Consortium of European Research Libraries
The Consortium of European Research Libraries: Accessing the Record of Europe’s Book Heritage

Marian Lefferts, Executive Manager
Currently 250 members
Mission

- CERL enhances, facilitates and improves the use 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
  - digital resources and tools using modern technology,
  - by arranging seminars, workshops, publications, and
  - by providing cooperation within its membership and with other library organisations.
Heritage of the Printed Book

- HPB database
- Bibliographical records for printed books 1450-1850
- 46 institutions from 21 countries
- ca. 300 libraries’ collections
- Specialist indexes and filters
- Links to digital objects
- Copy-specific information, including provenance notes
- Web interface, Z39.50 and SRU access
- hpb.cerl.org
HPB DATABASE

7,449,773 records

(21 countries)
CERL Thesaurus

- Thesaurus with variant names (total 1,295,150 records)
  - Imprint names (66,5k records), Place names (20,5k records)
  - Personal names (1,2m records), Corporate bodies (24k records), Reference works (3,6k records)
- 57 institutions/projects from 14 countries
- External Links to Maps, Printers’ devices, Wiki media; records are also internally linked (e.g. printers and places)
- Provenance information in 72,3k records
- Webinterface and available as LOD (CC0)
- thesaurus.cerl.org/
Hosting datasets created by third parties

CERL has infrastructure and the supporting interface to facilitate hosting.

Service is now available. Importance of the activity lies in the potential connections between the datasets that CERL may make explicit.

Databases Hosted at CERL

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

**Scottish Book Trade Index**
The Scottish Book Trade Index lists the names, trades and addresses of people involved in printing in Scotland up to 1860. (Nat. Library of Scotland).

**General Index of Siebmacher’s Armorialis 1605–1961**
The database contains the family names and titles of the “General Index of Siebmacher’s Armorialis 1605–1961”

**PATRIMONIT**
PATRIMONIT is a database of rare or unique sixteenth-century Italian popular editions held today in the British Library (i.e. not surviving in any Italian libraries). It is modelled on the Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) database and constructed using international standards for describing the material, textual, and visual characteristics of sixteenth-century Italian popular books and their provenance history.

Read more...

EDPOP project database
Under construction

Databases related to MEI

**Geographic regions**
Authority records describing geographic areas - used for supporting display and retrieval in MEI

**Holding Institutions**
Authority records for holding Institutions in MEI

**Owners of Incunabula**
Authority records for provenance names recorded in MEI
MEI and 15cBOOKTRADE

MEI = Material Evidence in Incunabula database, hosted by CERL

Run by Dr Cristina Dondi through her 15cBOOKTRADE project 15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/: incunable provenance clues

So far, 198 libraries in 13 countries contributed. You can, too!

MEI interface is available for researchers data.cerl.org/mei/

15BOOKTRADE project has done a visualisation of circulation of books: vimeo.com/172076861

15cBOOKTRADE final conference at Museo Correr, Venice, 19-22 September 2018

Post-incunabula period: PATRIMONiT database
CERL Portal

- Cross-searching of catalogues of European manuscript and archival materials
- Medieval to Modern
- In combination with HPB and English Short Title Catalogue
- Finding aid
- Web interface, the remote dbs are accessed via Z39.50 or OAI
- 26 databases, 15 countries (but with a much wider geographical spread)
- cerl.epc.ub.uu.se/sportal/
Workplan

🔹 Improve HPB data to
 🔹 Implement linking between HPB and CT
 🔹 Group records for same and related printed items
 🔹 Ultimately make HPB data available as LOD
 🔹 Work with (DH) research community to develop PATRIMONiT into a early printed books research environment

🔹 With Arkyves set up an environment to collect images of provenance evidence
 🔹 connect this to MEI, CT and HPB
 🔹 Tool to upload image and metadata from handheld device
Workplan II

◆ Review USPs of CERL Portal and strengthen those

◆ Foster collaboration (www.cerl.org/collaboration/main)
  ◆ Bookbinding working group
  ◆ Working with LIGATUS (www.ligatus.org.uk/)
  ◆ Provenance working group
  ◆ Security Network
  ◆ Manuscripts Expert Group
  ◆ Meeting Vienna 13-14 November 2018
  ◆ LIBER WG for DH and Digital Cultural Heritage
Workplan III

◆ Strengthen exchange of high-level professional expertise on an international scale, to ensure that the community has access to relevant information about the latest developments, products and projects.

◆ CERL grants for early-career librarians and scholars (to be expanded with a Digital Scholarship Award)

◆ Programme of workshops, seminars and summer schools, taught by members of their own community (this year on Collection Security, provenance cataloguing, visualisation tools, digital curation)

◆ Working Groups (see above)

◆ Dissemination and communication
Thank you

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