

The objects and aims of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) are to provide services to its members and to the library and scholarly world at large in the form of bibliographical databases, seminars, workshops, publications and co-operation with other library organisations and individual libraries and their staff. CERL concentrates its efforts on printed material from the hand-press period – up to the first half of the 19th century – and on manuscripts, in analogue or digital format.

Content

Honour for CERL Secretary	... 1	Early Modern Book Project7
CERL Meetings, Amsterdam October 2017	... 2	IFLA Call for Papers7
CERL Committees in 2018	... 3	Opening up the Onassis Library8
CERL Annual General Meeting, Venice 2018	... 4	First Security Network Summer School9
Customising your ISTC search screen	... 4	15cHEBRAICA9
New sources for Book History Conference	... 5	20th Fiesole Retreat in Barcelona10
International Standard Number for Manuscripts...	6	Collaborating with Arkyves10
		News of collaboration with LIBER11

Dr Cristina Dondi was awarded the Italian OSI



Cristina Dondi, was conferred the honour of 'Cavaliere' of the Order of 'Stella d'Italia' (OSI) by His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy, Pasquale Terracciano, on behalf of the President of Italy, during a ceremony at the Ambassador's residence in London on 4 December 2017. Dr Dondi, Oakeshott Senior Research Fellow at Lincoln College Oxford and Secretary of CERL, received the honour for her work on the European printing revolution and in support of European and American libraries. Dr Dondi's speech, and an article on the 15cBOOKTRADE Project in the

Italian national press, *Il Corriere della Sera* on 4 December 2017, can be read [here](#).

In the photograph is the 15cBOOKTRADE Team at the Italian Ambassador's Residence in London: Laura Nuvoloni, Birgit Mikus, Matilde Malaspina, Cristina Dondi, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Maria Alessandra Panzanelli Fratoni, Laura Carnelos (PATRIMONiT), Sabrina Minuzzi, and Clementina Piazza (former student).

CERL meetings Amsterdam October 2017

Together with a large number of Amsterdam colleagues, CERL organised its annual event on 25-27 October 2017.

After the meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Wednesday 25 October, the Committee together with the CERL Directors had the opportunity to say farewell to Ulf Göranson, who had been CERL Chairman since 2011. Over dinner hosted at the Bijzondere Collecties of the University of Amsterdam, Claudia Fabian thanked Ulf for years of acting as CERL Chairman:

You were always reliable, conscious, endurable, responsible, active, putting a clear beginning and end to the unnumbered sessions you presided over. You were always good company, enjoying culture, history, food, wine, the cooperation with your peers. You remained open and curious about many things and somehow enjoyed the burden of travelling.



At the end of the Annual General Meeting on Friday 27 October, Marian Lefferts gave a brief overview of the cities and libraries that CERL, together with Ulf, had visited over the past six years, and noted that this album would be shared with Ulf in due course.

The annual Seminar was hosted by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The presentations were well received, and all slides are available via the [CERL website](#). CERL is tremendously grateful for the hospitality shown by the Rijksmuseum and for their offer to show us around the Cuyper



Bibliotheek, as well as a very special exhibition. From 6 October 2017 until 7 January 2018 the Rijksmuseum honours the first Northern Netherlandish painter: Johan Maelwael (Jean Malouel, Nijmegen, around 1370 - Dijon, 1415), by putting on display fifty breath-taking medieval treasures – paintings, illuminated manuscripts, precious metalwork and sculpture. This uncle of the legendary Limbourg Brothers was active as a versatile, pioneering and productive artist at the courts of the Dukes of Guelders and Burgundy around 1400. Johan Maelwael became one of the most successful and best paid artists of Western Europe in the Middle Ages.

In addition to thanking our hosts, Bijzondere Collecties of the University of Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum, we would also like to warmly thank the Ets Haim Library (jck.nl/en/node/1210). On Friday, they opened their doors exclusively to our CERL members. The library's curator, Heide Warncke, treated the guests to a guided tour of this oldest functioning Jewish library in the world. It was established in 1616 as part of the Talmud Torah school, and has occupied its current premises in the marvelous complex of the Portuguese Jewish Synagogue in Amsterdam since 1675. The library, which consists of some 560 manuscripts and 30,000 printed works, possesses a large, rich collection relating to Jewish life in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and as such it has been a core part of Amsterdam's cultural heritage for almost 400 years.



After the elections held at the Annual General Meeting, many of the CERL Working Groups now have a new Chairman. Webpages for all Working Groups may be found [here](#) but we are happy to list the Chairmen here, and warmly invite you to join their work:

HPB – Marian Lefferts
 CERL Thesaurus – Alex Jahnke
 Incunabula – Cristina Dondi
 CERL Portal – Anders Toftgaard
 Security Network – Jacqueline Lambert

Promotion of CERL's Activities and Services
 – Adrian Edwards
 Book Bindings – Per Cullhed
 Provenance – Marieke van Delft
 Manuscripts – Scot McKendrick

CERL committees in 2018

A full list of office bearers is available at www.cerl.org/about/organisation

At the CERL Annual General Meeting held at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, on Thursday 26 October 2017 a new Chairman, four Directors and four members of the Coordinating Committee were elected. We are happy to introduce them to you here, and look forward to working with them.

Chairman



Dr Kristian Jensen of the British Library was elected as Chairman replacing Dr Ulf Göranson, formerly of Uppsala Universitetsbibliotek

Five new members in the Coordinating Committee

Dr Paola Lolli, Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico, Rome



Four new Directors

Dr Andreas Fingernagel, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna



Dr Scot McKendrick, British Library, London



Dr Maria Georgopoulou, the Gennadius Library American School of Classical Studies at Athens



Mrs Jacqueline Lambert, Bibliothèque royale de Belgique - Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België, Brussels



Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen



Dr Anders Toftgaard, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen



Dr Yann Sordet, Bibliothèque Mazarine, Paris



Dr Stefan Wiederkehr, ETH Bibliothek, Zürich

At the same time, we had to say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues. We would like to thank Ulf Göranson, Jutta Weber, Ivan Boserup, Lucia Negrini and Monique Hulvey very much for their years of active participation in the CERL committees and working groups. Your input has been invaluable – thank you very much.



From left to right: Ulf Göranson, Jutta Weber, Ivan Boserup, and Monique Hulvey

CERL Annual General Meeting 2018

The full programme will be posted here www.cerl.org/services/seminars/main

In the context of the 15cBOOKTRADE project, Cristina Dondi and her team have organised a three day-conference, which will double up as the CERL Annual Seminar. The event will take place at the Doge's Palace in Venice on 19 to 21 September 2018.



The title of the Conference is *Printing R-evolution and society 1450-1500. Fifty years that changed Europe*. The papers on the first day will focus on the cost of living and the cost of books in 15th century Europe, the second day will zoom in on the transmission of texts in print and the distribution and reception of books, and the third and final day will look at illustrations and digital tools. There will be 33 speakers from Italy, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States of America. The Conference will be followed by CERL meetings: the Coordinating Committee on Saturday 22 September and the CERL Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23 September (both at the Ca' Pesaro).

Customising the ISTC interface display in your browser

data.cerl.org/istc/search

Did you know that you can change the display of the ISTC pages inside your browser using a simple and free Add-On?

Personal preferences vary widely, and it is not possible to cater to any special preferences by adapting the ISTC interface itself for each individual. But we can offer a limited set of customised styles to be used in your browser. If you are using Firefox or Chrome as a web browser, you can use this quick solution to reduce the size of the image in the upper part of the screen:

1. Install <https://addons.mozilla.org/de/firefox/addon/stylish/> (Firefox) / <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/stylish-custom-themes-for-fjbnpbmkenffdngjfgmeleogfcffe> (Chrome),
2. Restart the browser if asked to do so,
3. Navigate to the ISTC pages in your browser window,
4. Click on the new “Stylish” button in your menu bar, and select “Search style for this page”,
5. Select the style to be installed (at the moment there is exactly one style to be found) and confirm,
6. Reload the ISTC page, which will now look like this:



Maike Kittelmann, Data Conversion Group, Göttingen

New Sources for Book History Conference (London, 28 November 2017)

On 28 November 2017, the British Library hosted the conference “New Sources for Book History: Combined Methodological Approaches for Manuscripts and Printed Books” (text and images; material evidence; historical bibliographical and documentary sources; sale and auction catalogues; etc.). It was organised by Laura Carnelos (Marie Curie Fellow at CERL), Stephen Parkin (Curator, Printed Heritage, British Library; *in the picture*), and Cristina Dondi (Lincoln College Oxford, CERL, Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)) and held in the British Library’s Knowledge Centre.



The day consisted of three main sessions dedicated respectively to manuscripts, 15th-century books (including blockbooks), and early-modern printed books (16th-19th centuries). We heard from Ivan Boserup (The Royal Library, Copenhagen), Angéline Rais (University of Oxford), Richard Sharpe (University of Oxford), Cristina Dondi, Bettina Wagner (Staatsbibliothek, Bamberg), Claire Bolton (University of Oxford), Sabrina Minuzzi (University of Oxford), Paolo Sacht (Università della Svizzera Italiana), Francesca Tancini (University of Bologna), Laura Carnelos (PATRIMONiT project at CERL).

In the fourth and last session posters relating to six international projects were presented by Toby Burrows (University of Western Australia and of Oxford); Ilaria Andreoli (CNRS-ITEM, Paris; Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice) and Ilenia Maschietto (Giorgio Cini Foundation, Venice); Veronika Girininkaitė (University Library of Vilnius); William Stoneman (Houghton Library, Harvard); Helwi Blom, Rindert Jagersma, Juliette Reboul (Radboud University, The Netherlands); and Sofie Arneberg (National Library of Norway). Other posters were displayed in the Dickens room by Irène Fabry-Tehranchi (British Library), Simona Inserra, Marco Palma and their group (Catania City Library), Cristiana Iommi (Biblioteca civica Romolo Spezioli di Fermo); Rosa Parlavecchia (Calabria and Salerno Universities); Christian Scheidegger (Zentralbibliothek Zürich); Sonja Svoljšak and Urša Kocjan (National and University Library’s Early Prints Collection, Ljubljana).

The main focus of this one-day conference was to demonstrate how meaningful historical content can be extracted from difficult material if any possible source and methodology is applied to it, often and most successfully in combination. The conference was organised in collaboration with the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) and the British Library and 80 people participated in total. Due to the high number of requests to attend, a live streaming of the conference was available on the day in a second room to a limited number of participants and it will soon be made available on the [CERL website](#) to a wider audience. Also the proceedings will be published on open access and available via the CERL website probably by March 2018. The conference and the publication are sponsored by the European Union’s [Horizon 2020](#) research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 659625.

Laura Carnelos, PATRIMONiT project at CERL



Thanks

Many thanks to Kristian Jensen, the Session Chairs, the speakers and all the participants who shared with us a very rich programme and a wonderful day. Many thanks also to all the people who have published the conference and our CFP on their websites and social media profiles. The outline of the conference published in the European blog of the British Library was shared 134 times, mainly

on Facebook and Twitter, but news about the conference was posted also on www.pliegodigital.com/, www.cronachefermane.it, www.laprovinciadifermo.com, www.corrierenews.it, www.comune.fermo.it, www.regesta.com, grafosfera.blogspot.co.uk, chuyencuasao.us, ecrisa.msh-vdl.fr, embookproject.org, libraria.hypotheses.org, editef.hypotheses.org, LIHG News (series 4, no. 40, Winter 2017), and on the websites of the Università degli Studi di Catania, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad de Barcelona.

An International Standard Number for Manuscripts – a need, a challenge, a chance?

The world of manuscripts, their description, reproduction, and study, is rapidly evolving. While a growing international cadre of specialists addresses the challenge of building on a long tradition of research with new concepts and possibilities, chief among which is digitisation, a broader, culturally-invested audience is emerging.

The CERL Portal for Manuscripts and Early Printed Books is an early attempt to bring together many of the scattered databases for manuscripts and has shown just how heterogeneous these online resources can be. The CERL Thesaurus, integrated into the CERL Portal, is an effective means for traversing these resources, supporting searches across different rules and semantics. The CERL Portal also raises the awareness of the extent of manuscript culture, from early Carolingian codices to contemporary letters and drafts.

The concept of an international standard number for manuscripts takes its cue from the well-known issue of identifying a manuscript as a real world cultural heritage object. In fact, outside the digital world, the notion is unspectacular. There is a long tradition of naming manuscripts and of referring to manuscripts, most commonly according to the location and name of the holding institution and the shelfmark. Of course, some manuscripts do not allow for this easy approach, but often an inventory number, a citation from an auction catalogue, or a place in a private collection suffices. But the ways of citing even well-known repositories and traditionally well-established shelfmarks may differ from resource to resource; in different indices or databases for informed specialists, this diversity may not cause a problem, however it certainly does for the digital world and impedes the interoperability of data in the semantic web.

If we had a standard identifier for a manuscript – as we have an ISBN for a modern print edition, an ISTC-number for an incunable, a VD16 number for a 16th century German imprint, and an ISSN for a serial – it would not only allow us to overcome the different traditions of naming a manuscript and unambiguously refer to it. As a node in the semantic net it would allow us to bring together all, diverse, information related to a manuscript: different catalogue descriptions, digital images, facsimiles, editions, research literature, information on the binding, details of watermarks, etc.



Voynich Manuscript, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Therefore, a number of agencies became interested in this issue, and on 27 April 2017 the IRHT (Institut de recherche sur l'histoire de textes, together with Prof. Flüeler of E-Codices, Claudia Fabian of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, and Biblissima) organised a round table in Paris, which reunited a number of stakeholders. Representatives of manuscript databases in Europe and the US, CERL (represented by Ivan Boserup), the IIF Consortium, research projects, gathered to see what kind of standardisation exists and whether an International Standard Number for Manuscripts is worth pursuing. The answer to this question was: YES. IRHT and Biblissima promised to set up a pilot to test the feasibility. Another symposium, CENSUS, organised by the IRHT on 12-13 October 2017, brought together specialists in national and language oriented manuscript databases. It showed how such database activities had evolved to the point where the sustainability and interoperability of information about manuscripts became central. Again, it became apparent that the pivotal information at the centre of all resources is the manuscript's name. There was general agreement that making this information interoperable was a *sine qua non*. The IRHT, with a long-standing tradition in international manuscript research, put forward a proposal based on the ideas of the April workshop: build on what exists already and define an easy-to-manage approach, and demonstrated a first approach (read: manuscripts.hypotheses.org/1319 by Matthieu Cassin).

CERL supports and welcomes this approach. With its international library and research community and its well established and sustainable technical structures, especially its experience of bringing together authority information from a variety of sources (e.g. in the CERL Thesaurus), CERL can be a key partner in this process, which will be continued in 2018. The next meeting is scheduled for 3 May 2018.

Claudia Fabian, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München

Early Modern Book Project

embookproject.org/



The Early Modern Book Project aims to put scholars working on Late Medieval and Early Modern manuscripts and printed books in contact with each other. The project is addressed primarily at early career researchers, who are too often unaware of each other's existence. This is a consequence of the disciplinary boundaries within the Humanities. The second observation that led to the creation of this project is the great development of research on the History of the Book. This project was launched last June by Louis-Gabriel Bonicoli (University at Albany), Catherine Kikuchi (École française de Rome) and Alissar Levy (École nationale des chartes, Paris), and it is currently managed by them, with the help of local boards in the UK.

An online platform has been created. It contains a detailed list of the members, that can be sorted according to their academic affiliation, location and research interests. It is designed to facilitate communication between scholars working in the same field. This project also encourages the sharing of information and news. A public calendar was put online containing information about related scientific events (including exhibitions), calls for papers and academic positions. Lastly, a private forum, intended for the members of the project, has been created to facilitate informal exchanges and mutual assistance, for example with methodological or practical issues related to one's research.

Next, thematic workshops will be set up to allow early career researchers to learn more about the various methods developed by scholars from the various disciplines related to the subject. There was a very positive response on the side of the institutions that could host such events in France and in the UK. Those events, designed for small groups of scholars, would be locally organised by members of the project. For example, the Parisian team already planned three workshops that will take place between January and June 2018. Similar events are also being organised by the local UK teams. In particular, the board for the Cambridge-London-Oxford area is composed of Sophie Defrance (Cambridge University Library), Geri Della Rocca de Candal (University of Oxford) and Laura Carnelos (CERL).

Louis-Gabriel Bonicoli, Catherine Kikuchi and Alissar Levy

Call for Papers – IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections

Libraries in the sky: large-scale collaboration strategies and infrastructures to enhance the use of digital heritage collections

In many countries, libraries have worked together to enhance the visibility of their national heritage through a national digital library. In Europe, Europeana is the continental digital library, and humanity as a whole has a World Digital Library to discover its most precious treasures. Now the time has come to reinforce and expand these collaborative initiatives over the cloud, to foster new research opportunities and include born digital documents as well. New kinds of collaborations, large-scale or international, are now needed. Tools like IIF are becoming standards which must be mastered by librarians, and Research Infrastructures are being created which demand the expertise of librarians on their collections and on information management. Born-digital documents represent new challenges that probably need to be addressed collaboratively, and solutions are still to be found.

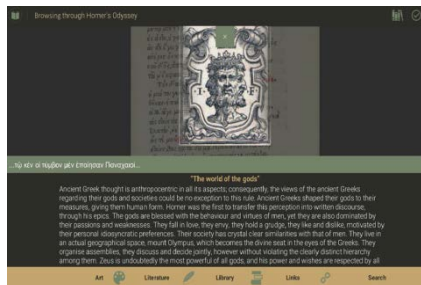
The IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections is inviting speakers from all over the world to Oslo on 12 April 2018, to present their experiences and projects regarding the building of large-scale collaborative tools and infrastructures to enhance the access to and the reuse of digital heritage collections, born-digital or digitized items. An interactive training session on IIF will also be provided by the National Library of Norway. The call for papers runs until 31 December 2017. Selected speakers will be informed by 31 January 2018 at the latest. Speakers please be aware that no financial support is available from the organisers. Presentations will be made available online after the conference. Proposals should be sent in English to both Frédéric Blin Frederic.blin@bnu.fr and Hege Stensrud Høsoien hege.hosoiien@nb.no, with abstracts of no more than 500 words or less plus a single-paragraph C.V.

Opening up the Onassis Library through the use of digital applications

www.onassislibrary.gr and www.onassis.org

From 'Homer's Odyssey' to the printing press in a couple of clicks:

'He fell to cutting timbers. Twenty trees in all did he fell, and trimmed them with the axe; then he cunningly smoothed them all and made them straight to the line./ Meantime Calypso, the beautiful goddess, brought him augers... In it he set a mast and a yard-arm, fitted to it, and furthermore made him a steering-oar, wherewith to steer./ Then he fenced in the whole from stem to stern with willow withes to be a defence against the wave, and strewed much brush thereon.'



In the fifth book of the *Odyssey*, the Homeric hero employs the technology of his time to prepare his escape from Calypso's isle. In modern times, anyone who wants to, can use the technology of our own era – specifically '*Browsing through Homer's Odyssey*', the Android application for tablet and smartphones – not to escape from but to enter the Onassis Library and explore Homer's timeless epic poem digitally. In this case, visitors can navigate the pages of one of the first editions of the *Odyssey*, printed in Venice in 1542

at the Giovanni Farri & Fratres press. However, the application offers a lot more than simple browsing. Readers young and old can also follow links to videos and photographs, references from modern literature, the cinema and theatre, which shine their own particular light on Homer's verses. All of which helps to connect Homer's world to our own, with technology bridging the millennia.

This isn't the only bridge the Onassis Foundation and its Library have built connecting past and present. The digital application '*Outline of the history of Greek printing*' – also available free for tablets and smart phones via Google Play – charts the evolution of Greek editions, printing houses and Greek publishers and printers between the 15th and 19th century. Covering the extensive geographical area that was home to Greek communities during a period that they didn't have a free country, it is almost a Trivial Pursuit for historical knowledge of the Greek diaspora; a single click will transport the visitor to key locations including Mount Athos, Venice, Florence, Rome, Milan, Trieste, Alcalá in Spain, Paris, Basel, London, Vienna, Leipzig, Voskopojë (Moschopolis), Bucharest, Iași, Buda and Pest, Istanbul, Moscow, St Petersburg, and Smyrna. Both applications are available for free on Google Play and they support two languages: English and Greek.



Open Access

With its public-benefit activities resting on the twin pillars of education and culture, complemented by health and social solidarity, the Onassis Foundation has been investing in the provision of visitor access to digital material since 2013. Its aim: to reveal the cultural treasures of the Onassis Library and the three important collections incorporated into it – the *Hellenic Library* (formerly the Konstantinos Staikos collection), the *Travel Accounts Collection*, which include publications dating from the early Renaissance to the late Enlightenment – and the *Cavafy Archive*. The drive to digitize its collections began in 2013, and the first phase – the digitisation of the Hellenic Library – was completed in 2016. Thus far, over 110,000 documents have been digitised as well as being translated into English. Then 2017 witnessed another milestone, with the digitisation of the entire Cavafy Archive: all in all, 9,347 super high resolution scans yielded 7,649 individual digital documents depicting manuscripts, autographs, notes, publications, photographs, art-works and personal items belonging to the poet.

But the use of new technology isn't restricted to digital applications; it also extends to the annual educational programmes the Onassis Library has been staging since 2016. This year, in particular, participants will have the opportunity to electronically leaf through rare editions and to learn, play, and amuse themselves with interactive VR and AR activities!

Vicky Gerontopoulou, Onassis Library Coordinator and Digital Projects Manager

Security Network Summer School (6-8 September 2017)

<https://www.cerl.org/collaboration/security>

The Security Network organised its first summer school at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands. The Workshop was led by Theo Vermeulen (formerly of the KB The Hague, now retired), Kristian Jensen (British Library), Jacqueline Lambert (KB Brussels), and other invited speakers.



The Security Network welcomed 22 participants to the Summer School. Since it will be an annual event, always in a different part of Europe, the aim for this 2017 Summer School was to focus on inviting participants from Belgium and the Netherlands, while of course also being open to colleagues from other countries. The geographical spread was 7 participants from the Netherlands, 4 from Poland, 3 from Belgium, 2 from Sweden and the United Kingdom, and one each from Ireland, Germany, Norway and Denmark. The topics covered by the Summer School were thought to be relevant both to libraries and archives, so CERL actively promoted the Summer School among archivists, and we were very happy to welcome representatives of three archives to the Summer School. Curators and security officers from libraries and archives spent two and a half days at a course where we shared knowledge on topics such as organising the reading room, marking and describing your collections, reading the behaviour of your readers, legal aspects, national and international collaboration, what to do after a theft, embedding security in the wider organisation, recording incidents and digital security. The organisers were very grateful for the very active involvement of the participants, the enthusiastic speakers, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek who contributed the venue and so very generously contributed a wide range of speakers, the National Archive for hosting a visit to their reading room, and finally the Museum Meermanno for hosting a drinks reception at the end of the first day, and showing some of the beautiful items in their collection.

The Security Network hopes the Summer School will be an annual event. The aim is that they will create a network of security officers and curators who work together on best practices, who alert each other to potential thieves or stolen books on the market, and who generally support each other in security matters. The summer school will always be organised in different parts of Europe, in order to be able to highlight local practices, invite relevant speakers and organisations from the region, ensure that the intended network was not too dispersed, and to focus on the legal framework applying in that area. The participants' evaluation of the Summer School was very positive and this makes us look forward to next year's event. The 2018 Summer School will take place at the BNC Rome, and the University Library of Tartu has expressed an interest in organising the Summer School in 2019.

15cHEBRAICA

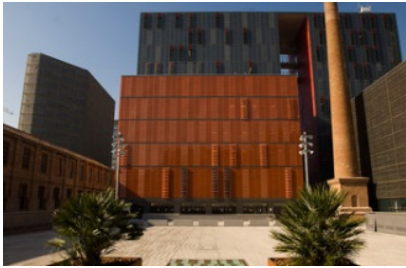
On 1 December 2017 the 15cBOOKTRADE was first joined by three researchers who will be gathering data and studying the distribution and use of 15th-century Hebrew printed books now in Israel, Italy, and the UK. Alexander Gordin (Israel), Marco Bertagna (Italy) and Rahel Fronda (UK) were in Oxford, met the 15cBOOKTRADE team and learned how to work with MEI. Prof. Adam Shear, of the 'Footprints: Jewish Books Through Time and Place' Project, also came from Pittsburgh to meet the team and to plan the inclusion of the data into the Footprints database. Sessions took place in the Modern Languages Faculty and in the Weston Library, where César Merchán-Hamann, Curator of Hebraica and Judaica, arranged for a study room and incunabula to be available throughout the week. It was a terrific and most profitable week, interspersed by unexpected moments of celebrity (interview by the Financial Times and photo shoot for the Wall Street Journal) and concluded with Lincoln College's Christmas pudding!



In the picture are Birgit Mikus, César Merchán-Hamann, Rahel Fronda, Cristina Dondi, Maria Alessandra Panzanelli Fratoni, Alexander Gordin, Marco Bertagna, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Matilde Malaspina, Adam Shear.

20th Fiesole Retreat: Barcelona 2018 – Pre-conference

www.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2018.asp#2



Prof. Dr. Andreas Degkwitz of the Library of the Humboldt University, Berlin, is organising a pre-conference at the time of the Fiesole Retreat 2018, to be held in Barcelona on 25 to 27 April 2018. The Preconference and Opening Sessions will be based at the newest campus UPF Poblenou (www.upf.edu/en) which is located in the emerging technology sector of Barcelona referred to as @22.

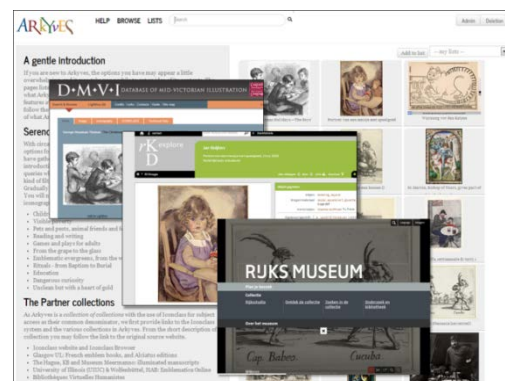
The theme of the pre-conference is Digital Humanities and Digital Scholarship. To quote from the programme: ‘In a world of an increasing disorientation and uncertainty of facts, cultural identities and “true and untrue” libraries, archives and museums are in the situation to foster and to support an open culture of education and research. Digital Humanities’ mission is aiming corresponding goals. We need access to cultural heritage and traditions to understand the world of today and of the future. The many materials of our traditions have to be shared with the public and the many communities by appropriate technical means. At the same time digital skills are more and more needed. Digital scholarship requires new competencies and support by the libraries.’ CERL is responsible for a wide range of electronic resources that aim to improve access to, as well as exploitation and preservation of the European printed heritage in the hand-press period (up to c. 1830), and Marian Lefferts has agreed to present both the CERL services and its network at the pre-conference, with a focus on what CERL has done and how it plans to further develop both databases and services to better support the DH community.

CERL to collaborate with Arkyves

www.arkyves.org

After an extensive review of the options open to CERL, the Provenance Working Group, with consent of CERL’s AGM (Amsterdam, 27 October 2017), decided invite Arkyves to host CERL’s members’ digitised images of provenance evidence.

Arkyves is a single access point for thematic searches across a wide variety of cultural heritage collections, contributed by international partners such as the Dutch Rijksmuseum, the Netherlands Institute for Art History, the Herzog August Bibliothek, and the university libraries of Milan, Utrecht, Glasgow, and Illinois. Arkyves offers very rich, standardised [subject information](#) as all collections share the use of [ICONCLASS](#), the most widely accepted multilingual classification system for cultural content.



In the process that follows, CERL and Arkyves aim to agree that

- Arkyves will host and maintain CERL provenance images in a separate section of Arkyves,
- This section will be freely accessible for everyone,
- Arkyves to offer facilities for bulk uploads of existing provenance images,
- Arkyves to offer facilities for accredited editors to upload images and fill in the metadata,
- Arkyves offers an introduction to and initially help with the use of ICONCLASS,
- Arkyves and CERL will set up reciprocal linking between electronic services,
- CERL members can access all Arkyves datasets at a reduced subscription rate

CERL members are warmly invited to contact the Secretariat if they have digital image collections of provenances they want to see hosted by Arkyves.

News of collaboration with LIBER

libereurope.eu/strategy/digital-skills-services/digitalhumanities/



In the new LIBER Strategy, which will be effective from 1 January 2018, the LIBER Forum for Digital Cultural Heritage has been folded into the Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group, which itself is part of the strategic focus on Digital Skills and Services led by Dr Martin Hallik, Library Director at the University of Tartu, Estonia.

Claudia Fabian and Marian Lefferts, who chaired the Forum until now, have joined the new DH Working Group, chaired by Andreas Degkwitz of the Humbolt University in Berlin and Lotte Wilms of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands in The Hague.

In this context they will organise the 4th Digital Curation Workshop, focusing on *Data Stewardship and Data Curation*. The event was originally planned for November 2017, but has been postponed to 2018. The three proposed topics still stand: a) engaging with academics, e.g. through Researcher in Residence programmes, b) re-integrating newly-created knowledge coming out of research projects back into the library, and c) what is required of a librarian (or a library team) that is tasked with data stewardship activities? Proposals for presentations or interactive, more hands-on, sessions are welcome and may be sent to marian.lefferts@cerl.org.



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