ras, The National Library of the Netherlands, ‘Developments in the Field of Long-term Preservation of Digital Objects’. The session ended with a panel discussion on the increased impact of digital cultural heritage with Per Cullhed, Claudia Fabian, Mette Kia Krabbe Meyer, and Marian Lefferts, CERL.

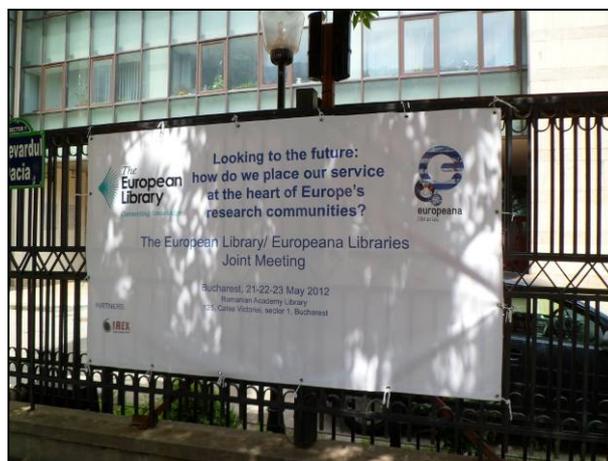
## Europeana Libraries project: on the home run

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



CERL, The European Library, the Europeana Foundation, LIBER and 19 European research libraries, are collaborating in the Europeana Libraries project. The project is well on its way to bringing in at least 1,200 film and video clips, 850,000 images and 4.3 million texts (books, journal articles, theses and letters) to Europeana and The European Library. The two-year Europeana Libraries project is currently in month 18. As it draws to a close we are able to celebrate its many successes and, for CERL members in particular, the closer working relationship that has developed between the networks of CERL, CENL and LIBER.

A recent key event in the project was the meeting of partners held in Bucharest, kindly hosted by the Romanian Academy. Representatives came together for three days in late May to review the progress of the project and to discuss the issues at hand. Participants were treated to a keynote lecture by Heike Neuroth, of the Göttingen State and University Library, entitled 'The Future with Tradition – Linking National and Research Libraries with Digital Humanities'. Dr Neuroth's talk included some history of the DARIAH infrastructure's development. Participants also heard reports from each work package leader in a plenary session, and were able to attend a content ingestion clinic with the technical and ingestion teams of The European Library. Very favourable comments were made in feedback on the meeting, as a gathering of equals with one mission: how to place the service offered by The European Library at the heart of Europe's research communities.



© Thomas Baldwin, CERL

CERL members were invited to participate in the project's competition to find the best marketing plan for library services. Three shortlisted candidates presented three very different and excellent proposals, and after a vote by the audience and the panel of CERL, LIBER and TEL representatives, Uldis Zarins, from the National Library of Latvia, was declared the winner. He presented his plan at a special Europeana Libraries workshop preceding the LIBER conference in Tartu, Estonia, at the end of June.



The highlight of the project meetings was undoubtedly the tour of the new portal for The European Library (<http://www.youtube.com/user/theeuropeanlibrary>). Representing nearly two years' work, the portal provides access to a vast mass of metadata (both bibliographic records and metadata for digital objects), and provides tools tailored towards academic researchers. The portal was officially launched at the LIBER conference at the end of June, with warm words of endorsement from the Chairmen of the Management Committee of The European Library, LIBER and CERL.

CERL's involvement in the Europeana Libraries project has been heavily focussed on two areas: business planning (M. Lefferts and T. Baldwin) and metadata (S. Rühle and A. Jahnke).

The metadata working group met during these three days in Bucharest to continue their work on mapping library data to the Europeana Data Model. Principal outcomes included the effort to produce FRBR-isation for Europeana.

It was recently announced that The European Library is opening up to research library membership, signalling the finalisation of the business plan deliverable.

### In short

- [VIAF Links to be added to wikipedia](#)
- BL, NLS and NYPL maps in [Old Maps Online](#)
- [OCLC adds Linked Data to Worldcat.org](#)
- [Meermannann exhibits old maps of Cyprus](#) (until 20 September)
- [ENUMERATE publishes report on digitisation in Europe](#)
- Royal Irish Academy exhibits [historic science collections](#) (until May 2013)
- BSB App: [Ludwig II – Walking in the Footsteps of a Fairytale King](#)

## Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure (CENDARI) has kicked off

<http://www.cendari.eu/> (will go live on 30 July 2012)

<http://tinyurl.com/bt8vaw8> (EU fact sheet)

The EU-funded project CENDARI began in February 2012, with a kick-off meeting held in Brussels in March. Coordinated by Trinity College Dublin, the project seeks, over four years, to integrate digital archives and resources for research on medieval and modern European history. Through the development of a so-called 'enquiry environment' these 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.

The fourteen partners in CENDARI, which include CERL, The European Library and Manuscriptorium, are from a range of countries and institutions across Europe. We will be working together to investigate both available archive and library resources and the needs of researchers. The Freie Universität Berlin (for the Great War) and Manuscriptorium (for medieval materials) have begun leading the investigation into libraries and archives with suitable content.

CERL will organise three summer schools and five one-day training events from 2013-15, which will engage the researcher with the newly aggregated resources, and tools and services developed. Initial contact with medieval and First World War researchers will be made early on in the project, including via the annual International Medieval Conference in Leeds in 2013 (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/>). The University of Birmingham will lead the work in the first part of the project which establishes users' training needs. The researchers will then come together in the CENDARI summer schools and seminars to test the tools which will have been developed according to those needs.

Since CERL's colleagues in The European Library are also working on this project, and as we are both based in the National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague, the CENDARI project is often discussed and tasks are undertaken collaboratively.

## Europeana Cloud: project proposal under consideration



As the Europeana Libraries project heads towards its conclusion, plans have been put in place for a subsequent project. In May 2012, a bid was submitted to the European Commission under the title Europeana Cloud (whether the project is funded will be known in autumn 2012). Coordinated again by The European Library team, the project is seeking to 'unlock Europe's research via the cloud.'

Building on the successes of Europeana Libraries, the bid seeks to ingest 2.4 million new metadata records and 5 million research-focused digital items. CERL will lead the work package labeled 'Ingestion of content and metadata development.' CERL has the additional task of mapping user requirements to existing content within Europeana and The European Library, and the consequent formulation of a content strategy.

The principal aim of the project is 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. It also seeks to build on the successes of the infrastructure and web presence of The European Library by developing a set of tools and services within Europeana specifically for the academic researcher.



## Libraries from the Flanders Heritage Library organisation join CERL



Belgium is a federal state where cultural affairs are the domain of the regional governments. In May 2008, the Flemish Parliament voted into law a new Cultural Heritage Decree. For the first time, legislation in this region recognised the value and importance of libraries and their special collections for the history and culture of Flanders. The regulation positions libraries next to more traditional heritage organisations such as museums and archives. It defines as heritage libraries: all organisations and institutions accessible to the public that collect, preserve and manage cultural heritage collections in a manner based on library and information science. These collections include special collections and rare books, and also recent and even born-digital publications.

In Flanders, dedicated heritage libraries are the exception. They are mostly part of a university, a public library, a museum, an archive or a religious institution. As such, they have very diverse profiles and cater to different communities. The heritage function, rarely being the libraries primary role, often remains invisible to the public at large and to policy makers. In an attempt to fulfil the multifarious needs of these libraries, the Flemish authorities chose to introduce an instrument to unite and support the budding heritage library sector. Rather than financing a single institution as 'the' heritage library (as is commonly the model for national libraries), a network organisation was established. At the end of 2008, the Heritage Library Hendrik Conscience in Antwerp, the Public Library of Bruges, the Provincial Library of Limburg in Hasselt and the university libraries of Antwerp, Ghent and Leuven, founded the 'Vlaamse Erfgoedbibliotheek' or 'Flanders Heritage Library'. The directors of the six libraries sit on its board and are steering their respective organisations towards increased collaboration on various aspects and projects related to their heritage collections.

The objectives of the network organisation are:

- To harmonise collection development policies between partner libraries and to develop a common collection policy for 'Flandrica'
- To develop expertise and build competence in the area of collection preservation
- To catalogue and digitise heritage collections and to develop expertise around metadata and standards
- To create a solution for long term preservation and access for digitised and born-digital heritage collections
- To organise and participate in communication initiatives for raising public awareness of the heritage libraries of Flanders

Above all, the initiatives of the network organisation must benefit the *entire* community of heritage libraries in Flanders and Brussels. As CERL membership sits well with these objectives, the libraries in the VEB are very happy to join CERL as Group Members.

*Eva Wuyts, Coordinator VEB*

### Exhibition: Grandes Encuadernaciones en las Bibliotecas Reales (Siglo XV - Siglo XXI)

<http://www.realbiblioteca.es/grandesenc> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acXy7USCLBQ>

This exhibition at the Palacio Real in Madrid (which runs until 2 September) for the first time brings together glorious bindings from the collections of the Biblioteca de Palacio and the monastic libraries El Escorial, las Huelgas, las Descalzas and the Encarnación. The aim of the exhibition is to show the art of binding as part of the royal and courtly language, related to other forms of art, and uniquely identifying individual owners.



### Courses in Book History

<http://www.abebooks.co.uk/books/RareBooks/collecting-guide/buying-valuing/book-collecting-schools.shtml>

For the 9th edition of its Book History Workshop (see <http://ihl@enssib.fr>), organised in collaboration with the Rare Book School (University of Virginia), the Lyon-based Institut d'histoire du livre offered three advanced courses in the fields of book and printing history: On the programme this year were Dominique Varry, 'Physical (analytical) bibliography'; Michael Twyman, 'Printed ephemera under the magnifying glass'; and Isabelle de Conihout and Pascal Ract-Madoux, 'French gold-tooled bindings 1507-1967: major workshops and collectors'.

## MAK Library and Works on Paper collection joins CERL as a Special Member

<http://www.mak.at>



Front view of the MAK façade © Gerald Zugmann

The MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Arts in Vienna positions itself at the interfaces between design, architecture, applied art and contemporary art. Its core competency is engaging with these fields from a contemporary standpoint in order to generate new perspectives and explore borderline areas on the basis of its tradition as an institution. The MAK develops new and intellectually stringent approaches to viewing and understanding its rich collection, which encompasses various eras, materials, and artistic disciplines.

Upon the MAK's establishment in 1863 as the Austrian Museum of Art and Industry, the Library and Works on Paper Collection immediately assumed a central role in the institution's thought and action as a museum. Furthermore the MAK-library is the very first and by today also the largest museum library in Austria. Its unique mission of working with the book medium and graphic art as a symbiotic whole is what distinguishes it so strongly from other art libraries. Via its collection, preservation and study of scholarly literature ranging from the Middle Ages to the present, it communicates three pillars of the institution's museological foundation.



Above: Chronicle of Hans Hertzheimer 1514-19, F 986 © Georg Mayer / MAK

Below: View of the so called *Baroque Library* © Roland Krauss

Beyond literature on art and applied art, it also includes a collection of historical books; the Library's cataloguing system subsumes these under the term *Baroque Library*. The 2,325 illustrated books contained in this collection represent highlights of book culture and are of international significance. These include *cimelia* such as richly illustrated books of hours from the 16th century, the *Schedelsche Weltchronik* (*the Nuremberg Chronicle*), Sebastian Brandt's *Narrenschiff* (*Ship of Fools*), Hans Franconin's *Turnierbuch* [Book of Tournaments], Heinrich Wirrich's *Festbuch* [Book of Festivities], the complete works of Giovanni Battista Piranesi, and important treatises on architecture by Francesco Borromini, Wendelin Dietterlin, and Andrea Palladio. One-of-a-kind manuscripts such as Gottfried Semper's *Ideal Museum*, the chronicle of Hans Hertzheimer from 1514–19, a diary of the "salt baron" who lived during the reign of Maximilian I, complete the survey of written literature's historical progress from manuscript to printed work.

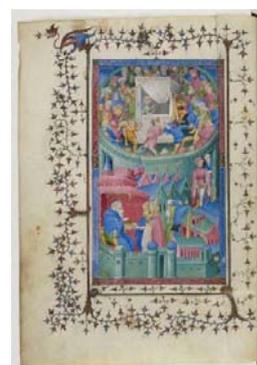
*Kathrin Pokorny-Nagel, Head of the Library and Works on Paper Collection / Archive, MAK*

## Europeana Regia exhibits in the new portal of The European Library

<http://www.europeanaregia.eu>

The Europeana Regia project drew together a total of 874 manuscripts to form three collections of royal manuscripts that are currently dispersed and which represent European cultural activity at three distinct periods in history: the Biblioteca Carolina (8th and 9th centuries), the Library of Charles V and Family (14th century) and the Library of the Aragonese Kings of Naples (15th and 16th centuries). These manuscripts are fully accessible via The European Library, Europeana, and the websites of the partner libraries.

As a next step, the project is presenting thirty-four of the most significant digitised manuscripts as 'Manuscripts and Princes in Medieval and Renaissance Europe' in the new portal of The European Library ([www.theeuropeanlibrary.org](http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org)). You can zoom in on each manuscript, flip through it page by page and even compare two manuscripts. An Index of Persons gives details on the members of the royal families.



Publius Terentius Afer, *Comediae* : Andria, Eunuchus, Heautontimoroumenos, Adelphoe, Hecyra, Phormio ; Epitaphium Terentii ; Laurentius de Primo Fato, Commentum. Paris c. 1407. BnF, Manuscrits, Latin 7907A

**New website: Early modern monastic bookplates from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek**  
<http://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/exlibris>



The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich holds one of the largest collections of bookplates in Germany. The fonds 'Exlibris' was built up in the 19th and 20th centuries and today comprises more than 40,000 items. The earliest examples date back to the late 15th century, when such small printed labels were first glued into books to mark them as the property of an individual collector or a particular institution. The heyday of bookplate production came in the 17th and 18th centuries, when both secular and clerical institutions amassed enormous libraries.

After the dissolution of monasteries all over Europe in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, numerous books bearing bookplates entered the antiquarian market; frequently, bookplates were removed from the front pastedowns of volumes which were de-accessioned as duplicates or exchanged between libraries. Collecting bookplates thus became an international fashion. In order to provide collectors with a forum for exchanging items or commissioning artists to create new designs, societies were set up which often issued learned journals devoted to historical studies of bookplates. Descriptive handbooks were published to help with the identification of the owners whose names are often only given in the form of initials or coats of arms. Exhibitions showed the wealth of decorative images transmitted on bookplates, ranging from portraits and views of library interiors to allegorical scenes and symbolic compositions.

The Munich collection of bookplates reflects this development, as it was set up in the late 19th century. It contains items from a variety of different sources: bookplates printed for the library itself, which mirror 400 years of institutional history; bookplates removed from library books, particularly from dissolved monasteries; and bookplates acquired from modern private collectors who were mainly interested in artistic originality. Since the 1970s, an inventory of the collection was drawn up. Detailed descriptions of the bookplates were compiled and arranged in a card index accessible by name of owner and/or artist. Yet the index and the collection has so far only been accessible on site in the reading room for manuscripts and early printed books, and only few librarians and users were aware of its existence.



Digitisation has provided an opportunity to remedy this unsatisfactory situation. As a first step towards making the collection better known, particularly to book historians interested in provenance studies, but also to historians of art and a wider public, it was decided to digitise bookplates from Bavarian monasteries which are very well represented in the holdings. About 600 such bookplates were scanned and can now be accessed on the website of the Bayerische Landesbibliothek Online, a portal devoted to Bavarian regional history and cultural studies (see URL above).

The website is structured by an alphabetic list of monasteries. For each monastery, all bookplates represented in the Munich collection are shown. At the moment, descriptive metadata (e.g. on iconography, dimensions and date of origin) are provided by the 19th-century handbook by Friedrich Warnecke which is also accessible in digital form and has been hyperlinked with the digital images. Users interested in the former library holdings of a particular monastery can follow the link to the online database of incunabula, which generates a list of

surviving 15th-century books from that provenance. A click on the place name leads the user to a database of Bavarian settlements (Ortsdatenbank), where additional geographical and topographical information can be found. An overview about the history of each monastery is given on the website of the Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte which is also hyperlinked. The online resource will be continually expanded in future.

*Bettina Wagner, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek*

## Speaking Truth to Power: making special collections work in times of recession

<http://tinyurl.com/6ot8nko>

This year's annual conference of the Rare Books & Special Collections Group of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals) will take place at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, on 12-14 September 2012.



As hard times hit, special collections are going to have to fight for attention to ensure their survival. How do they justify their retention and help demonstrate their worth to their owners? This year's conference is based around three themes: Does the world need special collections? What can special collections do for an organisation? What can special collections contribute to communities? Drawing together speakers from a variety of sectors, it is aimed primarily at senior managers, but would be interesting and useful to anyone in the profession who holds, or may hold in the future, managerial positions.

## Special track on Metadata & Semantics for Cultural Collections & Applications – call for papers

<http://www.ionio.gr/labs/dbis/mtsr2012/>

A special track on Metadata and Semantics for Cultural Collections and Applications will be held at the 6th annual Metadata and Semantics Research Conference, from 28-30 November in Cadiz, Spain. 'The aim of this Special Track is to document the state-of-the-art in technologies and issues around cultural collections and back-end infrastructures. The objective is to generate a forum in which researchers and scientists that are working on relevant issues and applications come together, meet and exchange ideas about the main open issues, so that more effective progress can be made in this area.' The submission deadline is 20 July 2012, and the proceedings will be published in the Springer CCIS series.

## Scorched fragments in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek need identifying

[http://ora-web.swkk.de/digimo\\_online/digimo.Aschebuecher0](http://ora-web.swkk.de/digimo_online/digimo.Aschebuecher0)



After the devastating fire which broke out in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar in 2004, much work has been undertaken to reconstruct the library, and to restore and describe in detail the materials that have survived.

The Library now invites librarians and scholars to assist in the identification of scorched fragments. After restoration (see also this video: <http://tinyurl.com/dx3xham>) the fragments are digitised and presented on the website listed above. The site currently has dossiers for 1,456 items, of which 1,197 are complete and have been identified, 238 are incomplete and have been identified, and 21 are incomplete and remain as yet unidentified. Further items will be added as digitisation continues.