



CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

# NEWSLETTER

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

Issue No. 12

December 2005

## Hand Press Book Database

### RLG introduces Phrase Searching

Discovery in Eureka databases, such as the Hand Press Book Database, can be done through various powerful search options including simple, advanced, and command-line searching. Browsing of author, title, journal, and subject lists allows users to quickly identify pertinent results. The multiple links within records let users pinpoint particular items or broaden the scope of their research. But, up until now, it's been difficult to locate phrases with the desired precision when executing some searches. The problem was solved in late August 2005 with the implementation of phrase searching. By simply enclosing your search terms in double quotation marks, Eureka will retrieve multiple words that are directly adjacent to one another in the specified word order. Phrase searching is particularly helpful when using Keyword, Title Word, Subject Word, or Abstract Word. You can also use phrase searching in a command-line search.

Sharon Vaughn-Lahman (RLG)  
[RLG Focus, Issue 76, October 2005](#)

## Adding new files to the HPB Database

RLG's server migration to the Sun and IBM open server environment has caused numerous difficulties. Staff are familiarizing themselves with the new software and IBM has found it a challenge to work with such a large and complex database system. As a result, the conversion programmes for HPB Database file loading have experienced some delay. CERL and RLG are working actively at present on a co-ordinated plan for the period 2005/06 to 2007/08 to ensure that the full complement of planned file loads for the period 2004/05 to 2007/08 has been achieved by November 2008. Members will be regularly kept up-to-date with progress.

## Accessing the Hand Press Book Database

### IP recognition

CERL Members may set up your Hand Press Book Database access (for example in a reading room) with IP recognition, so that it is not necessary for the user to enter the account and password. Since 1 March 2005 RLG have made new logon URLs for Eureka® databases available for improved authentication services. If you have not yet implemented the new logon URLs you should do so by 15 February 2006. If your logon URL begins with [autoweb.rlg.org/cgi-bin/webscr/](http://autoweb.rlg.org/cgi-bin/webscr/), you need to change to the new logon URL. See Logon Setup at [http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=984](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=984), for information on creating your new URLs. If your logon URL begins with [eureka.rlg.org/Eureka/zgate2.prod?ACTION=INIT](http://eureka.rlg.org/Eureka/zgate2.prod?ACTION=INIT), you are already using the new logon URL and you do not need to do anything further.

### Z39.50

Please note that as a result of RLG's migration of its databases, their Z39.50 configuration has altered. If you have not already done so, you will have to reconfigure your Z39.50 client as well. Details may be found on [http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=715](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=715). Unlike RLIN PUT, MARC export does not differentiate between a record that you own and one that you do not own. The fields exported in both cases are the same. It is also important to note that local fields are now exported: see the *Guide to RLIN21 MARC Export for Record Supply* ([http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=14721](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=14721)) for changes in fields exported from the RLG Z39.50 server before and after April 2005.

## Cross searching Manuscripts and Early Printed Material

### Progress Report

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, it was decided that the Manuscripts Project should be continued to a second stage, with the aim of a) enhancements to the Crossnet pilot; b) an investigation into technical solutions for federated searching as adopted by The European Library; and c) formulating a clear view on how to proceed with an operational search engine after the project phase; and that a suggestion by Professor Göranson to investigate the possibilities of developing a portal to search data harvested through the OAI protocol, in line with work carried out in the Electronic Publishing Centre, University Library of Uppsala, should be followed up. The newly-appointed Project Manager Drs Liesbeth Oskamp took up these tasks set out by the AGM from 1 March 2005 onwards.

Subsequently the Project Manager and the Chairman of the Manuscripts Working Group proposed to limit enhancements to the Crossnet pilot to adjusting the search fields in the search engine. As a result, comparing the search results of both pilots would be more effective, as both the Crossnet and the Uppsala pilots would offer equal access points. After consultation with the Advisory Task Group, the Executive Committee ratified this proposal at its Copenhagen meeting in June 2005.

Work on the Uppsala pilot started in June 2005, and at the end of August the first version was ready for testing. After feedback was received, the second version became available at the end of September 2005. Like the Crossnet pilot it gives access to data from the Czech Manuscriptorium database and Digital Scriptorium (USA). In addition to these databases, Uppsala's Waller collection and the Digital Object Repository of the National Library of Australia are searchable as well.

*Search interface of the pilot developed by EPC Uppsala*

In October 2005 a large group of testers (members of the CERL Manuscripts Working Group and Advisory Task Group, and manuscripts scholars, curators and database experts from all areas of Europe) were asked to test and compare the pilots. The results showed a clear preference for the Uppsala pilot, regarding 'look-and-feel' aspects, and response times, reliability and user friendliness. Also, in the Uppsala pilot searching with the aid of the CERL Thesaurus had been successfully implemented. This led to a clear recommendation to the AGM, supported by the Advisory Task Group and the Executive Committee, to continue the development of a cross searching facility with the Uppsala team. Following discussion, the AGM accepted this recommendation unanimously.

For 2006, a provisional work plan has been drafted: adding more databases has the highest priority, next to building an overarching portal which will make it possible to search manuscripts and, for instance, the HPB simultaneously. Also on the 2006 agenda are the implementation of context sensitive help texts and smaller enhancements to the search interface. It has been agreed with the National Library in The Hague that Drs Liesbeth Oskamp will continue to work on the cross searching facility for a further two years (on secondment for a set number of hours per week). CERL expresses its warm appreciation to the National Library of the Netherlands for making this secondment possible.



### EPC, Uppsala

From left to right:  
 Ronnie Kolehmainen (EPC, Uppsala),  
 Stefan Andersson (EPC, Uppsala),  
 Liesbeth Oskamp (CERL), and  
 Eva Müller (EPC, Uppsala)

The EPC Uppsala pilot is available at <https://diva.uu.se/test/cerl/>.



## CERL Thesaurus

### Linking to McKerrow's Printer's Devices

One of CERL's strategic aims is to build up access to related resources important for the study of the early European book as part of the developing concept of a portal resource for early European printing.

In collaboration with the Bibliographical Society in the United Kingdom, CERL has embarked on the development of Ronald B. McKerrow *Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland 1485-1640* as an online resource. The Royal Library in Copenhagen has digitised McKerrow, created links between images and text, and has created indexes that will enable the CERL Thesaurus to link to this data. First results are available at [http://www.kb.dk/elib/bhs/mckerrow\\_files/index.htm](http://www.kb.dk/elib/bhs/mckerrow_files/index.htm). The Data Conversion Group (DCG) is in the process of linking from the CERL Thesaurus to images of the printers' devices as well as digitised pages of descriptions of devices. About 420 records for printers that were not yet represented in the CERL Thesaurus have been added. The linked images may be accessed through the CERL Thesaurus test environment at <http://db1-www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/Cerl>.

The McKerrow project is an important initiative, the expansion of which is a firm initiative in CERL's Development Plan. CERL's Advisory Task Group intends to identify further resources that could be added. When further printers' devices become available (from sources other than McKerrow), these will also be made available through the CERL Thesaurus.

### Expanding the CERL Thesaurus

CERL continues to expand the CERL Thesaurus:

	12/6/02	11/3/03	5/3/04	1/3/05	21/11/05
<i>Personal Names</i>	12,173	62,436	85,948	594,289	648,420
<i>Corporate Body Names</i>			1	3,725	3,724
<i>Imprint Names</i>	6,068	12,252	13,804	13,812	16,023
<i>Imprint Places</i>	2,808	3,624	3,642	3,599	4,046
<i>Sources</i>	3	11	15	2,104	2,104
<b>Total number of records</b>	<b>21,037</b>	<b>78,325</b>	<b>103,410</b>	<b>617,529</b>	<b>674,317</b>

DCG are currently preparing c. 10,000 authority records for pre-1830 printers and publishers from SUB Göttingen and its Cluster Libraries for addition to the CERL Thesaurus

### Adding a Notepad facility to the CERL Thesaurus

The Data Conversion Group has developed a Notepad facility which is currently linked to the CERL Thesaurus in its test environment (<http://db1-www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/Cerl>).

Through this Notepad, CERL Thesaurus users may record annotations about a specific element of a CERL Thesaurus record, and may, if wished, edit these annotations at a later date. Other CERL Thesaurus users may view these record-specific annotations, and can even record responses to previous comments. In this way, the Notepad facilitates a dialogue among CERL Thesaurus users.

The present CERL Thesaurus interface will be replaced by the modernised and improved version of the CERL Thesaurus interface by mid-2006. This is also when the new features, such as the links to McKerrow's Printers' Devices and the Notepad facility will become available. Until this time, you can examine the new features in the test environment, and send suggestions for improvements to the Data Conversion Group at [convert@gbv.de](mailto:convert@gbv.de).

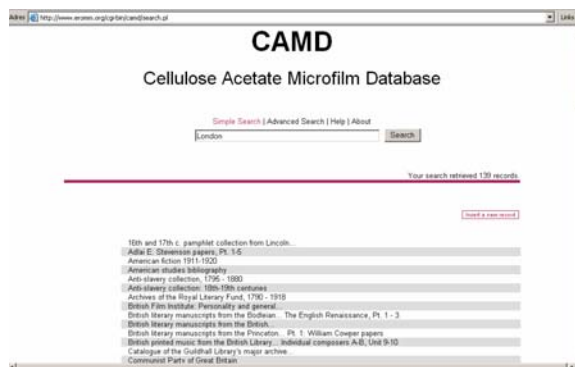
The screenshot shows the CERL Thesaurus web interface. At the top, there is a search bar with '3 persons' and a search button. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs: 'Contents of the CE', 'About the CE', 'Help', 'Contact', and 'Global Display'. The main content area displays a record for 'Church of England, Province of Canterbury, Archbishop (1559-1576, Parker)'. The record is shown in a 'short display of record' format, with fields for 'Record Identifier', 'Headings', 'Biographical Dates', and 'Activity Notes'. Red arrows point to various options: 'short display of record', 'full display', 'standard forms', 'internal format', and 'show related records'.

## Cellulose Acetate Microfilm Database (CAMD) – a new service hosted by EROMM

<http://www.eromm.org/camd/>

The ever more pressing problem of Cellulose Acetate as a film base has prompted EROMM to build a new tool, the Cellulose Acetate Microfilm Database or CAMD. It aims to help libraries and archives assess the danger presented by acetate in their microform holdings and to offer mutual support by sharing information. The major libraries that constitute the CERL membership are bound to be affected rather more by the acetate problem than ordinary libraries, which have neither acquired microforms in large quantities nor produced service copies for their customers.

Cellulose acetate replaced nitrate as a film base in the 1940's. At the time, it was called "safety film" because it was comparatively more stable and less flammable than its predecessor. Acetate was used as a film base almost exclusively until the early 1980's, when it was replaced by stable polyester. Regrettably acetate is not chemically stable and will deteriorate under normal conditions, slowly at first and then with accelerated speed (with a vinegar-like smell in the final stages). The legacy it leaves behind – large parts of film collections on an unstable film base – is a serious one. It is generally accepted that the only way to slow the deterioration rate is cold storage – this buys time to assess more interventional options such as duplicating, scanning or re-filming. There is not much time left to take urgent action. If a library waits too long the film layer carrying the optical information will tear and split off from the film base.



Some libraries have already surveyed part or all of their microfilm holdings. By recording at least some of the most important collections in CAMD and by adding specific data gathered in their survey they can help other libraries to assess the possible magnitude of their acetate problem. Any collection that has been tested for acetate in one library needs not to be tested again in another library, if in fact it has been produced around the same time. Sharing this information saves libraries money and staff time. At the same time libraries will have the opportunity to establish contact with others holding the same collections to come to a coordinated approach in searching a solution.

When we learn from a distributor of microfilm that acetate was not used after a certain date, we can concentrate on the material acquired from this distributor before that date. In this context, 'distributor' may designate a company producing primary film such as Kodak or Agfa, but also publishing houses, archives, libraries and other agencies that produce master microfilm or service copies. Libraries in particular have been supplying service copies to their customers including other libraries; very often they are unclear about the type of film that was used. In view of the magnitude of the problem every distributor should feel obliged to make every effort to establish what film base was used during which period. Information on microfilm distributors clearly is the most important type of record in CAMD. Where a distributor is unable to provide complete information about the use of acetate film, they are nevertheless encouraged to provide preliminary information. Not infrequently, a commercial distributor has ceased to exist and/or their assets have been taken over by some other agency. The latter may or may not continue the production or distribution of microfilm. In such cases it will be all the more important to determine the former distributor's practice.

CAMD wants to encourage open discussion amongst users as well as the exchange of information, experience and expertise. CAMD may not be used for outright advertising but is offering the opportunity to link to the web site of companies with relevant experience and knowledge. It is freely accessible to users worldwide, who are encouraged to add new data. The basic set of preliminary records has been created by EROMM, but from now on CAMD is relying on data to be contributed directly by its users.

Contributions to the Cellulose Acetate Microfilm Forum (CAMF), a conference organized by the British Library in May 2005, have been published in the LIBER Quarterly vol. 15 (2005), n° 2.

*Werner Schwartz, Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen*

## MAR.T.E. - Marche Tipografiche Editoriali

<http://193.206.215.4/marte/>

The MAR.T.E. – Marche Tipografiche Editoriali – database provides digital access to printers' and publishers' devices of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian editions. MAR.T.E. was initiated at the same time as the "Progetto Seicento" (17<sup>th</sup> Century Project) of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome – a project to carry out book-in-hand cataloguing of 30,000 editions of the 17th century, the records for which are added to the SBN(A).

In MAR.T.E., the entry for each device includes a digital picture, the name of the printer, publisher or bookseller who used the device, the description of the main figurative elements, as well as keywords drawn from the description. It also includes the place and the first and final date of utilization of the device (both derived from the editions examined), the dimensions and bibliographical references. The ICONCLASS code, which is included, allows consultation of the database without linguistic barriers.

Printers, publishers or booksellers can have one or more trademarks, in several different or variant devices. The search available by name can be taken directly from the list in a normalized form, accepted (A) or not (R), or by the full name, in a normalized form – surname, name – or an abbreviated form with at least three letters.

It is also possible to search for a specific device by entering either the identification number, words in the description, keywords, place, date, standard citation and/or ICONCLASS code.

The Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Rome is still adding to MAR.T.E.: a further 27,000 17<sup>th</sup>-century editions are to be completed. Thanks to a Cataloguing facility, external users may also add to the database.

Furthermore, the Modify facility allows users to propose corrections, references to entries that are already in the database, or add new bibliographic information concerning devices, printers, publishers or booksellers. To take part in cataloguing or modifying in MAR.T.E., you need to register.

Access to the MAR.T.E. database is available through the web site of the BNC at <http://www.bncrm.librari.beniculturali.it/> or via <http://193.206.215.4/marte/>.



**MAR.T.E.**  
Marche Tipografiche Editoriali

To take part in Cataloguing in MAR.T.E. you have to be registered. You simply have to send the form below, duly fulfilled. You will receive your access Password by E-mail

Name (\*)

Surname (\*)

E-Mail (\*)

Address (\*)

City

Institution

User Name (\*)

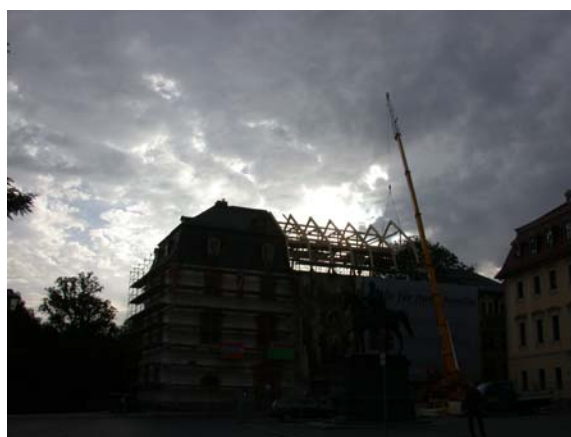
I agree that my personal data are processed and used only to have access to the Cataloguing process in MAR.T.E.(\*)



*Marina Venier, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale- Roma*

## Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar, Germany

The fire of 2 September 2004 was a grave setback for the Library. However, by 2007, the 200th anniversary of the death of Duchess Anna Amalia, one of the most beautiful library halls in Germany will have been reconstructed. The second gallery of the rococo hall and the roof above have not survived the fire, but the building itself, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, can be stabilized and restored, thanks to intelligent fire fighting. The most complex task is drying out the building, into which water equal to twice the normal annual rainfall poured. The Library's rococo hall will reappear in its former splendour; we celebrated the 'topping out' on 24 October 2005.



The most severe damage was to the books. 50,000 volumes have been completely lost, and 62,000 volumes have been badly damaged by water and fire. This includes two-fifths of the books published before 1850, i.e. more than one-tenth of the entire collection of the Herzogin Anna Amalia Library. On the night of the fire, the first water-soaked books were individually wrapped and taken to the Zentrum für Bucherhaltung in Leipzig to be freeze-dried. Over the next few days, the wet codices (34,000 volumes) salvaged from the burned building were also sent to the freezing facilities. The 28,000 items rescued from the charred remains can only be partly restored. As soon as an exact analysis is possible, it will be possible to identify those books where the loss of text is too great or only fragments of books remain, and where replacement would be more sensible than attempting restoration. That means that the estimated number of 50,000 lost books will have to be increased in due course.

The rescue, cleaning and drying of the damaged books went very well, thanks to the excellent co-operation of all involved. The books will be returned to Weimar bit-by-bit up to spring 2006, and stored in a rented temporary repository. All the damaged items must first be identified in the Library catalogues, because at present no one can say for certain which books were destroyed by the fire and which were damaged and can be returned. The damaged books will be documented and classified in the database of lost and damaged books (<http://www.anna-amalia-bibliothek.de>). Large-scale restoration will begin in summer 2006. Part of the restoration will be carried out in the Library's own workshop for book restoration and conservation or in the workshops of partner libraries, and part will be commissioned from third parties. The restoration of tens of thousands of damaged books is a challenge that will occupy the Library for more than ten years. Meanwhile, about 10,000 volumes that were affected only by minor water damage have already been returned to the ordinary stacks and are in use again.

Two-thirds of the books lost in the fire are most likely replaceable, by watching the second-hand market over many years, and if the necessary purchasing funds are available. On average, each book will cost €800. It has been an enormous help that bibliophiles and libraries throughout the world have offered to contribute titles in the database of lost and damaged books to the Herzogin Anna Amalia Library. In summer 2005 we started systematically to acquire new copies of early books, nearly 4,000 volumes at present. Nevertheless, the collection cannot be reconstructed on a one-to-one basis. The immediate care of the books was possible with the help of the state of Thuringia, and the fast and generous immediate help of the national government. However, private support is required for the subsequent restoration. To do this, a sum of almost 20 million Euros is needed. To replace the books we need a further 47 million Euros. To date, the sum of 10 million Euros has been donated by 18,000 individuals, businesses and foundations, and collected through benefit events and school projects, the sale of publications and art auctions.



On 4 February 2005, the Library acquired the use of a very beautiful new building in the neighbouring palace surroundings with more than 7,000 square metres of new library space. A square building built into the old courtyard, a 'book cube' with sixteen glass skylights, is the nucleus of the new complex. 100,000 volumes, sorted according to subject areas, are available in the new study centre, directly accessible from the shelves, as well as 130 modern study places for use by researchers. The working conditions in the new research centre reflect the standard of a 21<sup>st</sup>-century research library.

The Herzogin Anna Amalia Library was seriously damaged in the largest library fire in Germany since the Second World War. However, we must not forget that the largest part of the valuable collection was left untouched (900,000 volumes). In the future, the Herzogin Anna Amalia Library will once again be able to fulfil its function of being a living monument to European literary history and an active library. The thread of cultural tradition will be tied anew to future generations.

*Michael Knoche, Director HAAB*

### **Annual General Meeting, Rome 12 November 2005: Chairman's Note**

The Consortium's 2005 Annual General Meeting was held in Rome on 12 November 2005, hosted by the Biblioteca nazionale centrale. The warm appreciation of Consortium members is extended to Dr Osvaldo Avallone, Director, and to Dr Marina Venier, Head of Rare Books, and their colleagues for very efficient meeting arrangements and generous hospitality throughout the three days of meetings of the Advisory Technical Group, the Executive Committee, the well-attended seminar co-hosted by the Consortium and the Library, and the Annual General Meeting.

The annual volume of CERL Papers, *Books and their Owners: Provenance Information and the European Cultural Heritage*, London 2005, has been dedicated to the late Dr Michael Smethurst, Chairman 1994-2000. With the agreement of Mrs Mary Smethurst and family members, the Consortium will also publish Dr Smethurst's bibliography, which is being compiled by Mr M J Crump, a colleague of Mike's in the British Library.

A very important decision made in May 2005 after testing of the market was the awarding of the post-2006 contract to host the Hand Press Book (HPB) Database to RLG. The members ratified this decision at the Annual General Meeting, when they received a report from Dr Kristian Jensen, Chairman of the Assessment Working Group, which had assessed the submissions received. Members were glad to welcome Ms Susan Yoder of RLG to the meeting in Rome, and the Consortium looks forward to the continuance of a profitable and successful professional relationship with RLG.

The most important decision taken at the 2005 Annual General Meeting was the acceptance of the pilot project for a cross-searching facility for manuscripts developed by the Electronic Publishing Centre, Uppsala University Library. The development carried out by Dr Eva Müller and her colleagues had been overseen for CERL during the year by Drs Liesbeth Oskamp, who had been seconded from the Royal Library in The Hague as Project Manager for the Manuscripts Project, and by the Manuscripts Working Group chaired by Mr Ivan Boserup of the Royal Library, Copenhagen. We are most grateful to them for their dedicated and enthusiastic work, and we express our thanks to the Royal Library, The Hague, for agreeing to second Drs Oskamp to work on the project. After detailed discussion, Consortium members decided that the service development should continue with Uppsala University Library's Electronic Publishing Centre (EPC); that the search facility should concentrate on manuscripts; and that an 'overarching portal' for cross-searching a range of databases (HPB, ESTC, MSS and others) should be investigated with them. In coming to its recommendations to members, the Executive Committee considered that this development was crucial to the Consortium's future strategic direction, took an important step towards the goal of cross-searching historical materials and broadened the range of CERL services; the Uppsala development context was the most promising, and offered the greatest potential for

wider CERL development; and the Uppsala option offered a research-oriented environment, and a general ethos that was sympathetic to the needs of research libraries and scholarship. Further details about the development can be found in section [Cross searching Manuscripts and Early Printed Material](#) above.

The members received the Treasurer's report for 2004/2005, confirming that the Consortium's finances were stable, and approved the budget for 2005/2006. The Consortium is grateful for the careful oversight of its accounts by Drs Jan Bos, Treasurer, and Drs Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager. In the light of the decision to proceed with the manuscripts service development and CERL portal, and with other service developments identified by members in the recent questionnaire, it is now necessary to consider ways of broadening the Consortium's finances, and to this end the Finance Committee will be revived under the chairmanship of the Treasurer, Drs Jan Bos.

Dr Werner Schwartz gave an excellent presentation on recent developments on the CERL Thesaurus. In particular, he demonstrated the new Scholar's Notepad, which makes it possible for scholars to note amendments to individual records; the notes will be visible to subsequent users. He also showed the links from the Thesaurus to the images from R B McKerrow's printers' devices to 1640. The Consortium is very grateful to Dr Schwartz and his colleagues in Göttingen for all their work on the CERL Thesaurus.

Policy papers on building up the Hand Press Book (HPB) Database, on the role that CERL should play in developing digital resources and on services development were presented by the Executive Manager, Drs Marian Lefferts; and on membership promotion by the Secretary, Dr David Shaw, and were endorsed by the membership. Reports were received and approved on the CERL and EROMM discussions, and on wider developments in European research library organizations, as well as the normal reports from the Secretary and the Executive Manager. Dr Mirna Willer, Chairman, presented the annual report of the Advisory Task Group, and drew attention to its longer-term planning proposals. Ms Susan Yoder of RLG gave a very comprehensive report on developments at RLG and the recent migration, and expressed RLG's pleasure in continuing its professional relationship with CERL.

Details of the elections for CERL Directors may be found below (*see* Organisational News). The 2006 Annual General Meeting will take place in the National Széchényi Library in Budapest on Saturday 11 November 2006, at the kind invitation of the Director, Dr Istvan Monok.

*Ann Matheson, Chairman*

## **Many into one**

CERL Seminar 2005

The 2005 Annual CERL Seminar took place in the splendid conference hall of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Roma, on 11 November, the day before CERL's Annual General Meeting. The title chosen this year was 'Many into one': this was intended to explore the problems and opportunities involved in creating shared catalogues of older books, such as CERL's Hand Press Book Database. About 170 people attended: the largest number so far for any of our Seminars. The local organiser at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Dr Marina Venier, had done excellent publicity for the event in Italian library circles and had arranged simultaneous translation in Italian and English.

After welcoming addresses by Dr Osvaldo Avallone (BNC, Roma) and Dr Ann Matheson (CERL), the first paper was given by Dr Marco Paoli, Director of the Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico, Rome, who spoke on post-war Italian developments in collective catalogues: 'ICCU and the national collective catalogues SBN Index and EDIT16: from data gathering to fruition?'. This was followed by a paper by Professor Mauro Guerrini (University of Florence) on 'The language of the catalogue and the form of heading: vernacular, original, conventional' which looked at the development of cataloguing rules and practices in an area which is especially relevant to CERL's Hand Press Book Database and the CERL Thesaurus.



©Laboratorio fotografico, Biblioteca nazionale centrale, Roma



After coffee, Professor Neil Harris (University of Udine) gave a paper entitled ‘Tribal lays and the history of the fingerprint’ which examined the schemes for defining a unique identifier or ‘fingerprint’ for early printed books which would be usable as a search term in an on-line database. The morning session ended with a presentation from Dr Marina Venier and colleagues (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome) of their database of Italian printers’ devices of the seventeenth century.

The first paper of the afternoon was to have been given by Professor Géza Bakonyi (University of Szeged) who was unable to attend for reasons of health. In his absence, Dr Judit Vízkelety-Ecsedy (National Széchényi Library, Budapest) read his presentation on ‘Old in the New: The XML Database of the Hungarian Shared Catalogue of Older Books’ which described a project funded by the Ministry of National Heritage to build a shared catalogue of pre-1850 books in the historical geographical territory of Hungary which will include links to digital images of the books. This was followed by M. Florent Palluault (Catalogue collectif de France, Bibliothèque nationale de France) who described the problems and opportunities of this collaborative project to create a distributed catalogue which will access the separate catalogues of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, SUDOC (the database of the French higher education institutions), and the retrospective conversion of the card catalogues of the French municipal libraries in a paper called ‘The Catalogue collectif de France: today and tomorrow’. The final speaker of the day was Mr Edwin Schroeder (Yale University Library) who described developments in rare-books cataloguing practice at Yale in a paper called ‘How do patrons find what they didn’t know they were looking for: the growth in the use of access points in rare book cataloguing: an American rare book library perspective’, looking especially at the use of terminological thesauri.

CERL intends to publish the papers from this Seminar as CERL Papers VI.

### Data Conversion Group

Alex Jahnke of the Data Conversion Group has taken part-time employment at Hanover's University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Fachhochschule) where he is giving courses for future librarians and documentalists. Alex had to reduce his working hours at DCG, and for this reason the team has been strengthened by Jana Hentschke. She studied Information Management at University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule) in Hanover, where she specialised in computing, management of special libraries and information brokerage. Her thesis involved the development of a Web OPAC for a network of hospitals



in Hanover with special focus on administration of printed as well as electronic journals that are to be handled by non-librarian staff. She graduated in August 2005, and since then gained practical experience at the documentation department of Gruner and Jahr (a publishing house) and in website management for CTS Eventim in Hamburg. When she was a student, she spent one semester at London Metropolitan University in their programme ‘Information Services Management’. CERL welcomes Jana to the DCG team.

### Organisational News

#### New Directors

At the 2005 AGM there were four vacancies for election to the Board of Directors, two Directors having completed their three-year period of office and two Directors no longer in post in a CERL member institution. Dr Kai Ekholm (Helsinki University Library, National Library of Finland – second term), M. Lucien Scotti (Bibliothèque nationale de France), and Dr Istvan Monok (National Széchényi Library, Budapest) were elected unanimously. In the absence of a fourth nomination, CERL’s Articles of Association (section 15) permit a retiring Director to be appointed for an additional three-year term. The AGM unanimously accepted the proposal to re-appoint Dr Vladimir Zaitsev (National Library of Russia, St Petersburg) as a CERL Director for a further three-year term. There were no vacancies on the Executive Committee.

CERL warmly welcomes all new Directors and looks forward to working with them. Warm thanks are due to departing Directors Dr François Dupuigrenet-Desrousilles (formerly of ENSSIB, Lyon) and Mme Renée Herbouze (formerly of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris), for their invaluable contributions to CERL’s work.

### Annual General Meeting 2006 - Budapest

The 2006 Annual General Meeting will take place at the National Széchényi Library in Budapest, Hungary (Saturday 11 November 2006), with the annual CERL Seminar on the previous day (Friday 10 November), and meetings of the Advisory Task Group and the Executive Committee on Thursday 9 November 2006.



©National Széchényi Library, Budapest

CERL Seminars aim to look at new themes in work on old books, especially in the context of the Hand Press Book Database and other CERL activities.

This may for examples include: new problems and new solutions in cataloguing early printed books; the new DCRM and ISBD(A) cataloguing rules; character set problems for input and display for early books; metadata registries for early book information; recording detailed provenance and important information. The title of the CERL Seminar in Budapest will be published in the June Newsletter.

### Process for Election of Chairman in November 2006

Dr Ann Matheson, CERL Chairman will come to the end of her second term of office at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee intends to set up a Search Committee and establish a job description and profile for a new Chairman in March 2006. This is to be approved by the Directors at their April 2006 meeting. A call for nominations will be sent out to all CERL members in April. The Search Committee is to put forward a nomination to the Executive Committee and Directors in September. The nominations are to be circulated to all CERL members in October with an invitation to put forward alternative names. Finally, the election will be held at the 2006 Annual General Meeting in November 2006.

### Promotion of CERL

#### CERL Website

CERL's website will be revised in 2006, offering a new lay-out, design and contents. Information from CERL members about accessing their reading rooms; contact details for specialist staff; the availability of a copy-on-demand service and much more will enhance the new website.

#### Presentations in 2006

- March 2006 – London (to be confirmed)
- June 2006 – seminar in Lyon
- July 2006 – SHARP conference, The Hague
- November 2006 – CERL Seminar, Budapest

### CERL Papers V

CERL's fifth collection of conference proceedings *Books and their owners: provenance information and the European cultural heritage* containing papers presented on 12 November 2004 at the CERL Conference hosted by the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, was presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2005. All members of CERL will receive one copy of this volume. Further copies can be ordered from the Secretariat, price £15.00 including postage and packing (for CERL members the price is £10.00 plus postage and packing). To purchase a copy please contact [secretariat@cerl.org](mailto:secretariat@cerl.org).



**The Secretariat wishes  
all colleagues in CERL member institutions  
a very happy and productive 2006.**

