



**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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## UNCOVERING THE COVERS

WORKSHOP ON BOOKBINDINGS,  
PROVENANCE AND WATERMARKS  
ON THE INTERNET

27-28 May 2019 Uppsala University Library



During the last week of May, the CERL Bookbindings Working Group held the workshop 'Uncovering the Covers' at Uppsala university library. The workshop lasted for two days and with slightly varying numbers of participants for the different days, it attracted between 10-15 people, mostly from Sweden but also from Hungary, Ireland and the Netherlands. Stefan Andersson, Helena Backman, Per Cullhed, Magnus Hjalmarsson and Roger Magnusson from Uppsala University Library were responsible for various parts of the workshop. Athanasios Velios and Nicholas Pickwood from the Ligatus Research Center at the University of the Arts London also lectured. The purpose of the event was to show how to publish bookbindings, provenances and watermarks online and Alvin ([www.alvin-portal.org](http://www.alvin-portal.org)) was used as an example of how to do it. One result of the workshop was to devise a way to publish watermarks with not only images of the watermark, but also images of the book or document from which the watermark comes, together with a full bibliographical record.

Immediately after the workshop, the Ligatus Working Group had a full-day meeting to discuss the development and future of the Ligatus glossary to describe bookbindings developed at the Ligatus Research Center at the University of the Arts in London.

*Per Cullhed, Uppsala University Library*

## Collection Security Summer School

Tartu, 4-6 September 2019

[www.cerl.org/collaboration/security/2019tartusummerschool](http://www.cerl.org/collaboration/security/2019tartusummerschool)

CERL warmly invites you to attend the third edition of the Collection Security Summer School, which will be held at the University Library in Tartu, Estonia, 4-6 September 2019. The Summer School is organised by Mme Jacqueline Lambert of the Royal Library in Brussels, who is also the chairman of the CERL Security Network, and Tartu colleagues Malle Ermel and Herdis Olmaru. This is what the summer school has in store for you:



*Rijksmuseum, John Wilkes Detector lock with key*

On **Wednesday 4 September 2019** we start at 13:00 with a welcome by Mme Jacqueline Lambert, who will also give a presentation on the CERL-developed [Quick Audit Tool and its supporting tools](#). Our hosts and co-organisers of the University of Tartu will give a presentation on collection security in their own organisation, after which you will be taken on a visit to the books mass neutralisation centre of the University Library, where we will focus on how to ensure the collection security during the whole process from departure to return to the stacks. The first day ends with a visit to the [University of Tartu History Museum](#) and a drinks reception.

On **Thursday 5 September 2019**, Anna Magdalena Lindskog Midtgaard and Jarle Aadna of the Royal Danish Library will work with the participants to explore varying security levels inside reading rooms, followed by a session on the 'Darker Side of Heritage Management' by Siim Raie, the Director General of the National Heritage Board of Estonia. Nijolė Klingaitė Dasevičienė will outline approaches to collection security in the Vilnius University Library and Angela Dellebeke of the National Archives in the Netherlands will explore a network approach to collection security with the participants of the summer school. The day will end with a visit to the [Estonian National Museum](#) with a behind-the-scenes exploration of their approach to collection security. Participants are then invited to attend an optional conference dinner.

On **Friday 6 September 2018**, the day starts with a visit to the [Estonian Literary Museum](#) to discuss their approach to collection security, followed by a presentation by Adrian Edwards of the British Library on Missing Item processes at the British Library and a presentation by Kaire Lass, the Keeper of Collections at the National library of Estonia on Collections Security issues. We will end the summer school with a presentation by Per Cullhed of the University Library of Uppsala focussed on security in the stacks, and a final discussion which should end around 15:30pm.

To register, please send an e-mail to [marian.lefferts@cerl.org](mailto:marian.lefferts@cerl.org). The deadline for registration is 1 August 2019. The registration fee (which covers lunches and tea/coffee, and travel to the various museums) is € 65 for CERL members and € 85 for non-members.

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## CERL Workshop on Remote Storage

[www.cerl.org/services/seminars/remotestorage](http://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/remotestorage)

CERL is organising a workshop on preparing for and making use of a remote storage facility to be 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 will meet with those who are planning for one, and together we will discuss the planning stages, preparations for moving (part of) the collections to the facility, and the impact on workflows once the facility is operational. The aim is to create a network of fellow-librarians who are all going through a similar process, and are available for consultation, going forward. The registration fee (€25 for CERL members and €40 for non-members) is to cover the catering costs, and you can register for the workshop by sending a message to [marian.lefferts@cerl.org](mailto:marian.lefferts@cerl.org).



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

Göttingen, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Wednesday 9 October 2019

Programme: [www.cerl.org/services/seminars/presentations2019](http://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/presentations2019)



CERL warmly invites you to attend its annual seminar, this year on the theme of reconstructing the historical context of texts, publications and objects with digital methods.

All speakers are confirmed, and we are fortunate to be able to offer presentations on the Fontane Notizbücher, ASCH and IDIOM projects, two presentations on the Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database, and presentations on the Cultures of Knowledge, the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences proposed new infrastructure, the Herzog August Bibliothek project on Specialised Information Service: Book Studies, library and information science and on the new Living with Machines project.

Georg Thomas von Asch (1729-1807) donated many artefacts from nature as well as ethnographic objects to Göttingen University. The ASCH project aimed to create interoperable metadata standards for contextualising heterogeneous objects, such as skulls, coins and medals, ethnographic objects, geological items, print holdings, zoological objects and seeds and plants, as well as the archival materials accompanying these donations.

In 2014, the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts (Nordrhein Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften und Künste) in Düsseldorf established the Interdisciplinary Dictionary of Classic Mayan (IDIOM) research centre for the study of hieroglyphic writing and language of the ancient Maya at the University of Bonn's Philosophy Faculty. The project aimed to analyse all known hieroglyphic Mayan texts, which served as the basis for the compilation and editing of a Classic Mayan language dictionary.

Some time ago, Mikko Tolonen of the Department of Modern Languages, University of Helsinki, requested a copy of the HPB Database to see if their activities in data mining and analysing the Fennica and ESTC bibliographic datasets could be repeated for the HPB. Leo Lahti (Wageningen University), Niko Ilomäki (Department of Computer Science, University of Helsinki), and Tolonen have recently published an article in [LIBER Quarterly](#) on 'A Quantitative Study of History in the English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC), 1470-1800,' and we look forward to hearing from them on their experiences with the HPB dataset.

In the context of his formal librarian training, Andreas Walker has explored the possibilities for publishing the Heritage of the Printed Book Database as Linked Open Data, and the possible options for a user-friendly interface for such data. A first prototype was presented to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors in April of this year, and now Andreas Walker will give a full presentation for all members at the CERL Seminar.

Living with Machines is a five-year research project in which the British Library and the Alan Turing institute will work together to take a fresh look at the well-known history of the Industrial Revolution using data-driven approaches. From the Alan Turing [website](#): 'Initial research plans involve scientists from The Alan Turing Institute collaborating with curators and researchers to build new software to analyse data drawn initially from millions of pages of out-of-copyright newspaper collections from within the archive in the British Library's National Newspaper Building, and from other digitised historical collections, most notably government collected data, such as the census and registration of births, marriages and deaths. The resulting new research methods will allow computational linguists and historians to track societal and cultural change in new ways during this transformative period in British history. Crucially, these new research methods will place the lives of ordinary people centre stage, rather than privileging the perspectives of decision-makers and public commentators.'

## 'Printing Revolution and Society': History of Libraries Summer School

Oxford, Lincoln College, 23-25 June 2019

[www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/Summer-School-History-of-Libraries](http://www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/Summer-School-History-of-Libraries)

The third Summer School organised by the 15cBOOKTRADE Project was supported by Lincoln College, the Bodleian Libraries, and the James P. R. Lyell Readership in Bibliography. The training team consisted as ever of Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Cristina Dondi, Matilde Malaspina, Sabrina Minuzzi, and Maria Alessandra Panzanelli Fratoni.

The Summer School offered an introduction on the digital resources created by the project to work on incunabula, then focused on learning how to catalogue in MEI. It also included a presentation of 13th to 15th-century European coinage at the Ashmolean Museum, by Julian Baker, Curator of Medieval and Modern Coins and Related Objects, and a hands-on session in the Bodleian Printing Room with printer Richard Lawrence. We concluded our Summer School with an informed discussion, based on published material and primary sources, on the comparison Printing Revolution / Digital Revolution, and with drinks hosted by the Rector of Lincoln College, Prof. Henry Woudhuysen.



Participants came from the Universities of Catania, of Ferrara and Genoa and from Biblioteca comunale of Fermo in Italy, from Marsh's Library Dublin, Salisbury Cathedral Library, the BASIRA Project and the Friends of the US Air Force Academy in the United States. We also had two Oxford DPhil students working with German and Italian incunabula. Participants were delighted to add the new Needham's Rule produced by CERL to their specialist kit.

*Cristina Dondi, CERL*

### International collaboration – then and now



This year the National Library of Norway is celebrating the 500 year anniversary of the printed book in Norway. In 1519 the archbishop Erik Walkendorf ordered a Missale and a Breviarium made special for the Norwegian diocese. The *Missale Nidrosiense* was printed in Copenhagen and *Breviarium Nidrosiense* in Paris. In 1520 he went on to order a prayer book in Amsterdam from the printer Doen Pieterz and the artist Jacob Cornelisz. van Oostanen in 1,200 copies. Due to political circumstances the prayer book was never printed. The National Archives in Norway have a contemporary copy of the contract, unfortunately the originals are missing. This contract is written in Middle Dutch and the contract is transcribed and printed in *Diplomatarium Norvegicum*. Bente Lavold wanted to give a presentation on this contract at the Oslo annual Book History Seminar celebrating the 500-year anniversary, and asked CERL whether someone might be willing to assist her in the comparison between the [transcription](#) published in 1869 and the newly [digitised copy](#) from the Norwegian National Archives. Erik Geleijnse of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, and some of his

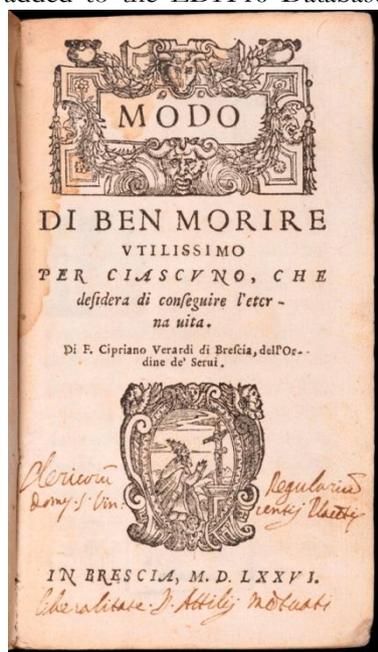
colleagues were able to help, for which we are very grateful. In the picture you see Bente with the contract, at the CERL seminar which the National Library of Norway kindly hosted on the day following the Book History Seminar. Marian Lefferts presented CERL databases, and outlined how colleagues could contribute, to an audience of scholars who had participated in the Book History workshop and colleagues of heritage institutions in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Copenhagen.

## New Holdings for the EDIT16 database

[edit16.iccu.sbn.it/](http://edit16.iccu.sbn.it/)

Following on from the successful collaboration between the British Library and the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian libraries and for bibliographic information (ICCU), the Italian national agency for cataloguing (in the context of the PATRIMONiT project, see also CERL Newsletter June 2017), the University of Manchester has now signed a co-operation agreement to add their rich holdings of 16th-century Italian books to the EDIT16 Database. This collaboration is a valuable step forward in order to enhance the accuracy of information available to both cataloguers and scholars worldwide on 16th-century Italian book heritage and its dissemination. Sara D'Amico, currently studying archives and librarianship at 'La Sapienza' University of Rome, recently completed a three-month long traineeship in Manchester funded by the Erasmus+ Traineeship programme.

The John Rylands Library, which is part of the network of the University of Manchester Library, has particularly rich collections of Italian books, especially those from the 2nd Earl Spencer, whose collection was purchased by Mrs Rylands for the library in 1892, and Walter L. Bullock, the Serena Professor of Italian at the University of Manchester from 1935 to 1944. In total there are over 5,000 16th-century Italian imprints to be added to the EDIT16 database and many of them appear to be extremely rare. Cataloguing work has started from the Walter L. Bullock Collection: among the 350 books that have been catalogued so far, nearly 30 previously unrecorded editions have been added to the EDIT16 Database and it is reasonable to expect there will be more as the work progresses.



Unique copies are, for example, that of *Conuersione d'vna giovane peccatrice*, printed in Vercelli for Francesco Pelippari and Leonardo Pontio likely in 1596 (JRL Bullock 2039, CNCE 80087); the *Modo di ben morire vtilissimo per ciascuno, che desidera di conseguire l'eterna vita*, of the Servite friar Cipriano Verardi, printed in Brescia by Vincenzo Sabbio in 1576 (JRL Bullock 2101, CNCE 80088); and three new Giolito's imprints (JRL Bullock 1716 (2), CNCE 80077; JRL Bullock 1716 (4), CNCE 80078 and JRL Bullock 1716 (6), CNCE 80079), including the edition of a work which was not known to have ever been printed by Giolito (CNCE 80077). Moreover, the painstaking description carried on by Sara has led to exciting findings for already known editions as well, such as the discovery of previously unsurveyed printers' devices, which have also been added to the EDIT16 Database.

The 16th-century Italian books comprising the Bullock Collection are not only remarkable for their rarity but for their provenance as well: a large quantity of them bear ownership inscriptions, ink stamps and bookplates belonging to both popular and lesser known Italian and foreign intellectuals. Painters such Pietro Antonio Ferro, book collectors such as Gustavo Camillo Galletti, Francesco Maria Berio and Louis Thompson Rowe, philosophers such as Bernard de La Monnoye and Robert Saitschick and cardinals such as Giuseppe Renato Imperiali have all left their marks, which could make it possible to trace the book's history and travel from Italy to England. An example of two intriguing ownership marks is found on *Le rime del sig. Gio. Batt. Ardoino academico cosentino in morte della signora Isabella Quattromani sua moglie*, printed in Naples by Giuseppe Cacchi in 1590 (JRL Bullock 105 (1), CNCE 2353): the book, whose edition survives in three copies only, bears on the front pastedown the 18th-century bookplate of Domenico Maria Berio and on the rear pastedown the 19th-century bookplate of William Ward, Viscount Dudley.

Our next step is to share data from the Aldine Collection, the bulk of which was collected by the 2nd Earl Spencer in the early 19th century. We look forward to working more closely with our new Italian partners!

Sara D'Amico (*'La Sapienza' University of Rome*),  
Julianne Simpson (*University of Manchester*), and  
Flavia Bruni (*ICCU, Rome*)

## IGI Digitisation project Subiaco – incunabula of Santa Scholastica

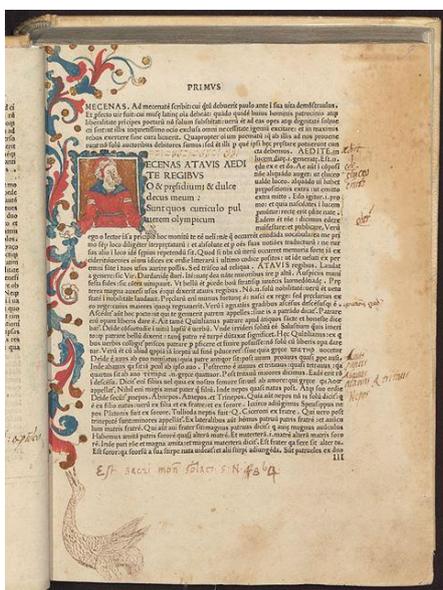
[digitale.bnc.roma.sbn.it/tecadigitale/progettoPolonsky](http://digitale.bnc.roma.sbn.it/tecadigitale/progettoPolonsky)

The Benedictine Monastery of S. Scolastica, at Subiaco (near Rome), one of eleven state libraries annexed to National Monuments, was the first printing place in Italy. In this monastery Conrad Sweynheym and Arnold Pannartz, from Germany, printed the earliest Italian incunables between 1464 and 1467. The present library preserves 198 editions of the 15th century, per 209 copies, in 259 volumes.



The current digitisation and cataloguing project, funded by the [Polonsky Foundation](#), commenced in June 2018 and will run through to December 2019. It is intended as a pilot project, part of a wider initiative focused mainly on small public, private and ecclesiastical collections, scattered throughout the Italian territory. This model, with the support of technology and existing international digital resources, will foster innovative research on 15th-century printed material. It includes not only the finished product, incunabula, but also other essential materials such as manuscript printers' copies, historical catalogues, inventories and archival documents. This is material that is often little known but which can greatly augment art historical, social and economic, as well as bibliographical research.

To date, all copies of the incunabula have been digitised (about 128,000 complete page images) and catalogued in the Italian National Bibliographic System ([SBN](#)), which in turn contributes to CERL's international Heritage of the Printed Book Database ([HPB](#)). High quality data have also been gathered in existing international databases such as the International Short Title Catalogue ([ISTC](#)) for the bibliographical aspect and copy counting; the Material Evidence in Incunabula Database ([MEI](#)) for provenance, that is the history of each copy; Bodleian's [TEXT-INC](#) for the textual content; and [15cILLUSTRATION](#).



A census of eligible watermarks has been completed on 259 volumes and one manuscript. The selected watermarks will be scanned and added in the file of the full book digitisation. It is expected that the digitised watermarks will also be included in [Bernstein](#), the memory of paper research site. The 'Teca digitale' of BNCR will operate as aggregator of the information present in the databases.

The communication and outreach of the project will include a video on the invention of printing, a website dedicated to the project, blogs prepared by the researchers throughout the project, the creation of a digital illustrated story on the transmission of knowledge from manuscript to print, based on Subiaco's unique material.

The project is coordinated and directed by the Central National Library of Rome (BNCR), with Andrea De Pasquale as Executive Director, Pasqualino Avigliano and Andrea Cappa as Executive Managers, and Fabio D'Orsogna and Arturo Ferrari as Managers of digital library. Advisors of the Executive Board are Cristina Dondi (CERL), Adalbert Roth (formerly BAV) and Marina Venier (MEI editor and formerly of the BNCR), who also acts as Project Executive Manager. Specialist cataloguers are Matilde Malaspina and Sabrina Minuzzi. Operating staff at the Santa Scolastica Library are Don Marco Mancini, Director, Antonietta Orlandi and Francesca Salvi, librarians, Francesca Salvi and Francesca Valentini.

*Cristina Dondi, CERL*

## LIBER WG for Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage

[libereurope.eu/strategy/digital-skills-services/digitalhumanities/](http://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. Much has been written about the relationship between DH digital humanities and their relationship to libraries. To help locate the most relevant literature, the group developed four reading lists: 1) [policies and portfolios](#), 2) [cooperation between libraries and researchers](#), 3) [skill building](#), and 4) [the role of libraries](#). The culmination of the group's work was a Europe-wide survey on digital collections and the activities libraries undertake around them. It covered the following topics and themes:

- Awareness
- Collections
- Funding
- Future Work
- Impact
- Partnerships
- Services/support
- Staffing/skills
- Spaces (physical and digital)
- Organisation of DH in library

These themes were based on input from participants at the Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage workshop at LIBER's 2018 Annual Conference (Lille, France, 4-6 July). From their suggestions, topics were selected and cross-checked with other similar surveys, to ensure all areas were covered. The report on the survey was presented at the LIBER conference in Dublin (26-28 June 2019), where the Working Group organised a [workshop](#) on the topic of The Landscape of European DH Libraries. Below you find the [report's](#) Table of Contents. Lotte Wilms, of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, presented a poster on the report's key recommendations, which is appended to this newsletter.



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The LIBER Board has accepted the Working Group's workplan for 2019-2021, which will pick up on themes that emerged from the survey. The Working Group will focus on Digital Collections, Impact, Prov(id)ing Expertise and Building Relationships. CERL will co-chair the task on Digital Collections, which is focused around the creation and practical technical accessibility of digital collections as data. The working group will examine 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.

## MEI Workshop at RBMS

Baltimore, 18 June 2019

At the 60th Annual Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference, held in Baltimore 18-21 June 2019, on the theme 'Response and Responsibility', CERL and The Bibliographical Society of America organised the Workshop: The Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) Database and American Collections, which received the sponsorship of Liber Antiquus Early Printed Books & Manuscripts. The Workshop was held in the magnificent George Peabody Library, part of the Johns Hopkins University Libraries. Cristina Dondi, who ran the workshop, and the 20 participants, were able to train on MEI using incunabula from the Peabody collection, most kindly made available by Earle Havens (Nancy H. Hall Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts and Director of the Virginia Fox Stern Center for the History of the Book in the Renaissance), Paul Espinosa (Curator of the Peabody Library), and Neil Weijer (PhD, Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow in Premodern and Early Modern Studies, Council of Library and Information Resources - CLIR). Greg Prickman, Folger Librarian, and a MEI editor, was also on call to support the participants.



Participants came from the Newberry Library, Folger Shakespeare Library, Grolier Club of NY, University of Iowa (all CERL members) as well as Loyola Marymount University Library, University of Vermont, Boston Public Library, Palmer School of Library & Information Science of Long Island University, Jacob Burns Law Library at George Washington University, University of Richmond, Texas A&M University Libraries, the Friends of the US Air Force Academy, and Martayan Lan Rare Books. Their evaluations were very positive, including, among 'other comments': 'loved it!', 'Please do more like this', 'fabulous database, wonderful idea for contributing institutions', 'very exciting project!', 'great job explaining MEI and giving context', 'only wishing the workshop had been longer'. They will all continue to work on MEI on their collections, the results we were hoping for!

*Cristina Dondi, CERL*

## Libraries as Research Partner in Digital Humanities

[adholibdh.github.io/dh2019-preconference/program](https://adholibdh.github.io/dh2019-preconference/program)



Libraries as Research Partners in Digital Humanities was held on 8 July 2019, as a preconference to the 2019 Digital Humanities Conference in Utrecht. The event was hosted by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands (KB), with support from the KB, Consortium of European

Research Libraries (CERL), and the Libraries and Digital Humanities Special Interest Group of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO). This pre-conference aimed to address the complexities of positioning libraries and other Cultural Heritage Organisations (CHOs) as digital humanities research partners. The question of CHOs and librarians as service providers or partners is a well-established, rich territory, with implications for labour and status. However, many are still finding their place in digital humanities due to questions of institutional commitments and external expectations. The potential for CHOs and their staff to serve as research partners was demonstrated in keynotes, short papers, lightning talks, and interactive sessions on collections as data, library labs, technical infrastructure, organisational commitments and policies, staff-building, labour, and relationship-building. All slides are made available on [Zenodo](https://zenodo.org/).

## Erasmus and Staff Exchange Week Helsinki

The European academic exchange programme Erasmus does not only facilitate student exchange but also supports university staff in meeting their colleagues from other European countries. Quite a few university libraries organise International Staff Exchange Weeks (ISEW) for library colleagues to get to know the hosting institution and discuss new developments in the library world. From 10-14 June 2019, I was invited to join the ISEW staff week organised by the University of Helsinki Library (HULIB). During one week 15 librarians from ten different countries met and got to know the innovative work at HULIB. We visited all four campus libraries of HULIB (Kaisa, Meilahti, Kumpula, and Viikki) as well as the National Library of Finland, Aalto University's Harald Herlin Learning Center and, this goes without saying, Helsinki's new (proudly inaugurated in December 2018) central city library 'Oodi'.

The date of the event was especially convenient as directly prior to the staff exchange week the Finnish Library Conference ('Kirjastopäivät') took place in Helsinki (5-7 June 2019). Travelling a little earlier also made it possible to use the extra time to meet Mikko Tolonen and his DH research team at the University of Helsinki. The team has done work on, among others, the HPB data in previous years and published their results. As both the DH researchers and DCG apply many of the same techniques to processing and cleaning data for analysis, we discussed possible ways to cooperate in order to prevent the development of similar data processing routines in two different places. Mikko Tolonen and his team have been invited to the CERL seminar in October where Mikko will also present the work they have done. We are looking forward to meeting again and to discuss how to join forces and ideas.



*From left to right, Mikko Tolonen, Leo Labti, Iiro Tiibonen and Hege Roivainen*

*Maike Kittelmann, Data Conversion Group, Göttingen*

## National Széchényi Library organised a CERL seminar

**Budapest, 31 May 2019**

[www.oszk.hu/en/news/cerl-seminar-nszl](http://www.oszk.hu/en/news/cerl-seminar-nszl)



The National Széchényi Library and the Association of the Ecclesiastical Library in Hungary together organised a CERL seminar on the theme of Digital Technologies in the Investigation of Handwritten and Printed Heritage, which took place on 31 May 2019. The seminar featured presentations by colleagues from the *Res Libraria Hungariae* research group, the 15cBOOKTRADE Project, the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue, the Bibliotheca Corvina Virtualis project, National Széchényi Library and the Database of Early Modern Album Inscriptions, with speakers from Oxford, London, Pécs, Debrecen and Budapest. Prior to the seminar, Marian Lefferts spoke with László Boka, Director of Research and Academic Affairs, National Széchényi Library, and Róbert Oláh, College Library of the Transtibiscan Church District, Debrecen, about collaborating in CERL and about the practicalities related to Hungarian Ecclesiastical Libraries contributing data to the Heritage of the Printed Book Database.

## CERL Thesaurus Identifiers in Wikidata



Main page  
Community portal  
Project chat  
Create a new item  
Create a new Lexeme  
Recent changes  
Random item  
Query Service  
Nearby  
Help  
Donate

Print/export  
Create a book  
Download as PDF  
Printable version

Tools  
What links here  
Related changes  
Special pages  
Permanent link  
Page information  
Concept URI  
Cite this page

Item Discussion

### Kaspar Brusch (Q1392240)

German historian and theologian edit

▼ In more languages Configure

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Kaspar Brusch	German historian and theologian	
Dutch	Kaspar Brusch	Duits historicus (1518-1559)	
German	Kaspar Brusch	Humanist, evangelisch-lutherischer Theologe, Hofpfalzgraf, gekrönter Poet	Beisser Kaspar Bruschius
French	Kaspar Brusch	No description defined	

All entered languages

#### Statements

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image edit



Caspar Bruschius.jpg  
250 × 268; 28 KB

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+ add value

edit

Colleagues of the Biblioteca europea di informazione e cultura in Milan created the property CERL ID in Wikidata and started to add CERL Thesaurus identifiers to objects in Wikidata. In May 2019 we found over 166,000 entries with a CERL ID, many of them added using quickstatement. Unfortunately, some of the identifications were not precise enough, and since then Elena Liventsova of the Data Conversion Group in Göttingen, has been working to improve some of the matching.

Currently there are around 200,000 CERL IDs in Wiki, 1,255 of which we would still like to check manually, to see if the identification was correct. Additionally, Elena has added Wikidata identifiers to the records in the CERL Thesaurus (see highlighted section below), which should help other organisations that wish to add CERL Thesaurus and Wikidata identifiers to their records.

### Osmont, Jean Baptiste Louis

Record ID	cni00072908
URI	http://thesaurus.cerl.org/record/cni00072908
Biographical Data	1710 - 1773
Last Edit	2019-05-03

### Related Records

No Related Records found

### Same As

Wikidata  
Wikidata description set

### General Note

Buchhändler  
Franz. Buchhändler in Paris

## Introducing the latest CERL member: University of Manchester Library

[www.library.manchester.ac.uk/special-collections/](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/special-collections/)

The University of Manchester Library is one of five National Research Libraries and the third largest academic library in the UK. The Special Collections are very diverse, with enormous research potential across an array of subjects. Rare books range from the landmarks of early-European printing, such as Gutenberg and Caxton, to examples of street literature and seditious texts. Manuscripts span four thousand years and over fifty languages, from Gilgamesh to Elizabeth Gaskell. There are also hundreds of archives, with particular strengths in recent and contemporary literature, nonconformity, and British economic, social and political history. Most of the Special Collections are housed in the gothic splendour of the John Rylands Library in the heart of Manchester, while the institutional archives of the University of Manchester's many scientific, medical and map collections are located in the Main Library on the campus just south of the city centre.

The John Rylands Library was founded by Enriqueta Augustina Rylands (1843–1908), as a memorial to her husband John (1801–88); he had developed the family firm of Rylands & Sons into the largest cotton enterprise in Britain and left a fortune of over £2.5m. The JRL opened to the public on 1 January 1900. Enriqueta's original intention had been to create a public library with an emphasis on Nonconformity. However, the purchase of two major collections transformed her foundation into a research library of international importance. In 1892 she purchased from the 5th Earl Spencer what was generally regarded as the finest library then in private ownership, comprising 43,000 volumes, including over 3,000 incunables and many notable Bibles. In 1901 she bought a collection of over 6,000 manuscripts in over 50 languages, assembled by the 25th and 26th Earls of Crawford. This confirmed the John Rylands Library's status as a research library of international standing.



The University of Manchester and its predecessor, Owens College (founded in 1851), had also built up important special collections, reflecting the research interests of the institution. They include 8,000 volumes of Classical and Renaissance literature bequeathed by Prof. Richard Copley Christie (1830–1901); 7,000 volumes on Biblical literature, theology and history from James Prince Lee, Bishop of Manchester; the 6,500 volume library of E. A. Freeman devoted almost exclusively to history; and 4,000 volumes on chemistry and physics from the libraries of Robert Angus Smith and Edward Schunck. Another major strength of the University Library is its holdings of medical books, largely from the library of the Manchester Medical Society (70,000 volumes). There is also one of the largest map collections in the UK (140,000 maps).

The John Rylands Library had always maintained close formal and informal links with the University of Manchester, and the two libraries merged in 1972.

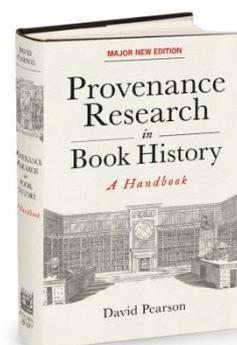
Our vast and rich collections help us to deliver a world-class library and information service for The University of Manchester. While our primary objective is to meet the learning, teaching and research needs of University members, we are also fully committed to widening access to our services to individual researchers, local schools and others in the regional community. The John Rylands Research Institute was founded in 2013 as a partnership between the Library and the University's Faculty of Humanities, to 'uncover, explore, unravel and reveal' hidden ideas and knowledge contained within the Special Collections, by means of fellowships, studentships, cataloguing and resource discovery projects and public engagement activities.

*Julianne Simpson, Manchester University Library*

## Publication: Provenance Research in Book History

David Pearson (Bodleian Library, April 2019 - ISBN: 9781851245109)

Since this handbook was first published in 1994, interest in the book as a material object, and in the ways in which books have been owned, read and used, has burgeoned. Now established as a standard reference work, David Pearson has revised and expanded the book with a new set of over 200 colour illustrations, updated bibliographies and extended international coverage of libraries and online resources. It covers the history and understanding of inscriptions, bookplates, ink and binding stamps, mottoes and heraldry, and describes how to identify owners and track down books from particular collections via library and sale catalogues. Each section features an evaluated bibliography listing further sources, both online and in print. Illustrated examples of the many kinds of ownership evidence which can be found in books are also shown throughout.




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

The HPB Database now contains around 8 million bibliographical records for books printed between 1450 and ca. 1850. In the last few months, the records of the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue have been updated with the latest information, and two new data sets, both from Greece, have been added to the HPB, namely collections contributed by the Laskaridis Foundation (this is a [direct link](#) to the dataset) and by the Gennadius Library, the library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (this is a [direct link](#) to the dataset).

The Historical Library of the Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, comprising more than 500,000 items that occupy three buildings and two storage areas, consists of some 80 individual named book and archival collections, previously belonging to important personalities of Greek letters. Those include more than 10,000 early-printed titles, currently undergoing descriptive cataloguing. They mostly focus on subjects pertaining to Greece, including: ancient and byzantine Greek texts, travellers' accounts on the Eastern Mediterranean, and a very important collection of rare 19th-century pamphlets in Modern Greek. The Foundation also holds the second largest collection of incunabula in Greece, consisting of 115 incunable editions.

The Gennadius Library's collection reflects the many interests of its founder, Joannes Gennadius (1844-1932). Gennadius began his collection of books, manuscripts, and works of art after 1870 and by 1895 his Library had reached its full growth. He conceived it as being a comprehensive



collection on Greece emphasising continuity from antiquity to the present day. His aim was "to form a library that represents the creative genius of Greece at all periods, the influence of her arts and sciences upon the western world, and the impression created by her natural beauty upon the traveller." Yet, the collection covers not only the history of Greece but also of the neighbouring regions such as the Balkans, the history of the Jews, the history of the Near East and Turkish history. A significant portion of the collection focuses on the History of the Book.

# Digital Humanities in European research libraries – a survey

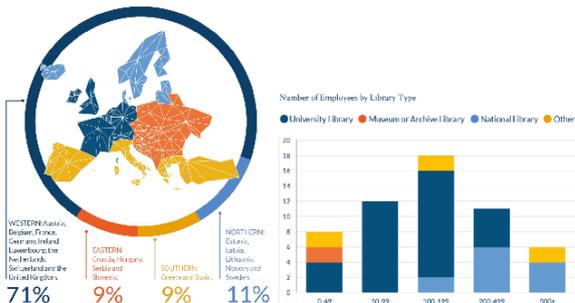
Lotte Wilms, Andreas Degkwitz, Caleb Derven, Marian Lefferts, Kirsty Lingstadt, Liam O'Dwyer, Demmy Verbeke & Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage WG



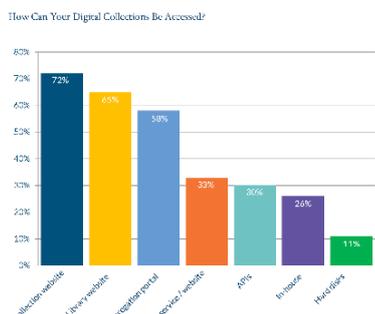
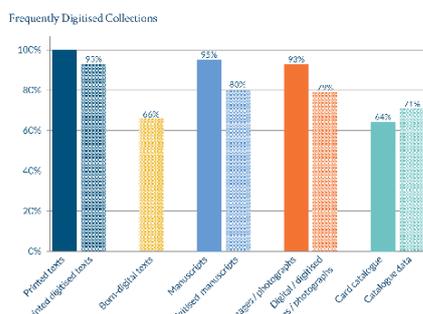
## Participants

56 participants - 54 institutions - 20 countries

Full report available at [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3247286](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3247286)



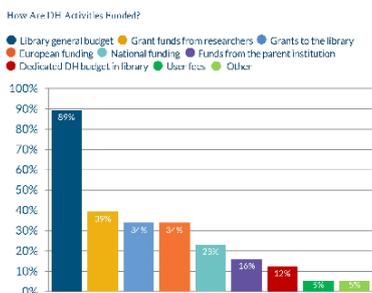
## 4. Reflect the full breadth of your collections



By broadening your scope to the full width of your collection your DH offering can be strengthened. Work from your strengths and make access as easy as possible.

## 1. Create a goal or vision for your library

A defined framework clarifies your goal and manages expectations of partners. Set up your organisation with enough resources to make sure you can also reach this goal.



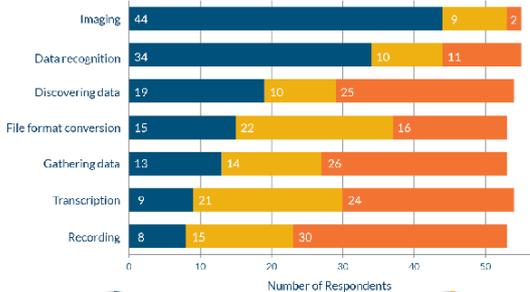
## 2. Measure your impact

Identify early on how you will measure your achievements and impact. This will help you define what works well and what needs to be re-evaluated.

## 3. Select your activities wisely

Which Data Capture Activities Does the Library Undertake Under the DH Flag?

● We do this regularly ● We do this on an ad-hoc basis ● We don't do this



Libraries are most active in data capture, creation and storage. Build on your (collection) strengths to decide what works best for you.

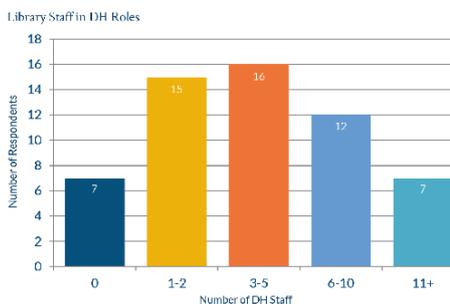
## 5. Have confidence in your expertise

As the creator of your digital collections, you are the expert. You are therefore the ideal partner, as you know what has been digitised, how it's been digitised, what licenses apply, what works well and what probably wouldn't.

Strengthening the position of libraries as partner in DH will be a core theme for the WG for the next two years.

## 6. Involve all your colleagues, not just the obvious ones

DH activities are most successful if they are supported by a large number of library staff. Work together to build your skills and ideas.



## 7. Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate!

DOMAIN	LIBRARIES WHICH IDENTIFIED RESEARCHERS FROM THIS DOMAIN AMONG THEIR USERS	
	Percentage	Number
History	76%	41
Literature	59%	32
Media Studies	44%	24
Linguistics	41%	22
Modern Languages	32%	17
History of Science	32%	17
Classical Languages	30%	16
Theology	24%	13
Computer Science	24%	13
Philosophy	19%	10
Other STEM Sciences	9%	5
Other	22%	12



Building your network in DH is crucial, as collaboration is key. Once you have defined your goals and activities go out and disseminate your data, your team and your ideas.

Special thanks to Friedel Grant for the design of all graphs, tables and the word cloud. We also wish to thank all contributors and our WG's members for their input.

**Join the WG!**