

Where can I access the CERL databases?

To search the various databases, go to the CERL website <https://www.cerl.org>

CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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UNCOVERING THE COVERS

WORKSHOP ON BOOKBINDINGS, PROVENANCE AND WATERMARKS ON THE INTERNET

27-28 May 2019 Uppsala University Library

Programme and registration

Promoting Europe's cultural heritage in print and manuscript

The Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) aims to facilitate, enhance, and improve the use and impact of printed and manuscript cultural heritage material. CERL raises the awareness of cultural heritage collections and their content among scholars and interested parties in a wide community. CERL is service and partnership oriented by offering its members and the library, archival, and scholarly world at large high quality digital resources and tools using modern technology, by arranging seminars and workshops, and by providing cooperation within its membership and with other library and cultural heritage organisations. The organisation was formed in 1992 on the initiative of research libraries in many European countries and legally came into being in June 1994. For the latest news you can find us at various events (see the [CERL Agenda](#)), follow CERL on [Twitter](#) or you can join the CERL mailing list: please contact secretariat@cerl.org to register.

[Read more...](#)

CERL Networks

- HPB DATABASE
- CERL THESAURUS
- CERL PORTAL
- MEI
- PROVENANCE
- HOSTED DATABASES

Search this website

Tweets by @CERL_org

CERL @CERL_org

Replying to @CERL_org

And hearing presentations from colleagues of the National Library of Denmark, the National Heritage Board of Føttnis Rlue Shield

Then click on the various links on the right of your screen:
Heritage of the Printed Book database →

CERL Thesaurus →

Finding aid for Manuscripts and early printed books →

Material Evidence in Incunabula →

CERL Provenance Digital Archive and other resources with provenance information →

Hosted databases and files that were not initially created by CERL, e.g. the Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue →

(also quite useful: search this website...) →

- HPB DATABASE
- CERL THESAURUS
- CERL PORTAL
- MEI
- PROVENANCE
- HOSTED DATABASES

Search this website

Short dossier on each file

Heritage of the Printed Book database

<http://hpb.cerl.org/>

Help file for searching: <https://www.cerl.org/help/hpb/main>



Where does the data come from / what is in it?

The database currently contains c. 8 million bibliographical records for books printed in Europe or in a European language between 1450 – 1830. The data is contributed by libraries and processed by CERL via bulk uploading.

- Here is a list, with descriptions for the content of each of the individual files: <https://www.cerl.org/resources/hpb/content>
- Here is a list via direct access to all records in individual files: https://gso.gbv.de/DB=1.77/SET=1/TTL=1/START_WELCOME

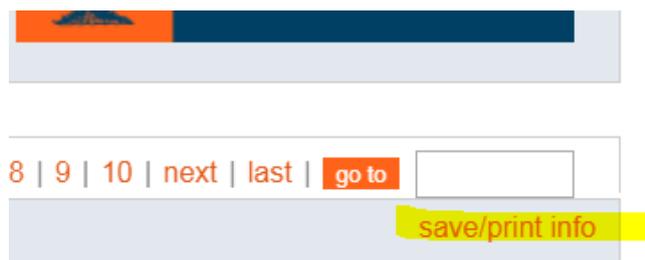
Can I contribute to the database?

Individuals cannot contribute or correct data. Libraries can offer files for uploading.

Can I reuse the data?

Yes, click on ‘save/print info’ to save a set you have retrieved.

Contact CERL if you need a large, or complex, set of records and we can perhaps prepare a download for you.



CERL Thesaurus

<http://thesaurus.cerl.org/>

Help file for searching:

<https://www.cerl.org/help/thesaurus/main>



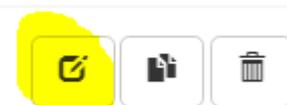
Where does the data come from / what is in it?

The CERL Thesaurus records names for corporate bodies, persons, printers, and place names related to the production of the early printed book plus known variant forms. Currently, the CERL Thesaurus contained around 1.29 million records. The data is derived from various authority files maintained by CERL members. This is a list of all database loaded into the CERL Thesaurus: https://www.cerl.org/resources/cerl_thesaurus/contents

Can I contribute to the database?

CERL has created an editing interface, and we very much welcome volunteers to help us de-duplicate the CERL Thesaurus. Guidelines for editing are available here:

https://www.cerl.org/resources/cerl_thesaurus/editing/main. So far, no one is creating new records (one by one) in the CERL Thesaurus (although you can if you want to), but we have



had scholars who offered us databases that they had created over the course of their studies, so that we could load their data into the CERL Thesaurus.

First register as an editor with CERL, then retrieve the records that you want to de-duplicate and then press edit (bottom right of the record):

Can I reuse the data?

Yes, you can download records in a great variety of formats. →

The CERL Thesaurus is published as Linked Open Data, for more information see also:

https://www.cerl.org/resources/cerl_thesaurus/linkeddata

Other Formats

You may also download this records in one of the following formats

[RDF/XML](#)
[RDF/Turtle](#)
[JSON-LD](#)
[JSON \(new format\)](#)
[YAML \(new format\)](#)
[CT Internal Format](#)

Material Evidence in Incunabula

https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/search_mei

Help file for searching:

<http://15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/distribution-use/mei-searching-guidelines/>



Where does the data come from / what is in it?

The MEI database contains descriptions of each instance of provenance evidence found in incunabula. Cataloguers in libraries around Europe and America enter this information in the MEI editing system.

- This is a list of libraries that are represented in MEI:
<https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/libraries>
- And this is a list of editors who have worked to create MEI records:
<https://www.cerl.org/resources/mei/about/editors>

There are around 28,000 known incunables. The current MEI statistics are:

Database statistics

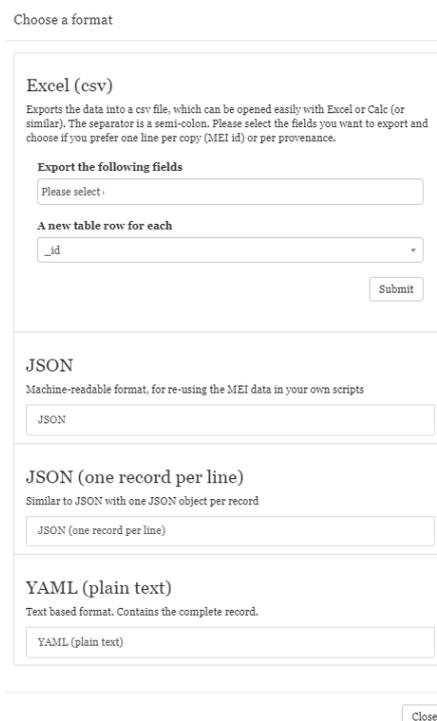
Number of holding institutions	428
Number of editions (ISTC Ids)	14271
Number of owners	18411
Number of copies	46315

Can I contribute to the database?

Yes, we would be very happy to welcome you to the team of editors. Please contact C. Dondi (crisrina.dondi@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) to discuss details. The Manual for editing is available in English, Italian and Spanish and may be downloaded here: <https://www.cerl.org/help/incunabula/main#editing>.

Can I reuse the data?

Yes, of course. Again, in a variety of formats →



Choose a format

Excel (csv)
Exports the data into a csv file, which can be opened easily with Excel or Calc (or similar). The separator is a semi-colon. Please select the fields you want to export and choose if you prefer one line per copy (MEI id) or per provenance.

Export the following fields
Please select ·

A new table row for each
_id

Submit

JSON
Machine-readable format, for re-using the MEI data in your own scripts
JSON

JSON (one record per line)
Similar to JSON with one JSON object per record
JSON (one record per line)

YAML (plain text)
Text based format. Contains the complete record.
YAML (plain text)

Close

CERL Provenance Digital Archive

Free for all, after you log in with your Google, Facebook or Orcid account.

http://arkyves.org/r/section/him_CERLPDA/



Where does the data come from / what is in it?

This is a new database, so there is not much in it, yet. The CERL PDA allows libraries and scholars to record images for provenance evidence they find in early printed books (so, not limited to incunabula, as in MEI).

Can I contribute to the database?

Yes, please! All are welcome, after you have logged into Arkyves, go to <http://arkyves.org/r/cerl/pda>. Your data is published as CC0 and your images are immediately available in IIF.

Guidelines for describing images in the CERL PDA:

https://www.cerl.org/media/resources/provenance/2019_guidelines_for_describing_images_in_the_cerl_provenance_digital_archive_versie_v0.3_cd.docx

Can I reuse the data?

Yes, by all means! You can download an image or use the persistent URL to link to it.



Image URL

Persistent URL

Hosted databases / files



CERL has created a shared environment for all datasets we support (except for the HPB and the PDA, which are hosted elsewhere). For a list of all available data sets go to: <https://data.cerl.org/>. Some databases relate to the MEI database (e.g. Owners, Holding Institutions and Geographic regions), but others are stand-alone datasets created by third-parties and hosted by CERL:

[Incunabula Short Title Catalogue \(ISTC\)](#)

The Incunabula Short Title Catalogue is the international database of 15th-century European printing created by the British Library with contributions from institutions worldwide.

[Early Bookowners in Britain \(EBOB\)](#)

Evidence of British provenances for the time period from 1450 to 1550 from over 4300 printed works gathered for a contribution to The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain by Margaret Lane Ford.

[Index Possessorum Incunabulorum](#)

This database contains some 32,000 entries of personal names, institutional names, monograms, and arms pertaining to the ownership of incunabula. They were extracted by Paul Needham from some 200 published catalogues of incunabula with provenance information and augmented with information from his personal research.

[PATRIMONiT](#)

rare or unique sixteenth-century Italian popular editions held today in the British Library (not surviving in any Italian library)

[Scottish Book Trade Index](#)

The Scottish Book Trade Index lists the names, trades and addresses of people involved in printing in Scotland up to 1850. (Nat. Library of Scotland)

[Siebmacher's Armorial](#)

The database contains the family names and titles of the "General Index of Siebmacher's Armorial 1605–1961"