

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.

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CERL Internship and Placement Grants

This year, there are five Internship and Placement Grants available in the funding cycle. The internships should take place within the period January-September 2020. Each recipient of a grant receives 1,000 Euro each, and this is to allow qualified librarians and scholars to work on CERL projects in CERL libraries, or in CERL offices, and to be trained on CERL digital resources, generally for a period of one month. If matched funding is provided by the hosting institution, the period can be extended. One of the five grants is offered by Università Cattolica of Milan, and is specifically dedicated to one of their students.

In particular, CERL is looking to support people new to the profession, whether in librarianship or in academia, and to facilitate international mobility. The grant can only be assigned once to the same person. Applications not selected but positively vetted will be notified that they can apply again for the next round. A written report for the CERL webpage, Newsletter, blog (forthcoming), and/or a presentation in person will be expected at the end of the internship/placement. Internships will be hosted by Cambridge UL, Manchester John Rylands Library, New York Morgan Library & Museum, and San Marino Cal. The Huntington Library (2); see also [the CERL website](#). **The deadline for applications is 21 January 2020.**

International Seminar on Provenance Marks (Rio de Janeiro, 8-10 July, 2020)

The International Seminar on Provenance Marks, born from the research project “The Eloquence of Books: Provenance Marks” of the School of Library and Information Science at Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) is inviting contributions. For further details, please contact: [Professor Fabiano Cataldo de Azevedo](#).



CERL Portal for Manuscripts and Early Printed Materials to be discontinued

cerl.epc.uu.se/sportal/

At CERL's Annual General Meeting in 2000 an initiative was set up to investigate whether the Consortium's success in establishing the Heritage of the Printed Book Database for printed books might be extended to manuscript materials, in the belief that the ability to search across both manuscript and printed material databases would be of real benefit to scholars. The project concentrated on Western materials without setting limits in terms of periods.



After a newly formed Manuscripts Working Group drew up parameters for the new facility and after the Working Group had commissioned pilot projects from two external partners, Drs Liesbeth Oskamp began work as Project Manager on 1 March 2005. In 2005 the pilot favoured by the 2004 AGM was further enhanced. Additionally, the Electronic Publishing Centre (EPC) at Uppsala University Library set to work to develop a pilot, based on harvesting by OAI. Both pilots were thoroughly examined and tested by manuscripts scholars, curators and database experts. After comparing the two pilots on technical issues, scalability and search performance, the experiences with the development teams and other issues, the Project Manager and the CERL Advisory Task Group recommended that Uppsala's OAI portal should be continued as an operational service, to be hosted, maintained and further developed by EPC. The Executive Committee seconded this recommendation and at the 2005 AGM the members decided unanimously in favour of this action. In December 2005 the working relationship between CERL and EPC was formalised. With the finalisation of the project, the Manuscripts Working Group was dissolved in June 2006, to be replaced by a small [Advisory Board](#), chaired by Ivan Boserup of the Royal Library in Denmark, Copenhagen. Until Ivan Boserup stepped down from the CERL Executive Committee in November 2017, he tirelessly worked with EPC to further enhance the CERL Portal interface, and to interest creators of manuscript databases in allowing CERL Portal access to their data.

In the course of 2018, the CERL Board of Directors asked for a review of the CERL Portal. It became clear that the Z39.50 technology used in the Portal (in addition to OAI harvesting) was not so reliable any more, that the scope of the Portal and the materials of the various databases it brought together was eclectic, and that the use figures for the CERL Portal were very low, resulting in an uncomfortable cost per search ratio. Although it is always difficult to decide to discontinue a service, the Directors agreed that whilst the CERL Portal had been a service that fulfilled a need at the time it was created, this need was clearly no longer felt by students of manuscripts, and that the CERL Portal would be closed down.

The current chairman of the CERL Portal Working Group, Anders Toftgaard of the Royal Library in Denmark, together with members of the CERL Manuscripts Experts Working Group, chaired by Scot McKendrick of the British Library, have set up a programme of work to determine whether the manuscripts community requires a new CERL Manuscripts Portal, and if they do, what the focus should be, what types of facilities would be required, and which representatives of national and regional manuscripts databases would be interested in jointly developing such a service. A first exploratory meeting will take place on 3-4 February 2020, at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands.

CERL Working Group on Promotion

www.cerl.org/collaboration/work/promotion/main

Two new members have joined the Working Group on Promotion: Vera Andriopoulou, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, Piraeus (Athens) and Emily Dourish of Cambridge University Library. The Working Group is currently working on setting up a CERL Blog, restructuring some of the information on the CERL website, and preparing a promotion plan for the CERL Provenance Digital Archive. The Working Group continues to be chaired by Adrian Edwards, British Library, and he warmly invites CERL members to nominate a representative to join the Working Group, as there is always room for more people.

A new Project in cooperation with CERL: MAT-MED in Transit

Sabrina Minuzzi, previously part of the team of the ERC-funded Oxford-based 15cBOOKTRADE Project led by Cristina Dondi, has recently started a new personal research: MAT-MED in Transit. The Transforming Knowledge of Healing Plants (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, Oct. 2019-Sept. 2022¹). The acronym MAT-MED stands for *materia medica*, which is the body of knowledge concerning the medicinal properties principally of plants, but also of animals and minerals – the so called ‘simples’ – that formed the basis for making medical remedies.² The research is being carried out on Italian manuscripts and printed books of the early 16th and 17th centuries pertaining to two genres - herbals and recipe books - with the aim of tracing the actual circulation of knowledge about local and exotic healing plants in Early Modern Italy.

Thanks to cooperation with the Data Conversion Group of the University of Göttingen (DCG), Sabrina will be able to rely on a customised digital tool for the description of the copy-specific features of the annotated printed books that she is going to study: MAT-MED-Readers. The application is based on the methodology that has been successfully pioneered on incunabula by MEI (Material Evidence in Incunabula) designed by Cristina Dondi and now containing evidence of the use of incunabula from 50,000 books kept in over 450 libraries.³

Like PatrimonIT, the digital tool developed by Laura Carnelos based at CERL (funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship 2016-2018), MAT-MED-Readers envisages a link between the copy-specific descriptions and the respective editions already listed in HPB, the Heritage of the Printed Book Database.⁴ A new field will be devoted to the specificity of MAT-MED in Transit, in order to gather information about the *materia medica* more widely discussed and annotated by the users and owners of herbals and books of secrets. MAT-MED-Readers will therefore allow a systematic analysis of the traces that readers left on this typology of scientific books across times and spaces, through: inscriptions, annotations, decoration, added recipes and supplementary texts/drawings, etc., all geographically and chronologically tagged. Evidence on former owners, in particular, will be shared in a common data repository of former book owners and users.⁵



Many well-used copies of Dioscorides *De Materia Medica libri sex* can be retrieved through Google image search

A second digital tool devoted to the analysis of archival records, manuscript texts and images is being planned in collaboration with Brown University's Center for Digital Scholarship, so that will presumably lead to a cooperation – or at least to the interoperability of digital tools – between CERL and this US institution.

Both digital tools are being conceived in a way that can be open to the future contribution in any Latin language by scholars with a focus on different countries: indeed, MAT-MED in Transit is centred on the *materia medica* knowledge circulating in Italy with the awareness that it represents only a segment of the more global transit of medical matter among European countries and between Europe and the West and East Indies of the Early Modern period.

Sabrina Minuzzi

¹ Supervisors are Prof Harold J. Cook and Prof Mario Infelise: after a first period at Brown University (Providence, February 2020-September 2021) the fellowship envisages a second period at Ca' Foscari (Venice).

² The expression derives from the Latin title of the massive compilation put together in the 1st c. AD by the physician and botanist Dioscorides (*De Materia Medica libri sex*).

³ C. Dondi, A. Ledda, 'Material Evidence in Incunabula', *La Bibliofilia*, 113 (2011), 375-381; see, for instance, <https://data.cerl.org/mei/02012694> and <http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/reading-practices/>.

⁴ The HPB Database currently contains around 8 million bibliographical descriptions for books printed in the period 1450-1850 and major European and North American research libraries continue to contribute their catalogue records to this resource.

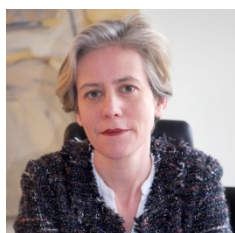
⁵ <https://data.cerl.org/owners/search>. To date almost 20,000 private and institutional owners are listed.

Elections at the CERL Annual General Meeting, 10 October 2019

www.cerl.org/about/organisation

CERL Board of Directors – New Directors 2019

It was with regret that the CERL members said their good-byes to Prof Dr Pierre Delsaerd, Mme Anne Pasquignon, Mr Edwin C. Schroeder and Prof Jolanta Talbierska, who had each served six years on the Board of Directors. We are grateful for their unfailing enthusiasm for CERL and their generous, thoughtful contributions to the Board's deliberations about the future course of the organisation. Fortunately, excellent candidates were found to take their places and we are pleased to introduce to you these four new members of the CERL Board of Directors.



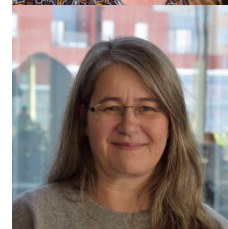
← Mme Marie de Laubier, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

→ Mrs Lucinda Jones, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague



← Dr Greg Prickman, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC

→ Mrs Saskia Scheltjens, Rijksmuseum Research Library - Research Services, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



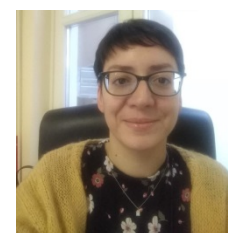
CERL Executive Committee – New members 2019

Mr Edwin C. Schroeder had indicated that he would be willing to continue his work for CERL in the context of the Executive Committee. The second new member of the Committee, elected by the CERL members at their Annual General Meeting, is Ms Vera Andriopoulou from the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, who will take an active role in the CERL Promotion Working Group. CERL wishes to express their warmest thanks to Dr Luisa Buson (University Library, Padua) and Ben Outhwaite (Cambridge University Library) who both stepped down from the Executive Committee.



← Mr Edwin C. Schroeder, Beinecke Library, Yale University

→ Ms Vera Andriopoulou, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, Piraeus (Athens)



New publication: Printing Revolution 1450-1500

At the Annual General Meeting at the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen, in 2019, all CERL members were presented with a prospectus of the forthcoming proceedings of the joint 2018 CERL annual seminar and 15cBOOKTRADE end of project conference, which took place in the Doge's Palace of Venice last 17-19 Sept. 2018: *Printing R-evolution and Society 1450-1500. Fifty Years that Changed Europe*. The 1000-pages volume will be published as CERL Papers XIV in January 2020, open access gold (both digital and paper copies) by Edizioni Ca' Foscari, University of Venice. CERL member libraries will receive a free paper copy. Additional copies will be available via the publishers edizionicafoscari.unive.it/.



Grant Report 2019 – Lucrezia Signorello

Thanks to the CERL Grant I received in 2019, I was able to do an internship from 21 October to 15 November 2019 at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in Den Haag, to work on the CERL Provenance Digital Archive (PDA). This database was recently made available [on-line](#) by CERL and relates to the description of provenance marks that can be found in early printed books (ownership inscriptions, ex-libris, supralibros, stamps, etc). The internship was carried out under the supervision of Dr Marieke van Delft, Curator of Early Printed Collections of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and Chair of CERL's Provenance Working Group. The activity initially concerned the checking and correcting of descriptions already in the database, followed by enriching the PDA with new records related to incunables owned by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek. At the end of my internship, the database contained over 400 descriptions.

For me, this internship was an important opportunity to get to know the various databases and the projects promoted by CERL (Material Evidence in Incunabula, Owners of Incunabula, CERL Thesaurus) as well as other online databases (e.g. Numelyo, The Virtual International Authority File, etc.). It also allowed me to work with a good number of early printed books of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and to tackle the problems linked to the study of provenance marks, their definition and description according to a standardised and scientifically correct terminology. Although the internship was carried out in English, which is also the language of the descriptions in the PDA, I frequently encountered notes of possession in Dutch, which allowed me to make the most of my palaeography skills even in a language I am not familiar with. Particularly important in the implementation of the PDA was the possibility of increasing information relating to former owners of the books held by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek which were already described in MEI, because I was able to suggest some new identifications. Moreover I was able to link some descriptions to those present in other similar projects managed by different international institutions, thus demonstrating the possibility of linking resources and information coming from different libraries in a network that favours not only research by scholars, but also the virtual reconstruction of library collections that are now dispersed or partially owned by different institutions.

During the internship Dr van Delft also introduced me to the various aspects related to her position as Curator of Early Printed Collections of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek: didactic activity, realisation of exhibitions, purchase of rare books and management of these new acquisitions in the library. She also highlighted the various research tools present in the library which were useful for carrying out the internship project. This gave a great insight into the daily work activity in her library and to reflect upon the similarities and differences with the Italian reality.

A very special initiative in which I was also involved was a conference on 23 November 2019 organised for the supporters of the Zutphen Librije. On this occasion I gave a lecture on the Malatestiana Library and the Piana Library of Cesena, with an emphasis on the preserved library collections and the online consultation tools. For me, this was an important opportunity to share the story of an illustrious institution of Italian cultural heritage, an example of a chained library that is very similar to the Zutphen Librije.



The aspect that struck me most and which I would like to highlight is the spirit of collaboration between various library institutions and scholars of the international scientific community that support the projects managed by CERL as a consortium; which is particularly evident in the new PDA database. In fact, not only during the project at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, I had the opportunity to interface with other scholars to improve the quality of the data entered in the PDA, but also now I have the possibility of adding new information from the rare books I deal with in my cataloguing activity in the Italian libraries. This was for me and it is also now an extraordinary opportunity to help to grow a database that will certainly be a very important tool in the study and development of special collections of European libraries.

Lucrezia Signorello

Collection Security Summer School

Tartu, 4-6 September 2019

www.cerl.org/collaboration/security/2019tartusummerschool

The third edition of the Collection Security Summer School, took place at the University Library in Tartu, Estonia, from 4 to 6 September 2019. The Summer School was organised by Mme Jacqueline Lambert of the Royal Library in Brussels, who is also the chairman of the CERL Security Network, together with Tartu colleagues Malle Ermel and Herdis Olmaru.:



During the Summer School Mme Lambert presented the CERL-developed [Quick Audit Tool and its supporting tools](#). Our hosts and co-organisers of the University of Tartu gave a presentation on collection security in their own organisation. Anna Magdalena Lindskog Midtgaard and Jarle Aadna of the Royal Danish Library explored varying security levels inside reading rooms. Siim Raie, the Director General of the National Heritage Board of Estonia gave a presentation on the 'Darker Side of Heritage Management'. Nijolė Klingaitė Dasevičienė outlined approaches to collection security in the Vilnius University Library. Angela Dellebeke of the National Archives in the Netherlands explored a network approach to collection security with the participants of the summer school. Adrian Edwards of the British Library presented on Missing Item processes there, Kaire Lass, the Keeper of Collections at the National Library of Estonia on Collections Security issues, and Per Cullhed of the University Library of Uppsala focussed on security in the stacks. The Summer School programme also included visits to the [Estonian Literary Museum](#), the books mass de-acidification centre of the University Library, the [University of Tartu History Museum](#) and the [Estonian National Museum](#) where, each time, participants explored their approaches to collection security.



The next edition of the annual Collection Security Summer School will take place at the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, Austria, on 2 to 4 September 2020.

The International Council of Archives' Expert Group against Theft, Trafficking and Tampering ([EGATTT](#)) has expressed great interest in the Summer School, and we hope that many colleagues from the archives community will join us in Vienna. EGATTT has invited CERL to co-organise a workshop at the [ICA Annual Conference](#), taking place in Abu Dhabi on 16-19 November 2020.

Collections and Networks: Reconstructing the Historical Context of Texts, Publications and Objects with digital methods

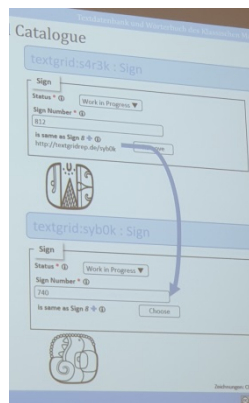
Göttingen, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Wednesday 9 October 2019

Programme and slides: www.cerl.org/services/seminars/presentations2019

This year, the annual CERL seminar was on the topic of reconstructing the historical context of texts, publications and objects with digital methods. We heard presentations from the colleagues at the Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek on the Fontane Notizbücher, and their ASCH and IDIOM projects. Additionally there were presentations featuring the Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database, the English Short Title Catalogue, the Cultures of Knowledge project, the new Specialised Information Service: Book Studies project (Herzog August Bibliothek) and the Living with Machines project (a British Library and Alan Turing Institute project). Emily Dourish, Cambridge University Library, who has recently joined the CERL Promotion Working Group, has published a [blog post](#) about this event, which you might like to read.



Left: Andreas Walker on converting the HPB to Linked Open Data



Right: A glyph in the Interdisciplinary Dictionary of Classic Mayan (IDIOM)



Above: Brian Geiger (r), Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research, UC Riverside and Bryan Tarpley (l), Digital Humanities at the Center of Digital Humanities Research, Texas A&M University
Below: Mikko Tolonen (r), University of Helsinki and Leo Lahti (l), University of Turku



New: CERL Working Group on Digital Humanities

At the CERL Annual General Meeting in October 2019, it was agreed to set up a new Working Group for Digital Humanities (DH). Together with Anne Pasquinon (Bibliothèque nationale de France) and Saskia Scheltjens (Rijksmuseum), Marian Lefferts (CERL) is in the process of drawing up a remit and a work plan for this new Working Group. We feel that the Working Group should support library management and curators of Special Collections (rare books and manuscripts) to develop a well-informed mid- to long-term vision regarding the interconnection between their organisation's special collections and Digital Humanities research. In this context, the working group plans to offer information about new developments in the field and to organise training for management and curators of special collections in DH technologies

Frequently, DH technologies and techniques are not initiated in the specific context of Special Collections. Management and curators need to step to the plate to work with developers of new techniques and technologies to adapt and optimise the new approaches for use with Special Collection materials. Better-informed and well-trained management and curators will be able to champion tailored, specialist access, retrieval and interlinking of digital representations of our special collections. An understanding of techniques and technologies applied in DH will also assist curators to identify the potential in their collections for further DH research, and in confidently pitching this potential when inviting collaboration between library and the DH community. Please write to Marian Lefferts if you would like to join the Working Group on Digital Humanities.

LIBER WG for Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage

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

CERL is an active participant in the LIBER Working Group for Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage. From 2017-2019, the Working Group worked to identify and share best practices related to Digital Humanities (DH) work ongoing in European research libraries, which culminated in the [report](#) 'Europe's Digital Humanities Landscape: A Study From LIBER's Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group' (June 2019).

The Working Group's work plan for 2019-2021 picks up on themes that emerged from this report and it has now started work on the themes of Digital Collections, Impact, Prov(id)ing Expertise and Building Relationships. CERL co-chairs the task on Digital Collections, which is focused around the creation and practical technical accessibility of digital collections as data. The working group examines how collections are offered to DH researchers, which barriers they encounter and how libraries can successfully offer their collections across their user base. Special focus will be given to access across borders, unwanted bias in digital collections and facilitating easy access through technology. Early 2020, the working group is scheduled to produce its first deliverable, a reading list on Optical Character Recognition and Handwritten Text Recognition.

The Digital Collections task group within the Working Group wants to support libraries in providing easier access to collections as data. The technical infrastructure for many libraries differs greatly, but the task group thinks GLAM workbenches might assist all libraries in facilitating easier access. To explore this assumption, libraries will be invited to participate in a webinar by Tim Sherratt, University of Canberra, who in Spring 2020 is scheduled to present on 'How to set up a GLAM workbench in your library'. In preparation, you might be interested in viewing this [video](#) of his presentation at the National Digital Forum in November 2018: 'A GLAM data workbench for reluctant researchers'.



CERL Annual General Meeting and Seminar in 2020

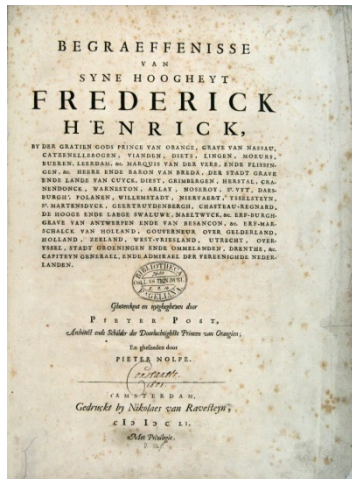


In 2020, Vilnius University Library celebrates its 300th Anniversary, and it has offered to host the CERL Annual General meeting so that Special Collection librarians from around Europe may join in the celebrations. The meeting of the CERL Executive Committee will take place on Wednesday 14 October 2020, and the Annual General Meeting and a meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday 16 October 2020. The University Library in Vilnius is planning a three-day seminar, where one of those days (Thursday 16 October) is co-organised with CERL and open to all participants in the CERL meetings.

Provisionally, the seminar will focus on the theme of library history, the context of collecting and describing collections, as well as the impact of libraries on the society and economies in which they function, and the tools and resources available for the study of library history. A detailed programme will be made available in the course of 2020 on www.cerl.org/services/seminars/main.

The Dutch Fagel Collection at the Library of Trinity College Dublin

www.tcd.ie/library/fagel/about-the-collection/



Recently, Trinity College Dublin announced major funding for the conservation and digital cataloguing of the Dutch 18th century Fagel collection by Trinity Library, in collaboration with the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands. This partnership, signals a Europe-wide dedication to one of the finest examples of research and public engagement projects, and to the preservation of international heritage.

Constantijn Huygens once owned this book: *Pieter Post: Begraeffnisse van syne hoogheyt Frederick Henrick* (Amsterdam, Nicolaes van Ravesteyn, 1651). Shelfmark Fag.I.2.16

The Fagel collection is one of the jewels in the Library of Trinity College Dublin's collections. It was built up over five generations of the Fagel family, many of whom held high public office in the Netherlands. It is enormously rich in French, Dutch and English works. One of the most important private libraries in early modern Europe, the holdings in history, politics and law are particularly substantial, but virtually every other area of human endeavour is included such as philosophy, theology, geography and travels, natural history, the visual arts and much more. The collection came to Trinity in 1802 when Hendrik Fagel the Younger, 'Griffier' or Chief Minister to the States General of the Netherlands, was stranded in England while French revolutionary forces invaded his country. Having shipped the collection to London, he was eventually forced to sell it. The collection was subsequently purchased and gifted to Trinity. When it came to Trinity it expanded the Library's collection by 40% and occupied over a mile of shelving space in the Old Library.

Recent work undertaken on the collection has revealed that upwards of 10% of the titles in the collection are the only surviving copies of publications, and some of the maps are the earliest known maps of regions of the world. Now over two hundred years since arriving in Dublin, the Unlocking the Fagel Collection project will open the collection up to a global audience of scholars and to all lovers of cultural heritage. The Library of Trinity is collaborating with the KB Netherlands to register all publications in the Fagel Collection in the catalogue of the Library of Trinity College and in the Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN), the Dutch pre-1800 national bibliography. The project is also working in conjunction with the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute and researchers will be engaged in the collection, with a Dutch-Irish conference marking the end of the project in 2022.

Trinity has ambitious plans for the Fagel Collection where it forms a key component in a new Virtual Trinity Library, a major project which will allow digital access to the unique and distinct collections of the Library and which is central to Trinity's current philanthropic campaign [Inspiring Generations](#). The Library has long-term aims to digitally reunite the Fagel collection with related library, archive, museum and private collections around the world, using the latest enhanced technologies.



The book *Harmonia macrocosmica* (Amsterdam, Johannes Janssonius, 1661) by Andreas Cellarius includes this map of the heavens and the constellation of the stars. Shelfmark: Fag.A.2.36 © TCD

Laura Shanahan, *The Library of Trinity College Dublin*
 Marieke van Delft, *Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands*

CERL Expert Seminar on Remote Storage

The Hague, 18-19 November 2019

www.cerl.org/services/seminars/remotestorage

CERL organised an expert seminar on preparing for and making use of off-site storage facilities, which was held at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, in The Hague on 18-19 November 2019. Selected facilitators from institutions who already have such a facility met with those who were planning one, and together they discussed the planning stages, preparations for moving (part of) the collections to the new site, and the impact on workflows once the new storage was operational.

Colleagues from the Cambridge and Oxford universities, the British Library, the Royal Libraries in The Hague and Brussels, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Catholic University in Leuven, teamed up with Dr Ulrich Niederer, now retired from the ZHB Luzern, but still actively involved in the Kooperative Speicherbibliothek Schweiz, to present their experiences to colleagues from Amsterdam, Leiden and Edinburgh universities, the National Archive of the Netherlands, the Royal Libraries in Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands, Temple Library in London, the National Library of Latvia, University College Dublin (representing CONUL), the Dutch Institute for Art History, the Dutch department responsible for governmental buildings, and the Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience, Antwerp. All presentation slides are made available on the web page cited above.

The participants concluded that this had been a wonderful opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, and suggested that a next expert session should be dedicated to the storage and handling of rare books and manuscript collections (both on-site and off-site), which is a suggestion that CERL will gladly act upon.



Order of the British Empire

On 19 November 2019, Bodley's Librarian (and long-standing CERL Board member and Treasurer, we are proud to add), Richard Ovenden, was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He received his OBE from the Duke of Cambridge at Kensington Palace, for his services to libraries and archives.





This online exhibition explores the changing role of handwriting between the late Middle Ages and the early modern period. It brings together books and documents from [Newcastle University Library's Special Collections and Archives](#) with the work of contemporary calligraphers to explore handwriting's place in our past, present and future. speccollstories.ncl.ac.uk/The-Art-of-Handwriting/index.html.

In January 2020, Simon Tanner, King's College London, will publish his *Delivering Impact with Digital Resources* (facetpublishing.co.uk/title.php?id=049320). This book provides practical guidance for delivering and sustaining value and impact from digital content.

Coverage includes:

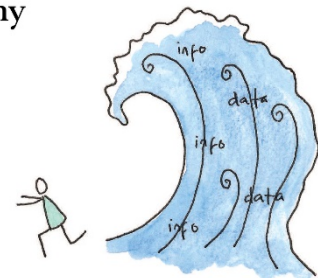
- a guide to using the Balanced Value Impact Model and a wide range of data gathering and evidence based methods
- exploration of strategy in the context of digital ecosystems, an attention economy and cultural economics
- working with communities and stakeholders to deliver on promises implicit in digital resources/activities
- major case studies about Europeana, the Wellcome Trust and the National Gallery of Denmark, amongst others
- an exploration of the difference between the attitudes expressed by groups within digital cultures versus the actual behaviours they exhibit using impact exemplars from many sectors and geographies to show how they are explored and applied.



SIMON TANNER

DELIVERING IMPACT WITH DIGITAL RESOURCES

Planning strategy in
the attention
economy



Manuscript databases in Italy: an agreement between the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue (ICCU) and The Veneto Region-Directorate for Cultural Assets and Activities

manus.iccu.sbn.it/

In October 2019, the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue (ICCU) and the Veneto Region-Directorate for Cultural Assets and Activities signed an agreement, aiming at increasing the knowledge about and the study of manuscript heritage preserved in Italian libraries and institutions through the exchange of both data and information.



The first, important, goal that was identified was to make the manuscript data stored in Nuova Biblioteca Manoscritta (NBM) available to users also in Manus Online (MOL). Each year, the Veneto Region plans to provide an updated data download of NBM cataloguing data in XML format, which will then be published in MOL. This data will be available to users together with all manuscript descriptions of libraries and institutions taking part in the Manus Online project. The NBM data will of course remain the property of the Veneto Region and of the libraries taking part in NBM, as well. Other cooperation and sharing actions are foreseen; annually both partners will agree upon the development of additional initiatives.

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