

News

Accessing the record of Europe's book heritage

Issue No. 38 - December 2018

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 cooperation 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.

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CERL and the Data Conversion Group, Göttingen

In September 2018, the Chairman of CERL, Dr Kristian Jensen and Dr Wolfram Horstmann of the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, signed an extension to the contract between CERL and the Data Conversion Group (DCG). The third party in the contract is the Verbundzentrale des GBV, and Reiner Diedrich co-signed the contract at a later time.

The signing of this contract marked the

CERL website.



twentieth anniversary of the bond between CERL and the DCG. In our years of harmonious collaboration, DCG have taken on the responsibility for hosting and developing the CERL Thesaurus. They have also prepared all bibliographical data sets that were offered for inclusion in the Heritage of the Printed Book Database. In recent years, DCG was instrumental in making a success of the Can-You-Help? pages, of the Material in Evidence Database (and all its supporting databases), and creating an environment for hosting the ISTC Database. Perhaps less visible, but just as important, DCG works with CERL to deliver the CERL Thesaurus editing environment and the

In the coming years, CERL and DCG will continue to make available these CERL services, and in addition we have drawn up an ambitious HPB development programme. We are also looking at closer integration of the various electronic resources that CERL offers, so that we create an environment where scholars have access to contextualised information about early-printed books and manuscripts. We also aim to ensure that research outcomes are sustainability integrated into our community's information matrix. CERL could not wish for a better partner in this endeavour.

Printing R-Evolution 1450-1500 - conference report

19-21 September 2018 - Venice, Palazzo Ducale, Sala dello Scrutinio

Programme: 15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/news-events-dissemination/



The conference brought together the work of the ERC-funded 15cBOOKTRADE Project and the many institutions and individuals who collaborated with them over the years. It was held in the magnificent Sala dello Scrutinio (the doges' ballot room), which was originally intended to host the manuscripts left by Petrarch and by Cardinal Bessarion, and was known as the Library.

The first day focused on the cost of living and the cost of books in 15th-century Europe. The second day on the transmission of texts in print and the distribution and reception of books. The third day on illustration and digital tools. There were ten Chairs (Correr Museum Venice, Ca' Foscari University Venice, The British Library London, Houghton Library Harvard University, National Library of Rome, Princeton University, Lincoln College Oxford, CERL, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek – 4 female, 6 male) and 42 Speakers (19 Italy, 11 UK, 4 US, 2 Germany, 2 Lithuania, 1 France, 1 Spain, 1

Israel, 1 The Netherlands – 23 female, 19 male). The first day opened with the welcome of Dott. Gabriella Belli, Stefano Campagnolo, and Pasquale Gagliardi, and concluded with a *Lectio magistralis* by Prof. Martin Stokhof, Vice-President of the European Research Council (Social Sciences and Humanities). There were simultaneous translations Italian / English.

On Wednesday 19 September participants had the opportunity of a private viewing of the exhibition in the Correr Museum and Sale Monumentali of the Marciana National Library, and a cocktail

reception in the Ball Room of the Correr Museum, with greetings from Mattia Agnetti from Fondazione Musei Civici Veneziani, myself, Taco Dibbits, Director of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Martin Stokhof, Vice-President of ERC (Social Sciences and Humanities), and our main sponsor, Banca Intesa Sanpaolo.

On Thursday 20 September the participants were entertained at a reception in the lovely gardens of Ca' Rezzonico, and a concert at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco. On Friday 21 September we had the opportunity to visit the library of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini on the isle of San Giorgio. 200 participants attended the conference, from 20 different countries: Italy, UK, France, Spain, The Netherlands, US, Germany, Lithuania, Israel, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovenia, Latvia, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, and Austria.



The recorded video of the conference will shortly be made available online. The proceedings of the conference will be published open source (gold) by Edizioni Ca' Foscari, University of Venice, within the series 'Studi di Storia' (http://edizionicafoscari.unive.it/). A number of copies will also be published on paper. Expected publication in spring 2019.

Cristina Dondi, CERL

Printing R-Evolution 1450-1500 – exhibition

Venice, Correr Museum and Marciana National Library – extended to 30 April 2019

In the first three months (September-November 2018) over 75,000 people visited the exhibition and left thousands of extraordinary messages in the visitors' books.

This exhibition explains the impact of the printing revolution on the economic and social development of early modern Europe. It brings to the general public the results of years of research based on data contributed by over 400 European and American CERL libraries and coordinated by



the 15cBOOKTRADE Project. The exhibition is curated by Cristina Dondi, CERL Secretary, and her Team, and is organised in collaboration with Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Biblioteca del Museo Correr and the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana.

Dozens of incunabula from the Correr and Marciana collections are complemented by hundreds of digital images generously provided by European and American libraries, and by digital tools which allow tracking of the circulation of these books over time and space. Other

research projects contributed their digital tools, such as the Atlas of Early Printing (curated by Gregory Prickman, now Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library of Washington) and the Venice Time Machine (directed by Frédéric Kaplan of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne). Videostories introduce the books to the public in innovative ways to present various themes, such as: which were the most printed books in the 15th century, which were the most sold then, and today are among the rarest in our collections, the cost of books in relation to the cost of living (food, wages, other goods) and the money necessary to purchase them (advisors Alan Stahl of Princeton University Library and Cristina Crisafulli of the Correr Museum), the role of the Church, female authors and printers, the printed books read by Leonardo, the circulation of key books such as the Gutenberg Bible (curated by Eric White of Princeton University Library), the virtual reconstruction of the collection of San Giorgio Maggiore of Venice, now dispersed, and the misuse of the new medium. A press and printing material is kindly brought to the exhibition by the Tipoteca of Cornuda.

Among the important concepts fostered by the exhibition is the fact that high-quality data survive in the thousands, and we have used it; an intelligent use of technology to support scholarly research; the

essential role of digitisations not only for scholarship and conservation, but also for communication; the comparison with the digital revolution; but above all, the value and achievements of large collaborative projects which bring together university and heritage institutions, humanities and science and technology, Europe and the US.

The exhibition is entirely in two languages: Italian and English. We are very pleased to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Banca Intesa Sanpaolo, and the support of Venice in Peril, Fedrigoni Paper, the Helen Hamlyn Trust, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, Lincoln College Oxford, Commissione Europea rappresentanza in Italia, and Graham Child.



Promotional video:

http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/video/ Short video of the opening day: http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/printing-

revolution-exhibition/

Catalogue:

http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/printing-revolution-exhibition/

¹ Maria Alessandra Panzanelli Fratoni (British Library-based), Sabrina Minuzzi (Venice-based), Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Matilde Malaspina, Birgit Mikus the project administrator (all Oxford-based). With the support of Dott. Laura Nuvoloni.

Invitation to edit the CERL Thesaurus

data.cerl.org/thesaurus/

With the move of the CERL Thesaurus to its new hosting environment, the Data Conversion Group was able to develop a new CERL Thesaurus editing facility which makes editing much easier than before. Previously, editors had to install a special software to get access the database, which caused some difficulties in some circumstances, e.g. for those working on a Mac, but now searching and editing is done in the same window of your web browser.

The new interface comes with two approaches to editing a record (really there are three - but very likely editing records in the underlying data format will not be your preferred option). Those who are already familiar with the former, Unimarcbased, CERL Thesaurus format can relax as they can of course continue to use it - there is an additional subfield here and there that lets you distinguish a field's content more precisely than before, but other than that all should look familiar to you. Experience shows that with a little practice using such a format for inputting and editing data is much faster than filling in a form.

Still, for those who are adverse to remembering field numbers and





subfield codes, DCG have now introduced a form where editors can simply fill in all required information. This allows you to concentrate on the item you want to describe and spares you the nuisance of looking up the correct field number, etc. Where coded values are required, you can choose them from a drop-down list and links to other records can be created using a user-friendly wizard. With these new features we hope to encourage more people to help us with maintaining the high quality of CERL Thesaurus data – or even improving it. If you (or one of your colleagues) would like to contribute to that effort, please contact Marian Lefferts (marian.lefferts@cerl.org) or the Göttingen team (convert@gbv.de) and you will be sent a login. Editing the CERL Thesaurus is not difficult; there is ample documentation on the CERL website and a mailing list where you can ask for help or discuss any difficult cases you might come across. All assistance you will be able to provide is most appreciated.

Alex Jahnke, DCG / SUB Göttingen

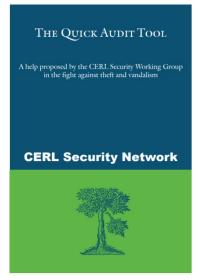
CERL Seminar at the Bibliothèque nationale de Lyon



The next meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will take place in Lyon (on 2 and 4 April 2019). In order to mark the occasion of a group of French municipal libraries joining CERL, a seminar will be organised on Wednesday 3 April 2019. Cristina Dondi, together with Gilles Éboli, Director of the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon and Pierre-Jean Riamond, Bureau du patrimoine of the French Ministère de la culture, are drawing up a programme focussing on Provenance. Further details will be made available early in 2019.

The Quick Audit Tool (QAT), a help in the fight against theft and vandalism

https://www.cerl.org/collaboration/security#tools proposed by the security working group or https://www.cerl.org/publications/other cerl pubs



The CERL Security Working Group has worked on a tool to help libraries and archives assess their collections' security arrangements and policies, called the Quick Audit Tool. On 7 November 2018, this was made available to the community via the CERL website.

This represents an important step in the concrete support that the Security Working Group aims to provide for the prevention of theft and vandalism. The tool helps to raise awareness and helps institutions to determine where improvements and investments are necessary, by providing a speedy way for any library/archive to see how their collection security policies and procedures compare against a baseline set by CERL institutions, big and small, represented in the Working Group. Furthermore the Quick Audit Tool provides users with some guidelines and useful tips in order to take the necessary steps. To ensure its relevancy this tool will be reviewed annually.

Going forward, the Working Group plans to provide users with additional support in the form of two tools. The first will bring together material relating to standards (e.g. forms, checklists, procedures) and the second tool will feature selected experiences (e.g. relating to equipment, techniques, etc.). Both tools will closely align with the focus points of the Quick Audit Tool, i.e. all elements that should feature in a security policy that aims to effectively combat theft and vandalism. The user would be led, through an interactive file/interface, to the documents relevant for putting together, or improving, a security policy. This would happen in a really simply and direct way. The goal is to simplify the research work and increase efficiency.

The first edition of the Quick Audit Tool launches the process of developing those supporting tools. The development is based on a dynamic collaboration. For this we need your help! What do we expect from you? We would like you to send us all relevant examples (forms, check-lists, procedures, etc.), your experiences and best-practices in order to feed into the process of building up the tools development. Please send your documentation to jacqueline.lambert@kbr.be. After the Working Group has sorted and structured all materials it hopes to receive, it will be made available to CERL members exclusively. Over the years, the information will be added to, enhanced and kept up to date which will make the tools more and more efficient. I thank you for the positive response that you will give to this call.

Jacqueline Lambert, Chairman Security Working Group

Collection Security Summer School

Tartu, 4-6 September 2019

The third edition of the Collection Security School will be organised by Mrs Malle Ermel and Mrs Herdis Olmaru of Tartu University Library, together with Mme Jacqueline Lambert, the Chairman of the Security Working Group.

The two and a half day programme of the summer school will address issues such as preventing theft,



detecting theft, how to proceed after a theft, internal communications on safety measures, and external communications with police, the press and your peers. During the summer school, organisers and participants will share their experiences and will be invited on site visits to Tartu University Library, the Estonian National Museum and the National Archive. A full programme and registration details will be made available on the CERL website in Spring 2019.



Mazarine Library 2019 Summer School (Paris, 8-11 July 2019)

https://www.bibliothequemazarine.fr/fr/evenements/actualites/ecoledete2019

You are warmly invited to attend a four-day Summer School organised by the Mazarine Library (Paris) and the Biblissima Consortium on describing, reconstructing, and exploring early modern libraries. The programme includes courses, workshops and training sessions on digital editions and publications of source material for the history of libraries in early modern Europe (16th-18th century). All sessions will be in French.

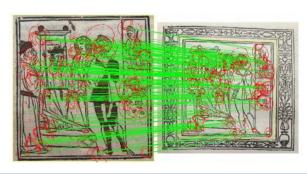
Computer vision for print studies symposium

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, 27 March 2019

Giles Bergel of the Computer Vision Research group in Oxford, which undertook e.g. the <u>Seebibyte</u> project, Etienne Posthumus who created the Provenance Digital Archive for CERL in the Arkyves environment (Brill Publishers), Lotte Wilms of the KB Digital Humanities Lab, and Marian Lefferts of CERL are planning a day at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague, consisting of hands-on training in computer vision for print studies. The training will be supplemented with a programme that showcases other recent relevant work, through a key-note speech and several lightening talks.

The full programme and registration details will be published in Spring 2019.

This image is from a <u>presentation</u> by Matilde Malaspina (<u>15cBOOKTRADE</u> project) and Abhishek Dutta (Research Software Engineer in <u>Seebibyte</u> project) titled 'The use and reuse of printed illustrations in 15th-century', held at the Printing R-Evolution conference on 21 September 2018 (Venice, Palazzo Ducale).



Digital Humanities Conference

https://dh2019.adho.org/

In July 2019, Utrecht will host the 2019 iteration of the Digital Humanities (DH) conference, the annual international conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO).



The theme of the conference is 'Complexities'. The ADHO DH Sig, together with the LIBER Working Group for Digital Humanities and the Digital Cultural Heritage and the KB Lab of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, are organising a pre-conference on the theme of Digital Humanities in Libraries. CERL was asked to endorse the pre-conference, which we have gladly done. We have also offered assistance needed in shaping the programme and on other organisational matters.

CERL Internship and Placement Grants 2018 - reports

https://www.cerl.org/collaboration/internship/2018alairabaimissonperic



Beatrice Alai and James Misson undertook a two-month internship at the Beinecke Library to catalogue the collection of incunabula at the Beinecke Library in Yale in the Material Evidence in Incunabula Database. In the case of 124 incunabula, whose provenance had hitherto not been thoroughly analysed, Beatrice and James could draw on acquisition records, physical evidence such as stamps, the expertise and knowledge about the history of the collections provided by the Beinecke staff and even oral

history, in the form of the evidence presented by one of the booksellers involved in a purchase, to determine the provenance of the books. Some of the collections from which the books hailed were so interesting that they are planning to present their findings in an article. A report on other special discoveries is available on the <u>CERL website</u>. Apart from the satisfaction of describing Beinecke incunabula in more detail, the work of Beatrice and James is also an important building block

reconstructing early twentieth-century America book collecting. Krisztina Rábai was able to add some 278 records to MEI from the incunable collection of the National Library of Scotland.

Ester Peric was awarded a CERL Grant to catalogue the collection of incunabula at Cambridge University Library in MEI, under the supervision of Dr. Emily Dourish. Ester started with the incunabula printed in Padua, and then moved on to books from Treviso, Mantua, Verona, Parma, Cremona and Vicenza, updating a total of 120 records. Provenance information for the Cambridge incunabula had already been imported in MEI, but Ester worked on adapting this information to the MEI structure, thereby making the data more consistent; she also added information about the size of the leaves, standardised shelfmark



information, and added information about watermarks. Ester created new records for data that had been missed, was able to correct errors in existing data and to improve the biographical records for important Cambridge contributors to the Library's collections.

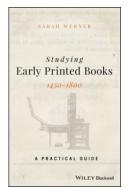
CERL Internship and Placement Grants 2019 – invitation to apply

You can now apply for the CERL Grants for 2019. CERL is awarding 4 grants of 1,000 Euro. One of the grants is specifically earmarked to be awarded for a Digital Humanities project. The deadline to apply is 21 January 2019. If you have an institution that has a collection you would like to work with (and they are willing to host you), you may suggest your own project.

CERL members have also suggested projects that you may apply for:

- Continue the work of Ester Peric at Cambridge University Library (see above). The library is probably able to offer matching funding.
- Continue the work of Krisztina Rábai at the National Library of Scotland (see above), there is still so much more to discover!
- Be a pioneer, and fill the CERL Provenance Digital Archive with images of provenance evidence, based at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague.
- 435 incunables at the Biblioteca Vallicelliana in Rome are awaiting your detective skills, who were their former owners?
- Two people can work on the incunables of the Huntington Library in California, who will supplement the grant with a further \$3,500.
- And two places are available if you would like to continue the work of Beatrice and James at the Beinecke Library (see above). Like last year, Yale is willing to provide matching funds and offers help in obtaining a visa.

Teaching Book History



Two publications may be of interest if you are teaching courses in book history. Sarah Werner is the author of *Studying Early Printed Books 1450–1800: A Practical Guide* (Wiley 2018). She is a book historian and digital media scholar based in Washington, DC, who has taught undergraduates about books and early modern culture at the Folger Shakespeare Library and elsewhere. Her work on digital book history, open-access libraries, and the nature of digital facsimiles, offers a guide to the fascinating process of how books were printed in the first centuries of the press and shows how the mechanics of making books shapes how we read and understand them. The book is supplemented by a website www.earlyprintedbooks.com. The second book, which deals with manuscripts, is by Erik Kwakkel, a book historian and professor at the School of Library,

Archival and Information Studies at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver. *Books before print* provides an introduction to the medieval manuscript and what it can tell us about the world in which

it was made and used. It highlights extraordinary continuities between medieval book culture and modern-world communication, as witnessed in medieval pop-up books, posters, speech bubbles, book advertisements, and even sticky notes.

- Erik Kwakkel, Books Before Print (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018). ISBN: 9781942401612
- Sarah Werner, Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide (New Jersey: Wiley, Feb. 2019). ISBN: 978-1-119-04997-5



CERL at events

https://www.cerl.org/intern/secretariat/main

The National Library of Norway is organising a series of events marking the 500th anniversary of printed books in Norway. The first printed Norwegian books are from 1519 (printed in Paris and Copenhagen on behalf of the Nidaros-bishop). The library has recently issued a Call for Papers for their conference <u>Literary Citizens of the World. Tracing the Transnational Crossroads of Books in Early Modern Norway</u> and earlier in the year, on 22-23 May 2019, Marian Lefferts (CERL) and Marieke van Delft of the National Library of the Netherlands will attend the fourth annual conference on Book History where Marian will present CERL databases and services and Marieke will present the CERL Provenance Digital Archive.

Another workshop is planned to take place in Hungary, in early May 2019. CERL is very happy to report that the membership of the Országos Széchényi Könyvtár/National Széchényi Library, in Budapest, has been transformed into a Group membership, now also including the Library of the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences, in Budapest, and the Union of Ecclesiastic Libraries (a union of seventeen religious institutions throughout Hungary, which previously were all Cluster Libraries of CERL, through the National



Great Library TTRE Debrecen

Széchényi Library). Marian Lefferts hopes to present CERL databases and services to colleagues from Hungary at a workshop organised by and at the National Széchényi Library, in Budapest.

Finally, the colleagues of the National Library of Latvia in Riga are planning a MEI workshop (possibly with some CERL presentations, as well) to take place in the autumn of 2019. CERL colleagues are always happy to do presentations about the work they do, so if you would like to invite a CERL speaker for your workshop, feel free to contact secretariat@cerl.org.

Journeys Through Print

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/journeys-through-print/id1442579908?ls=1&mt=8

London's Fleet Street has been associated with printers and bookbinders for hundreds of years, ever since Wynkyn de Worde established his press there in 1500, laying the foundations for Britain's modern printing industry in the early 16th century. Now, those curious to learn more about the city's historic printing district can explore it on foot using a new audio app, <u>Journeys Through Print</u> – and discover the area's hidden histories as told by de Worde, Queen Elizabeth I, William Morris and several others.

Journeys Through Print was a collaboration between book historian Dr Elizabeth Savage, researcher and playwright Christopher Adams events (both of the Institute of English Studies, University of London), software engineer Dr Trevor Fountain, and myself, a researcher (School of European Languages, Culture and Society, University College London) and artist specialising in audio installations. We designed the app for last month's national humanities festival Being Human, with a launch event at the St Bride Foundation, London's treasure trove of print history – where attendees could try out the app, make keepsake prints on historic presses, and find out more about the project. We wanted to create something that would encourage people to engage with their physical surroundings on a busy city thoroughfare, allowing them to mentally peel back the layers of steel and concrete to imagine the street's past as a centre of the print trade. Beginning their journey at St Paul's station, app users follow a trail through a map of the area; as they come to each stop, they can tap the screen to hear a printer associated with that location tell their story. For instance, the cosy Cockpit Pub on St Andrew's Hill is built on the former site of one of Shakespeare's London properties – and standing in this spot, listeners can hear how Isaac Jaggard came to print Shakespeare's first folio at the sign of the Half-Eagle and Key.

Journeys Through Print proved an excellent fusion of our various research interests and skills: it grew partly from my experience with creating various audio installations (such as Sing London's <u>Talking Statues</u> project, where I worked as a producer and writer, and my 1940s radio-inspired show <u>Big Teeth</u>); from Elizabeth Savage's research into Early Modern print culture and the history of the book; and from Christopher Adams' work as a playwright (including his promenade show created for last year's Being Human festival, <u>Finding Mr Hart</u>). Having already created an <u>app version of Big Teeth</u> with Trevor Fountain, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to collaborate with him once again.



Christopher and I transformed Elizabeth's research into the lives of historic printers into ten two-minute monologues, blending the printers' own words with our own re-imaginings of these figures. Working with performers Timothy Allsop, Jon Millington, Sarah Sigal and Becky Wright, we created voices for a wide variety of Fleet Street characters – from well-known figures, such as Samuel Johnson, to lesser-known printers such as Elizabeth Mallet, publisher of Britain's first daily newspaper in 1702, and Beatrice Warde, who took the Monotype Corporation by storm in the 1920s. Since its launch last month at St Bride, Journeys Through Print has proved a great way to share the stories of Fleet Street – and we are now keen to create similar apps, for other areas in London and beyond. Every street has its hidden histories, waiting to be told; apps such as this suggest how these might be revealed.

CERL Annual General Meetings

The 2018 CERL Annual General meeting took place on Sunday 23 September, at the Ca' Pesaro in Venice, Italy. The CERL Treasurer, Dr Richard Ovenden, presented the financial overview for 2017-2018 and the forecast for 2018-2019. He highlighted the strategic investment into HPB database development, and noted that as CERL is a membership organisation our income was dependent on developing and maintaining services that are valued by members. The meeting heard reports on all activities related to CERL services and to activities taking place in the working groups. The Executive Committee and the Directors groups remained the same, with confirmation of second terms of office for Richard Ovenden as Treasurer and Claudia Fabian and Andrea de Pasquale as Directors (until October 2021). All members may access minutes and papers via the CERL website (if you no longer have your login details, please contact secretariat@cerl.org).





Our next Annual Meetings will be held at the SUB Göttingen on 8 – 10 October 2019. We will start with the meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday, then the seminar on Wednesday and the Annual General Meeting on Thursday morning. On 10 October is also the start of the 24th meeting of the Arbeidskreis für die Erfassung, Erschliesung und Erhaltung historische Bucheinbände (AEB), so some of the CERL colleagues might wish to extend their stay in Göttingen. A list of suggested hotels and the programme for the seminar will be made available in spring 2019.



