

July 2008



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

# Newsletter

Section's Homepage: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/index.htm>

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## **People**



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## **From the Editors**

The present edition has been prepared by Bettina Wagner, Chantal Keijsper and Ernst-Jan Munnik (Leiden University Library).

The newsletter will only be published in electronic format in future. This gives us the opportunity to include illustrations in the text and thus to enhance the visual attractiveness of the newsletter.

**So please keep sending us texts, and if you can, include a digital image, too!**

## ***IFLA 74<sup>th</sup> General Conference and Council in Québec 2008***

The conference will be held from 10-15 August 2008.

The Session on Rare Books and Manuscripts (no. 81) has been scheduled for Monday 11 August, 8:30-10:30.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

### ***Session Theme:***

#### ***Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge: Documents of Exploration, Discovery, and Travel***

The following papers will be given and are made available online under <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm> :

- L'université Laval et l'exploration scientifique du grand nord canadien  
JAMES LAMBERT (Université Laval, Québec, Canada)
- The image of the Norwegian Polar Hero  
HARALD ØSTGAARD LUND (National Library of Norway, Oslo, Norway)
- Through the eyes of Louis Shotridge: sharing Alaska's native Tlingit history a digital archive project at Penn  
LUCY FOWLER WILLIAMS and DAVID McKNIGHT (Penn Museum, Philadelphia, USA)
- La Biblioteca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid y su colección de libros de viajes  
PILAR MORENO GARCÍA and MARTA TORRES SANTO DOMINGO (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)
- The memories of Chinese Buddhist scholars in connection with Nalanda Monastic International University in India in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD  
R.H.I.S. RANASINGHE (University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka)

English translations have also been made available online.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World**

*A report by Jan Bos, IFLA / National Library of the Netherlands*

The Third International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme took place from Tuesday 19 February to Friday 22 February 2008 in the National Library of Australia in Canberra. 170 participants from 35 countries attended this conference. They came from Australia itself (55%) but also from the US, New Zealand, Latvia, Vietnam, Samoa, France, Namibia, Austria, India, Vanuatu and many more, indeed from all over the globe, personifying the theme of the conference: Communities and memories: a global perspective.

The Memory of the World programme itself was the focus point of the conference. Jan Lyall, chair of the organizing committee, wrote in her introduction: "The Memory of the World Programme has been in operation for more than 15 years and the time has come for us to reflect on, and celebrate its many successes, to identify its shortcomings and to propose improvements."

The conference was perfectly organized and the programme was very challenging and inspiring. There were 41 speakers, some of them very renowned such as Ms Jackie Huggins, Co-chair of Reconciliation Australia and Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, and Alex Byrne, former president of IFLA. Even more important were the many working group sessions with lively debates on various sub themes.

The proclamation and recommendations of the conference can be found at the end of this report, and at the conference website, <http://www.amw.org.au/mow2008/mow/mow2008.htm>, together with all papers and information on the speakers. Here I would like to highlight some important elements in the discussions.

The vision of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance.

The mission of the Memory of the World Programme is:

- To facilitate preservation, by the most appropriate techniques, of the world's documentary heritage;
- To assist universal access to documentary heritage;
- To increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage.

The vision and mission of the MoW Programme proved to be unquestioned. They were called "noble and extremely important". Although the aims and intentions are much broader, the Memory of the World Programme until now coincides almost completely with the Memory of the World Register. For many people the Programme and the Register are the same. The Register lists documentary heritage of world significance and outstanding universal value and so far it has been very successful. More than 150 items have been inscribed. They come from all continents and are very diverse: archival materials, personal documents, photographs, feature films, highlights of book culture, the oldest or only remnants of civilizations, etcetera.

The success of the Programme leads inevitably to more complexity. Some subjectivity in the assessment of nominations can't be excluded, but the involvement of various commissions and experts guarantees as much objectivity as possible. Rethinking the procedures is an ongoing process. The criteria for the assessment of nominations (time, place, people, subject/theme, form/style) have recently been extended with a new one: Social/spiritual/community significance. This was generally applauded. Nevertheless the question arose whether selection criteria can be universally applied.

## **Fundamental questions**

In her paper, Alissandra Cummins, president of the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee, raised some other fundamental questions regarding the underlying expectations, processes and challenges of the Programme. In her view, the Register should not so much be an archive of 'important' documents, but rather an accessible assemblage of ideas and values. To establish a true memory of the world, the relative rarity or authenticity of the carrier of the heritage would become less important than the ideas or images it contains.

It was noted that in general Europe is better represented in the Register than the rest of the world. It is a fact of history that some world regions possess more documentary heritage than others, and Europe is one of them. On the other hand it was stated that the structure and the procedures of the Programme are Western-oriented and difficult to understand for potential nominators from other cultures. Ellen Ndeshi Namhila from Namibia added that there are only twelve African inscriptions from eight countries. And almost all of them have to do with colonial history, the struggle for independence etcetera. So there is hardly any purely indigenous African documentary heritage included in the Register. The same applies for Latin America. Another subject of discussion was the lack of controversial items in the Register. The global impact of e.g. Hitler's *Mein Kampf* has been enormous and would justify inscription. But some people could regard the admission as support for Nazism, which should be avoided. In this case the decision might depend from the country that submits the nomination: e.g. Germany or Israel.

The very limited representation of literary authors (and of novelists in particular) was also pointed out. It was remarked, however, that the Programme should not duplicate the Nobel Prize in literature.

Some participants came up with the idea that instead of focussing on the documents, the starting point should be to define events in history that are of world significance (e.g. the first human landing on the moon). The second step would then be to find the best materials to document that event.

It was remarked that not only the national highlights, but also the national memory itself is very important for nations in transition. Whose memory will be preserved and privileged? Native tongues are often prohibited. Therefore the problem of endangered languages should be an issue for the MoW programme. Also the issue of lost and missing items and collections should be addressed.

Several attendees spoke about the issue of preservation and conservation. Not only paper documents but also many audiovisual documents will be lost within decades. Digitization has proven to be a good preservation strategy for the content of these materials. It also offers the opportunity for much wider access. However, the decision process on what should be digitized differs from country to country, ranging from very

centralised decisions to locally made. And cultural value is not always the first criterion. Moreover, many countries or institutions lack a reliable long term storage strategy for digital information.

## **Visibility**

A repeatedly returning theme in many papers and sessions was the visibility, or better: lack of visibility of the Memory of the World Programme. This was seen as the main drawback. In many countries the Memory of the World is completely unknown, even to archivists, librarians and university teachers. It became clear that in countries with a national Memory of the World Committee the awareness of the programme is better than in countries without a national committee. But even if people have heard about it, the Programme has no clearly defined “brand”, which leads to public confusion about its role and purpose. The Programme needs advocacy in the media to reach the general public, advocacy in government circles to reach the decision makers, and even advocacy within UNESCO itself to get more internal funding and staff support.

The necessity of a marketing strategy was expressed several times, but there were also many practical suggestions and offers, like the involvement of literary artists as MoW ambassadors, a series of small books about the items on the Register, T-shirts and television programmes. Examples of successful nomination forms on the MoW website would be helpful to new nominators, as would be the admittance of proposals in all six official UNESCO languages. A closer co-operation with other UNESCO-initiatives like the World Heritage Convention and the Intangible Heritage Convention was argued as well.

Probably the most important recommendation was to strongly encourage the establishment of national Memory of the World committees. They can provide information about the Programme on a national level, stimulate archivists and librarians to come up with new proposals, enhance and support nominations before they are being sent to UNESCO, and establish National Registers.

Representatives from India and Denmark came up with inspiring examples of national initiatives which had led to more public awareness and understanding of documentary heritage. In 2003 the Indian Ministry of Culture launched its ‘National Mission for Manuscripts’. Large numbers of vulnerable manuscripts on paper, parchment, silk, palm leaves etcetera are found all over the subcontinent in libraries, temples, monasteries and private collections. This project seeks to locate, catalogue and preserve India’s manuscripts, but also to enhance access, spread awareness and encourage their use for educational purposes. The Mission brings manuscripts and the knowledge they house to the public through lectures, seminars, publications and specially designed programmes for schoolchildren and university students.

In Denmark the compilation of a cultural canon received a lot of public attention and discussion. Twelve works of outstanding Danish works of art were chosen in each of the categories: architecture, visual arts, design and crafts, film, literature, music and dramatic arts. The cultural canon was published as a book with DVD and presented to all Danish pupils and students.

These examples were very stimulating and so was the atmosphere of the entire conference. It was very inspiring to meet so many people from so many different countries, all very strongly devoted and committed to the world memory and to the

safeguarding of the world's documentary heritage. The Third International Memory of the World Conference was an extremely successful gathering.

### **Draft Proclamation from the Third UNESCO International Memory of the World Conference**

Whereas:

Memory of the World is fundamental to protecting the diversity of world views as reflected in the accumulated knowledge and achievements of humankind;

Memory of the World supports the principles of human rights, justice and diversity through the safeguarding of and providing access to the world's documentary and oral cultures, traditions and expressions;

Memory of the World has an inherent synergy with the Intangible Heritage and World Heritage Conventions;

The documentary heritage which constitutes the recorded memory of the world is precious and vulnerable;

The oral heritage of peoples often remains unrecorded and is in increasing danger of loss;

The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme expresses a compelling vision, transcending boundaries and linking peoples with the common purposes of preserving the collective memory of humankind;

Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) offer vastly increased access to the documentary heritage, while bringing new preservation challenges; and

The Memory of the World Programme has expanded and improved its visibility since its inception in 1992, and has developed its structure and working patterns;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Third International Memory of the World Conference with some thirty countries represented from all parts of the world:

Urges the continued expansion of the Memory of the World Programme by establishing Memory of the World Committees in every country and every world region;

Urges all Member States to provide adequate resources to Memory of the World Committees;

Urges all concerned professionals to cooperate in establishing priorities and in developing projects for Memory of the World initiatives and in exploring innovative approaches to funding;

Urges the affiliated international professional organisations to cooperate in developing the necessary international standards for the preservation of and equitable access to significant documentary heritage in all media;

Urges UNESCO to adequately resource and brand the programme;

Urges UNESCO to increase the marketing and public education activities of Memory of the World in order to enhance the Programme's visibility and effectiveness; and

Urges UNESCO to examine options for establishing a different instrument to improve the Programme's effectiveness and give it a higher status.

## **Draft Recommendations from the Third UNESCO International Memory of the World Conference**

Recommendations for Paris to action:

- Publish the Proclamation from the Third International UNESCO Memory of the World Conference on the UNESCO website;
- Publish the speakers' presentations from the Third International UNESCO Memory of the World Conference on the UNESCO website;
- Establish a blog on the UNESCO website and communicate its establishment to all conference participants;
- Conduct a survey of awareness of the Memory of the World Programme throughout the world (similar to that conducted by Mr Jan Bos in Europe and North America);
- Endorse and support the work of the UNESCO Bangkok Office in developing a methodology for complementing UNESCO programs relating to tangible, intangible and documentary heritage;
- Implement strategies to raise the awareness of existing UNESCO Memory of the World products;
- Develop strategies for involving children and young people in Memory of the World so as to build intergenerational equity in the Programme, and so as to ensure the sustainability of the world's documentary heritage;
- Review the role and placement of a Section of the Register for Lost and Missing Documentary Heritage;
- Review and consider the recommendations of the breakout groups and the UNESCO Soapbox from the Third International Conference;
- Task the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme to prepare, in consultation with the regional and national committees, a strategic position paper outlining justifications for increased budget support for the Memory of the World Programme in UNESCO's next and future biennial programmes and budgets;
- Task the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme to prepare a paper, for wide distribution, describing the issues associated with changing the status of the Memory of the World Programme;
- Call for Expressions of Interest from member states to host the fourth International Memory of the World Conference in 2011; and
- Review the need for an alteration of the status of the Memory of the World Programme at the Fourth International Memory of the World Conference in 2011.

*Jan Bos*  
*IFLA / National Library of the Netherlands*



## ***From the Libraries***

### ***Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland***

The National Library of Scotland strategy document published this week outlines the organisation's priorities up to 2011. Entitled 'Expanding our horizons', the strategy lists four key themes for the next three years:

- Develop the national collections
- Develop the organisation
- Build relationships
- Widen access to knowledge.



The ultimate priority is widening access, which was begun with the 2004 strategy, 'Breaking through the walls' (<http://www.nls.uk/professional/policy/strategy.html>).

The plans take in both traditional library services and digital opportunities. The aim is to meet the constantly developing needs of users through an approach that Chairman Michael Anderson and National Librarian and Chief Executive Martyn Wade describe as 'evolutionary' but 'far-reaching'.

The strategy is available online as a PDF file and in a text-only version: to access them visit our policy documents page: <http://www.nls.uk/professional/policy/index.html>.

### **Rome, Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario**



A merger has taken place between the Istituto centrale per la patologia del libro and the Centro di fotoreproduzione, legatoria e restauro degli Archivi di Stato. The new Institute created by this merger - with the intention of pooling resources and streamlining operations - has been named the Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario. This new Institute will continue to focus on research aimed at the safeguarding and conservation of library and archival heritage, in addition to widening knowledge of the same.

## Exhibitions

### **Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland**

#### **Imprentit: 500 years of the Scottish printed word'**

Our summer exhibition *Imprentit: 500 years of the Scottish printed word* celebrates the 500th anniversary of the start of printing in Scotland and explores the impact that printing and publishing have had on Scottish life. A rich array of books, magazines, pamphlets and other printed material spanning five centuries has gone on display at the National Library of Scotland.



Visitors can see highlights from our printed treasures, including books, magazines, pamphlets and fanzines. We start with the 'Chepman and Myllar Prints', a volume containing unique copies of the three earliest books printed in Scotland. Among other items on display are:

- Scotland's first newspaper
- The first Scottish medical book
- The first book written by a Scottish woman and printed in her lifetime
- A leaflet revealing Logie Baird's first television apparatus
- The Book of Common Prayer that caused a riot and led to the signing of the National Covenant
- Keir Hardie's groundbreaking monthly journal for Scottish miners from the days before he founded the Labour Party.

'Imprentit' is free and open daily until Sunday 12 October. Find out more on our printing exhibition page <http://www.nls.uk/events/printing-exhibition/index.html> and in the printing exhibition press release: <http://www.nls.uk/news/index.html#5>.

#### **Jane Austen joins John Murray Archive exhibition**

Novelist Jane Austen is the latest literary figure to be included in the National Library of Scotland's John Murray Archive exhibition. She joins other noted authors who were published by John Murray, including Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott and David Livingstone.

Austen (1775-1817) pioneered a new kind of fiction, and challenged social expectations for women by pursuing a career as a novelist. Material from the

publishing archive shows that she only had modest success during her lifetime. Among items on display will be:

- A cheque payable to Jane Austen for more than £38
- A sales subscription book with details of poor sales for Mansfield Park
- A letter from Austen about slow progress in getting Emma published.

Read more about the Jane Austen exhibits in our JMA exhibition press release: <http://www.nls.uk/news/press/2008-06-11.html>.

**Munich,  
Bayerische  
Staatsbibliothek**

**450 Jahre BSB** Bayerische  
Staatsbibliothek



### The Ottheinrich Bible

The first illustrated New Testament in the German language  
10 July to 10 August 2008

The lavishly illustrated German translation of the New Testament written down on 307 large-format parchment pages (53 x 37 cm) is today called Ottheinrich Bible after its first reliably known owner. The unfinished manuscript was finished for Count Palatine Ottheinrich (1502-1559) and bears his coat of arms and a corresponding inscription. However, work on the Bible had started around one hundred years earlier. It was discovered only during the past two

decades who the original initiator was and where the manuscript was written.

Louis VII, born in 1368 as the only son of Duke Stephen III of Upper Bavaria-Ingolstadt and Taddea Visconti, had spent many years (from 1391 to 1415) at the French court with his sister Elisabeth, also known as the French Queen Isabeau de Bavière. In 1413, Louis succeeded to reign the partial duchy of Bavaria-Ingolstadt. His reign was marked both by a domestic stabilisation of the country and by disputes and wars, finally against





his own son. Conquered and captured by this son in 1443, Louis the Bearded died in Burghausen in 1447.

The manuscript commissioned by Louis around 1430 is the first surviving illustrated German translation of the New Testament. Only around one fifth of the manuscript was illuminated in the period of its origin. The miniatures of this earlier stage were painted by three different illustrators or workshops, which can be located in Regensburg. The Bible was probably taken by Louis with him in 1446 when he was incarcerated in Burghausen.

After Louis' death, his property was eventually passed on to George, the last male successor of the Landshut line of the Bavarian house of Wittelsbach. For his grandsons Ottheinrich and Philip the duchy of Palatinate-Neuburg was created in 1505, and they also inherited his movable property. Thus, the manuscripts of Louis the Bearded came to be acquired by the young Count Palatine Ottheinrich, together with other books formerly owned by the Landshut dukes.

The manuscript thus became one of the first items in Ottheinrich's collection of books which grew enormously later on. In the year 1530 he commissioned the painter Mathis Gerung from Lauingen to complete the illustration of the bible manuscript. The illumination was finished in the year 1532. Mathis Gerung complemented the 29 old miniatures by a total of 117 new ones. His images are partly inspired by works of Burgkmair, Cranach, Dürer and Schäufelein. The miniatures on the Apocalypse are essentially derived from the series of woodcuts crafted by Dürer in 1498.



Ottheinrich probably took the manuscript with him to Heidelberg in 1544, when he had to leave Neuburg following the bankruptcy of his duchy. During the Thirty Years' War, the Bible was transferred to Munich from Heidelberg before the famous Bibliotheca Palatina was taken to Rome in February of 1623 as war loot. Ten years later, in May 1632, the manuscript was appropriated by Duke William of Saxony-Weimar during the Swedish occupation of Munich. In 1640, it was brought from Weimar to Gotha and remained there for the following three centuries.

Probably in the 1860s, the voluminous book was divided into eight parts, which were split up in the 20th century and distributed to several locations: volumes 3 to 6 and 8 were acquired by the Kurpfälzisches

Museum in Heidelberg in 1936, the remaining three volumes were taken to Coburg on 3 July 1945, the last day of the American occupation of Thuringia, and from there were sold to the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in 1950.

The Heidelberg volumes were returned to the Herzog von Sachsen Coburg und Gotha'schen Stiftung für Kunst und Wissenschaft following a settlement concluded with the Federal State of Thuringia in 2001. With the substantial aid of a large alliance of foundations, public and private sponsors and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Bavaria acquired the volumes from the Foundation only a few days before their planned auction at Sotheby's in London. Thus, all the dismantled parts of the manuscript have finally been reunited in one location for the first time since 1936. Since the manuscript originated in Ingolstadt and Regensburg and was completed in Neuburg on the Danube, one could even speak of a return of the manuscript to its homeland.

A comprehensive, richly illustrated exhibition catalogue can be ordered via the library website:

[https://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Publications\\_of\\_the\\_BSB\\_in\\_Sto.265+M57d0acf4f16.0.html](https://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Publications_of_the_BSB_in_Sto.265+M57d0acf4f16.0.html)



In 2008, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München celebrates the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation. The library was established with the purchase of the private book collection of the orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmanstetter by the Wittelsbach duke Albrecht Vth in 1558.

The anniversary will be marked by a series of exhibitions covering the founding collections as well as highlights from the library's holdings of rare and special materials.

Some exhibitions had to be re-scheduled due to the acquisition and presentation of the Ottheinrich-Bible:

18.8. – 14.9.2008	Karten, Kriege, Kurfürsten. Atlanten der Mannheimer Palatina in der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek
18.9. – 19.10.2008	„Alles muss man selber machen!“. Neuerwerbungen für die Sammlung der Maler- und Künstlerbücher
postponed to 2010	Illustrierte Künstler-Autographen der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek
23.10. – 16.11.2008	Königliche Geschenke. Ludwig I. und seine Hof- und Staatsbibliothek
20.11. – 23.12.2008	Gold und Glanz der Weihnacht in mittelalterlichen Handschriften

More information on the programme of exhibitions and the accompanying publications, lectures and other events is available under

<http://www.bsb-450jahre.de/>.

## ***Rome, Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario***

### **Bull's Head and Mermaid. Medieval watermarks A European travelling exhibition devised and organized by Peter Rückert**

This exhibition is dedicated to a precious resource for those concerned with paper history research: watermarks. Watermarks become visible when any banknote is held up to a light source, as we all know. Watermarks have been produced in any number of shapes and sizes from the 13th century onwards, when they were first invented in Europe (at Fabriano, Italy, in the year 1276). They represent an excellent tool for dating unidentified documents or for authenticating works of art: a Mozart manuscript, for example, or an etching signed "Rembrandt".

The visiting public is presented with a concise introduction to watermarks, paper manufacturing techniques, and the scientific study of papers in general. A special section deals with the watermarks analyzed in the context of medieval symbolism.

The importance of watermarks for paleography is also highlighted.

Watermark scholars and watermark collections in Europe receive due attention, while the digital presentation of watermarks from several European databases establishes the connection between the past and present.

A dedicated catalogue, including detailed scientific information, serves to provide further material to complement the various topics addressed by the exhibition.

So far the exhibition has made a successful stop in Rome, where it was set up at the Institute (September 8-October 10, 2007). Future venues and dates include:

2008, October, Sala del Tesoro della Trivulziana, Milano, Italy

2009, January-June, Dresden, Germany, 4 exhibitions and 1 congress

2009, April-May, Biblioteca Nazionale, Turin, Italy

website: <http://www.bernstein.oeaw.ac.at/>.





## **Projects**

### **Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana di Firenze**

#### **Plutei on-line**

The Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana is undertaking the indexing and digitizing process of its core collection, around 3.900 manuscripts that were chained to the wooden desks (plutei) of the Library by Michelangelo at its opening in 1571. The digital collection which will also be published on-line will comprise more than 1.350.000 images, data (shelfmark, date, author and title for anonymous works) and relevant metadata extracted from the three main 18th century catalogues - edited by Stefano Evodio Assemani, Anton Maria Biscioni, Angelo Maria Bandini - which describe the collection. The project is scheduled to last 30 months, starting from 1st July 2008.



Contact person: Dr. Sabina Magrini ([bmlurp@beniculturali.it](mailto:bmlurp@beniculturali.it)).

### **The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek**



#### **Dutch Prints Online**

The *Dutch Prints Online* project aims at digitization and providing access to some 8,000 books, ranging from 1781 to 1800, from the Special Collections of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands, and the University libraries of Amsterdam and Leiden. The selection is made from books that have been included in the Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN). An academic advisory board has indicated the main themes.

The main purpose of the project is to provide free and integral access to the selected books, of which all pages will be digitized. The total amount of pages to be digitized is 1.3 million. Users will be able to look for titles through a web service and to search for every word in the text. The web service may be expanded in the future with more digitized books and new functionality.

The time to complete the project is 36 months. The project started on 1 May 2007. During the first phase the specifications for digitization have been made and a European invitation to tender has been issued. Also the selection of the books and the material analysis were initiated. In the second phase, starting within a few

months, the digitization process will be carried out and the web service is scheduled to be developed. In 2010 the web service will be up and running.

The website [www.dutchprintsonline.nl](http://www.dutchprintsonline.nl) will be online soon, with more information on the project.

## The Bernstein Project

Since September 2006, an international Consortium consisting of partners from Austria, Germany, Paris, Italy, The Netherlands and The United Kingdom, has been realizing the Bernstein project. The project is co-funded by the European Commission in the eContentplus program and is coordinated by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.

The objective of this project is to create an integrated European digital environment for the expertise and history of paper. The project will interlink the main existing European databases of paper reproductions, make their content accessible to specialized image processing tools for the measurement of paper features, and provide an interface to the digital resources of domains related to paper studies or by which the knowledge about papers can be enriched and contextualized. Additionally, a strong dissemination plan including ready to deploy paper expertise software packs will ensure the sustainability of growth and interest in paper studies beyond the project's lifetime.

At his moment, July 2008, the project is well under way. The working space has been developed and the data of the four main databases have been processed: *Piccard Online* at Stuttgart, *Watermarks in Incunabula printed in the Low Countries (WILC)* at The Hague, *Watermarks of the Middle-Ages (WZMA)* from Vienna and *Watermarks and Paper used for Prints and Drawings (NIKI)* from Florence.

On occasion of the project a traveling exhibition has been compiled, that has been on view in Stuttgart, Vienna, Fabriano and Rome. The accompanying catalogue has been published in German and Italian. In February 2009 the project will end with a Congress, *Paper09*, in the Sächsische Landesbibliothek - Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek in Dresden and the presentation of the integrated workspace that includes an one-stop-shop search possibility to the four above mentioned databases, an international bibliography on paper history, expertise tools for paper assessment and measurement, and a dissemination kit that provides software for easy development of new watermark databases. A more comprehensive exhibition on paper history and enlarged catalogue in English will be compiled on occasion of the finishing of the Bernstein Project. And hopefully, the work will continue in a next project – Bernstein Plus.

Further information: <http://www.bernstein.oeaw.ac.at/>.

Coordinator: Dr. E. Wenger, [emanuel.wenger@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:emanuel.wenger@oeaw.ac.at).

THE BERNSTEIN CONSORTIUM  THE MEMORY OF PAPERS IMAGE BASED PAPER EXPERTISE AND HISTORY



## Metamorfoze

[Metamorfoze](#), the Dutch national programme for the preservation of the paper heritage, started in 1997. Metamorfoze is financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and is a cooperative effort of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (the National Library of the Netherlands) and the Nationaal Archief (Dutch National Archives). The programme's aim is to preserve archives, books, newspapers and periodicals published before 1950 that are threatened by autonomous decay. The approach chosen is to safeguard the content of these documents by capturing it in analogue or digital images. In addition, the original documents are securely packaged, put in long term storage, and withdrawn from use.

Metamorfoze works with a variety of materials: collections, archives, books, periodicals and newspapers. Heritage institutions can put forward project proposals to qualify for preservation subsidies. Project costs are covered by means of a matching fund: the institutions pay 30% of the costs and the remaining 70% is funded by Metamorfoze.

Since 2007 Metamorfoze subsidizes preservation by means of digital conversion: preservation imaging. For this purpose, Metamorfoze has published [Guidelines Preservation Imaging Metamorfoze \(draft version\)](#). In these *Guidelines* the technical quality standards for preservation scans are formulated.

Over 80 Dutch heritage institutions are participating in this programme. By now more than 250 library and archival collections have been processed in the Metamorfoze programme treatment, consisting of 50.000 books and 85 complete newspapers and periodicals.

## ***London, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London and The British Library***

### **Sloane Printed Books Project**

A major collaboration between The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London and



The British Library has been announced. This two-year project, which started in April 2008, is funded by the Wellcome Trust Research Resources in Medical History. Professor Hal Cook has been appointed as Project Head. The project will make available for research and public use a database of the books once belonging to Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), which after his death

formed one of the foundation collections of the British Museum Library.



Sloane's library of approximately 40,000 volumes, now dispersed within the collections of the British Library and other research libraries, will be identified. The bibliographical information will be enhanced with information about pre-Sloane provenance, annotations and other copy-specific information. The information accumulated will be made available through a web-accessible database maintained by the British Library. The work of this project will form a significant research resource for medical, scientific and intellectual historians of the period.



L'Obel, Matthias de, *Plantarum seu Stirpium historia* (Antverpiæ, 1591), BL Shelfmark: 443.a.4 .  
© The British Library.

The key goals of the project are:

- identification of Sloane's books, their provenances and other associations
- presentation of the findings as a public resource for research
- communication of the findings through a conference and papers

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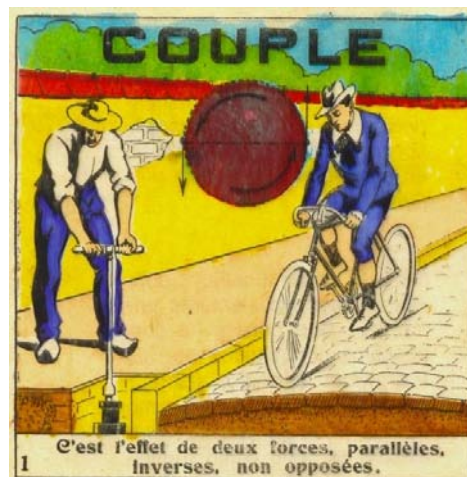
## Madrid, Ministerio de cultura / Comunidades Autónomas



Spanish Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue

The Spanish Bibliographical Heritage Union Catalogue has begun to work on late 19th and early 20th centuries teaching resources kept in secondary schools, specifically wallcharts and lantern slides, as a new special collection to be included in its database.

During that period, a very important amount of money was invested in the purchase of teaching resources of different nature as part of a broader effort to improve and modernise education. In these old schools, the state of many of the wallcharts and lantern slides is uneven. Due to



their peculiar physical characteristics, both materials imply serious problems of conservation and storage.

Wallcharts from the beginning of 20th century came from the most renowned producers of the time, generally from Germany and Austria, who had great success with wallcharts of high scientific accuracy while being also very beautiful, such as those from Pfurtscheller, Frohse, Hartinger... Very valuable items that have been hanging from walls for decades.

Lantern slides were brought, originally, from France (Radiget et Massiot, Mazo), then from Germany (Benzinger) and finally were published by photographers and printing houses in Spain (Alfonso Vadillo, Espasa-Calpe). Some teachers bought raw materials to develop their own slides, taking pictures from books or landscapes. As a result, hundreds of slides are yet to be catalogued.

Teachers rearranged collections to suit their needs and those favoured were used once and again for years, so surviving collections are frequently incomplete and scattered.



The main difficulty, specially for slides, is to identify its producer (when not mentioned) and the original collection they come from. Even if there is some information in these objects, commercial catalogues from producers and distributors have turned out to be essential for identification and description.

Our goal is to adapt our description model to these materials, not only for the use of the Union Catalogue but also for any other library interested in cataloging its collections, while

offering detailed records of wallcharts and slides adequate for their identification and preservation.

These information will be available at:

<http://en.www.mcu.es/bibliotecas/MC/CCPB/index.html>.

**Munich,  
Bayerische  
Staatsbibliothek**

**450 Jahre BSB** Bayerische  
Staatsbibliothek

**'Codices iconographici'**

<http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/codicon/start.html>

The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich has recently completed its project to catalogue and digitise its holdings of early modern Codices iconographici (pictorial manuscripts with little or no explanatory text). Within the project, 117 manuscripts dating from the 15th to mid-17th centuries were catalogued and made available in digital reproduction online. Further information about the collection, which currently comprises c. 550 items, is provided from the early 19<sup>th</sup>



century inventory drawn up by Johann Andreas Schmeller, which was converted into full electronic text.

The collection includes the libraries of Johann Jakob Fugger at Augsburg, the Nuremberg humanist Hartmann Schedel (the author of the 'Nuremberg chronicle'), the Florentine humanist Petrus Victorius (died 1585) and his descendants, the orientalist Quatremère and the banker Paul Joseph von Cobres (Augsburg), the electoral library at Düsseldorf, various monasteries, and the city library of Regensburg. For some 19th-century items, additional materials are kept in the BSB's collection of modern papers (e.g. Klenziana, Schlagintweitiana, Zieblandiana).

**Naples, Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli "Vittorio Emanuele III"**



### **Cartographic collection on-line**

The BNN holds a very rich and important cartographic collection. A project is being undertaken of publishing it on the Web. Its main item is the large Carta catalana (before 1413, perhaps end of the 14th century). The collection includes many nautical maps drawn in the ateliers of the Mallorca Olives family, which founded workshops all over the West Mediterranean sea (16th-17th century). Many of the maps are signed by the members of the family, such as Jaume, the founder, Barbomé, Giovanni etc.; others have been attributed to their workshops. The collection also includes an anonymous middle 15th century map and two manuscript atlases (middle 16th century); the first of them is attributed to Francesco Ghisolfi; the second one, consisting of 28 maps, was made either by Battista Agnese himself or by his workshop.

More than 6000 ancient printed geographical maps (16th-18th century) are held in the collection. Apart from loose maps, geographical representations can be found in ancient manuscripts, e.g. those of Ptolemaeus' Geography, mss. V.F.32 and V.F.33. The former has been already published on the BNN website ([www.bnnonline.it](http://www.bnnonline.it)).

**Reggio Emilia, Biblioteca Panizzi**

**Biblioteca Panizzi**  
REGGIO EMILIA

### **Manuscripts catalogue on-line**

The first step of the Retropective Conversion Project was accomplished at the beginning of this year; the three databases "Manoscritti", "Carteggi" and "Carteggi Don Gaetano Chierici (1819-1886)" include now 18.000 records of manuscripts, archival documents, autographs and letters (11th-20th century), that is the 98% of the total amount of the Library's manuscript holdings. The second two-year step of the project will include the conversion of the records of uncatalogued documents. It will be concluded by the end of 2009.

The Library Manuscripts Department is undertaking some more projects in cooperation with other institutions. The first of them, to be performed together with the Biblioteca Leonardiana of Vinci (Leonard's birth-place), is about the archive of the outstanding scientist Giambattista Venturi (1746-1822). The second one consists of



the digitization of the naturalist Lazzaro Spallanzani's (1729-1799) early works, in cooperation with the Centro Studi Spallanzani of Scandiano.

The manuscripts catalogues can be searched for at the following address:

<http://panizzi.comune.re.it>. Info: Roberto Marcuccio  
([roberto.marcuccio@municipio.it](mailto:roberto.marcuccio@municipio.it))

### ***Rome, Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario***

In recent years the Institute has participated in various international exchange programmes with the goal of sharing and comparing technical knowledge with other nations and establishing a network of contacts worldwide.

The Institute collaborates with the IsIAO (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente) on training projects in relation to cultural heritage conservation work being carried out in China.

In 2005, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Cultural Agreement between Italy and Japan, collaboration with the Tokyo University of Fine Arts & Music started. The collaboration concentrates on the comparative study of techniques and the use of materials for the restoration of books and works of art supported on papers of Western manufacture, together with those on Japanese papers and silk.



Since 2006, a collaborative relationship has been underway between Italy and Egypt; this concentrates on two areas:

- a) the training of conservators and restorers and the creation and activation of courses on the management and maintenance of libraries;
- b) technical/scientific consultancy for the setting up and equipping of laboratories and workshops in major Egyptian institutions, such as the Alexandrina Library in Alexandria, and the library at Cairo's Egyptian Museum.

In addition, the Institute has been charged with the task of organizing training activities aimed at persons responsible for the management and conservation of documentary material held in the National Memory Archive in Buenos Aires (created in 2003 as part of the Argentinian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, which holds documents, letters and extensive testimony deriving from Argentina's recent history, in particular those originating from the dark era of political repression).

The Institute also contributes to the project known as 'Libraries in the Desert', which is aimed at the safeguarding of the vast patrimony of Arabic manuscripts (there are more than 30,000 of them), located in Mauritania. Most of these are found in the so-

called 'villes anciennes' (Oudane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata), cities that have been included on UNESCO's list of World Patrimony since 1996.

The Institute is responsible for the conservation and restoration of membranous (parchment) fragments of the Koran, dating from the 7th and 8th centuries, which came to light in the Great Mosque of San'a in Yemen.

An important collaboration is underway with the Working Group for the Conservation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which was set up as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali. See also <http://www.patologiaibro.beniculturali.it>.

### **Corpus Chartarum Italicarum Practices and technologies for preservation, knowledge and enhancement**

The Corpus Chartarum Italicarum is a singular collection composed of about 5,000 watermarked sheets. It is kept at the Istituto centrale per il restauro e la conservazione del patrimonio archivistico e librario and originates from public and private libraries, and archives.

The collection, assembled in the early 1940s, illustrates the history of paper production in Italy and its use as a support for 'written memory' dating from the thirteenth up until the twentieth century. Items in the collection range from ancient manuscripts to modern, pre-stamped forms intended for official use.

The collection, which is exceptional both in terms of its size and the quality of the original items it contains, offers the chance to deepen the study of the transformations that have taken place in the material structure and appearance of sheets over the span of time born witness to by the Corpus.

Useful information on the processes involved in the deterioration of paper and their causes can be gleaned from the analysis of variations in the thickness, degree of whiteness, roughness and permeability of the particular material.



In 2006 a programme of activity arranged into three modules was launched so as to carry out conservation, research and development initiatives.

In order to carry out strictly non-destructive measurements of sheets' physical characteristics, in collaboration with the Phase Systems Company (Rome, Italy), the Institute designed and built an instrument capable of yielding reliable data rapidly,

and without exposing the paper samples to any risk: the instrument is called the Multi-Purpose Paper Tester. Digital reproduction of watermarks was realized by the Fotoscintifica Company (Parma, Italy).

The images, together with data collected, will be published on the Institute's website, and may in the future be transferred to the digital environment that the European Bernstein Project ([www.bernstein.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.bernstein.oeaw.ac.at)) is creating in order to link databases of reproductions of papers that have already been created. See <http://www.patologialibro.beniculturali.it>.



## **Rome, Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo**

### **Manuscript fragments in bindings**

A research on the fragments of medieval manuscripts found in the bindings of ancient volumes of the Biblioteca Vallicelliana in Rome has been promoted by the Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo (Italian Historical Institute for the Middle Ages). The Biblioteca Vallicelliana holds a collection of recovered fragments including 915 items; 513 of them were discarded from medieval manuscripts and re-used. The research aims both at having these fragments catalogued and at highlighting method problems in cataloguing such materials. Besides, a study will be devoted to the widely spread in XV-XVIII century Europe phenomenon of re-use, starting from the still extant in the Biblioteca Vallicelliana "Biblioteca degli Oratoriani". Elisabetta Caldelli, Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo. Email: [elisabetta.caldelli@beniculturali.it](mailto:elisabetta.caldelli@beniculturali.it).

## **Zhejiang Library, China**



### **The Union Catalogue of Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Province, China**

China's long history had created a splendid culture. Zhejiang Province is a place of galaxy in talent and culture. There are about 2.000.000 volumes of ancient and rare books which are still survived and collected in public libraries, museums, and university libraries. Every institute had its own old bibliography, but it has been changed now and then. There is no union catalogue for these ancient and rare books in this province for a long time. Therefore, it is not clear the collection' contents in each institute. To preserve, conserve, carry on and exploit these valuable historical

cultural heritages are the most important task at present. To compile the ancient and rare books' bibliography and release these collections are the fundamental and also the priority work for our library.

Zhejiang Library shoulders the responsible of compiling "The Union Catalogue of Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Province". The compiling working group was set up in Zhejiang Library in January 2001. It has drawn up the rules of operation for "The collecting coverage of the Union Catalogue of Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Province", "The Descriptive Format of the Union Catalogue of Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Province", "The Classification of the Union Catalogue of the Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Province". This project starting meeting was held on Apr.13-14/2008. The participants came from 11 prefectures in this province. They also took part in a technical training course. Up to now, 31 institutes have already finished their catalogues and set it to the provincial library. This union catalogue will include more than 20000 titles of ancient and rare books.

This union catalogue has two features. One is completeness. The number of its titles is more than one time than that of "China Ancient and Rare Book Bibliography": The other is that the contents are concentrated on local documents. It stressed on collecting the rare books on Zhejiang local documents and also the author from this Province.

The compiling work is going on smoothly. The book draft will be finished by the end of this year and will be published next year.

### **Full Text Database of Zhejiang Genealogy**

A project of "Full Text of Zhejiang Genealogy", which was started in 2007, and sponsored by Zhejiang Library in Chian, will be completed by the end of this year. The aim of this project is try to establish the "Full Text Database of Zhejiang Genealogy" with practical use and embodying the academic and digital information for public sharing. It will be suitable for the needs of the ordinary library users, and convenience to make their research works. It is also fitted the demand of those who wants to continue compiling the genealogy. After completing this database, the digital documents of genealogy will become a new kind of library collection.

This project will cover about 200 titles of genealogy which are collected in Zhejiang Library and are from Qing Dynasty (1644-1911AD) to the period of Republic of China (1911-1949AD). The first step of this project is the experimental stage. The whole planning was made and assumed many technical difficulties to be solved, and also decided the application program, established the completed database and the applying platform. On this platform, we try to make testing the full text genealogy digitization, and then provide for our users through the platform. After everything is perfect, we'll turn to the stage of all round establishing the genealogy digital resources. After completing this full text database, we can provide the following functions:

1. The digitalization genealogy database and its release platform. Through this platform, we can help other libraries to reorganize the genealogy information and to make standard description including about 30 items of descriptions for each person in order to establish the union database of full text Zhejiang genealogy and for releasing in Internet;



2. Through this application platform, we'll provide the networking environment for our library's users. They can obtain the digital resources of genealogy database, and help them to find the relationship in the same family names;
3. This platform will help the people who wants to continue compiling their genealogy and help them to joint the editions of old and new genealogy;
4. This platform will also provide the system of management and recognition, which includes managing functions of checking, sorting out, and completing the continued compiled genealogy.

## ***Publications***

### ***Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek***

**Liebe, Götter und Dämonen** : wertvolle asiatische Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek ; [Ausstellung 2. Januar bis 27. Januar 2008] / Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München. [Red.: Helga Rebhan]. - München, 2007. - 94 S. : zahlreiche farbige Illustrationen. - (Schatzkammer ; 2008)

#### **Kulturkosmos der Renaissance. Die Gründung der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek**

Katalog der Ausstellung zum 450-jährigen Jubiläum, 7. März - 1. Juni 2008 und der Schatzkammerausstellung "Musikschätze der Wittelsbacher", 9. Juni bis 6. Juli 2008 / hrsg. von der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. [Katalog und Ausstellung: Claudia Fabian ...] - Wiesbaden : Harrassowitz, 2008. - 356 S. : zahlr. farbige Ill. - (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Ausstellungskataloge ; 79)

#### **Die Ottheinrich-Bibel. Das erste illustrierte Neue Testament in deutscher Sprache**

Begleitbuch zu den Ausstellungen anlässlich der Zusammenführung der Ottheinrich-Bibel im Jahre 2008. - Luzern, 2008. - 214 Seiten : zahlreiche Illustrationen

#### **Information on prices, availability and ordering:**

see <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/index.php?L=3> → Shop

## Web News

### Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana di Firenze

#### Open Catalogue

A METAOPAC platform will be created which allows access to the different resources provided by the Library for the study of its manuscript and printed collections (bibliography, archive files, full and partial digitization, descriptions) as well as a forum area for users' free contributions and discussion. On-line from September 2008. Contact persons: dr. Luciana Bigliuzzi ([bmlacquisti@beniculturali.it](mailto:bmlacquisti@beniculturali.it)); dr. Sabina Magrini ([bmlurp@beniculturali.it](mailto:bmlurp@beniculturali.it)).

### Madrid, Ministerio de cultura / Comunidades Autónomas

#### Virtual Library of Bibliographical Heritage

The Virtual Library of Bibliographical Heritage, developed by the Spanish Ministry of Culture in cooperation with Autonomous Communities and other institutions, offers digital reproduction of complete books, together with their bibliographic records. At this moment it comprises two main series: manuscripts and printed books, which are steadily growing. In the future, new special materials will be added to the collection.



Among the manuscripts, three very significant medieval collections have been already included: the one from the Monastery of Santa María de Huerta, kept in the Public Library of Soria, and that from Monastery of Santes Creus and Poblet, located in the Public Library in Tarragona, were both produced in Cistercian libraries, and keep some items dating from 10th and 11th centuries; the third medieval collection comprises the older section from the Palma Public Library which holds one of the most important and largest collections of works by Ramón Llull existing

today, including medieval and modern manuscripts, printed books of his writings in various languages, as well as hermeneutic and polemic texts. The manuscripts from the Public Library in Toledo, while keeping some very valuable medieval texts, include an important collection of modern manuscripts regarding the history, geography and society of Hispanic America in the 18th century.

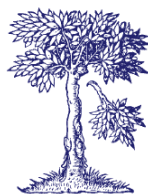
The incunabula and printed books in this resource have been selected for their singularity and bibliographical value and they have been distributed around key

subjects, with special emphasis in local, social and cultural history and displays of popular religion. Spanish presence in America and Asia, music and theatre (mainly of local character) and books dedicated to science, technology, public health and hygiene are also included. New collections regarding historical events and new subjects are being continuously developed. For further information, see <http://bvpb.mcu.es/>.

## Cooperation

### News from CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries)

<http://www.cerl.org>  
issue 17 (June 2008):




CONSORTIUM of EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH LIBRARIES

# NEWSLETTER

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## CERL Portal: Manuscripts and Early Printed Material


 CERL is very happy to announce the inclusion of MANUS, the Italian project developing descriptions and digital reproductions of manuscripts held by Italian libraries. At present about 130 libraries and research institutions are collaborating in the project, which is directed by 'Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico e per le informazioni bibliografiche' (ICCU). For a long time Manus has been working in many different local archives; from April 2008 the CERL Portal gives access to a new web based MANUS application ('New MANUS'), where full manuscript descriptions are real time updated. Eventually all (c. 51,000) descriptions from the old databases will be imported into this new facility, and thereby accessible via the CERL Portal.

## CERL Thesaurus

At the end of May 2008, the CERL Thesaurus contained 685,931 records. A list of all files that have been included in the CERL Thesaurus is available at [http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl\\_thesaurus/contents](http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/contents).

At [http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl\\_thesaurus/statistics](http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/cerl_thesaurus/statistics) you can see how many records are available in each category (imprint name, place name, etc.) and how many variant forms in each of the categories the CERL Thesaurus contains.

## Digital Resources – Printers' Devices

 From the imprint names in the CERL Thesaurus users can link through to images of printers' devices. After Ronald B. McKerrow. *Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland 1485-1640* (London, 1913) and Philippe Renouard. *Les marques typographiques parisiennes des 15e et 16e siècles* (Paris, 1926), the Royal Library in Copenhagen is now digitising *Francisco Vindel, Escudas y marcas de impressores y libreros en Espana durante los siglos XV a XIX (1485-1850)*, comprising 601 printers' names and 1200 links to digitised devices. The Berlin State Library (SBB-PK) is currently undertaking the digitisation of Alsatian

printer devices as found in: *Elsässische Büchermarken bis Anfang des 18. Jahrhunderts / hrsg. von Paul Heitz; Mit Vorbemerkungen und Nachrichten über die Drucker von Karl August Barack. - Strassburg : Heitz & Mündel, 1892. - XXXIV, 160 S. : Ill. (LXXVI Taf.). - (Die Büchermarken oder Buchdrucker- und Verlegerzeichen ; [1]).*



### **News from the ESTC (English Short Title Catalogue)**

The ESTC contains some 490,000 records, over 3 million locations from over 2,000 libraries around the world. The first records to be created were those for imprints of the British Isles, 1701-1800. There are approximately 294,000. When the ESTC was first conceived and the cataloguing rules were composed the decision was taken by the British Library to design a record to conform as closely as possible to entries in its general catalogue. Once the general catalogue was retro-converted the ESTC records would file easily.

When the U.S. team began cataloguing and canvassing U.S. libraries we offered to give libraries sets of our records with their holdings attached to load into their online public catalogues. Libraries responded that the records as designed did not meet their needs. The headings, based on BL rules would not file, title page data was truncated, and the records lacked subject headings. The lack of conformity to North America standards was first addressed in the mid-1980s when the headings were all changed to LC standards and added to the LC online name authority file. It was a major task taking a number of years. Ultimately the headings to be changed exceeded 30,000 in number.

When the catalogue was extended backwards in time to incorporate British printing from its inception, ca. 1473, the decision was made to employ a full MARC record following AACR1r/DCRB cataloguing rules. We still continued to follow the earlier rules for eighteenth century British imprints for several more years until the decision was taken to employ the new standard for all new records. The records for North American imprints, created by the American Antiquarian Society, followed AACR1r/DCRB. However, in order to have them conform more closely to the BL c18 model they had been shorn of subject headings at the time they were loaded.

The lack of consistency and the truncations continued to be a point of controversy. It was brought to a head several years ago when an ad hoc committee chair by Jeff Garrett at Northwestern University was organized from among libraries which had purchased Eighteenth Century Collections Online distributed by Gale. The electronic records set distributed by Gale with the set was created by the ESTC team at UCR and therefore displayed all the same limitations. The ECCO committee was created to see if its members could supply the lacunae. We joined the committee and agreed

now was the time to try and make the entries more consistent. With the cooperation of OCLC, and drawing upon the ESTC itself and contributed records we were able to add subject headings for roughly half the 136,000 items in ECCO. We engaged HTC to create subject headings for the balance. Gale gave HTC access to ECCO to facilitate the process. Subject headings have now been created for all the ECCO items and have been loaded into the ESTC. At the same time we obtained a complete set of the records for North American imprints from the AAS and loaded them into the file, overlaying the existing records. In a parallel effort we contacted Apex and contracted with them to fill out the contractions for title page data in the ESTC records for ECCO items. Gale again cooperated by giving Apex access to the digitized title pages. Apex was able to enhance some 102,000 records and the edited records have also been added to the ESTC.

In sum, approximately one third of the 294,000 records for items published in the British Isles now boast full title page transcriptions. Nearly one half have subject headings. The full records created by AAS have now supplanted the truncated versions. We are now developing a plan to complete the title page enhancements for at least another third and at the same time add subject headings for all the remaining abbreviated records. Step by step we are working to update the ESTC and create a more homogenous file to enhance its utility for its users.

*Prof Henry L. Snyder, Riverside, California*



**Europeana: digital paintings, books, films and archives**

<http://www.europeana.eu/>

Europeana – the European digital library, museum and archive – is a two-year project that began in July 2007. It is scheduled to produce a prototype website giving users direct access to some

2 million digital objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers in November 2008 by Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media. The digital content is selected from that which is already digitised and available in Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections. The prototype aims to have representative content from all four of these cultural heritage domains, and also to have a broad range of content from across Europe.

In the current EU project, building of the prototype website, CERL is represented on the group dealing with WP1 Human & Political Interoperability. CERL is also a founding member of the EDL Foundation, which has been set up to facilitate formal agreement across museums, archives, audio-visual archives and libraries on how to cooperate in the delivery and sustainability of a joint portal, as well as to provide a legal framework for use by the EU for funding purposes and as a springboard for future governance of the Europeana portal. The EDL Foundation has prepared a new project proposal for the eContentplus 2008 4<sup>th</sup> call, Europeana v.1.0, which is to be the successor network to the current EDLnet thematic network and will turn the



Europeana prototype into an operational service. CERL has agreed to participate in the proposal and will take part in WP1 Developing the partner and user network.

## **Events**

### **June 2008**

#### **International Seminar for Rare Books Librarians**

5 June 2008, Salón de Actos, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid

The Seminario internacional sobre fondo antiguo was organised by the Biblioteca Nacional in conjunction with CERL with the intention of offering presentations on current rare books and special collections projects and electronic resources in Spain and the wider European rare-books community.



The 150 librarians from Spain and Portugal who attended the Seminar were welcomed by Milagros del Corral (Directora General de la Biblioteca Nacional de España) and David Shaw (Secretary of CERL).



© Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid

The Seminar gave the opportunity to present European initiatives with which the Biblioteca Nacional is collaborating (especially ENRICH and CERL) as well as Spanish and Portuguese projects including the Portal on the Theatre of the Golden Age and provenance work at the National Library of Portugal.

The following presentations were made:

- Ms Jana Hentschke (Data Conversion Group, University of Göttingen): *Introduction to CERL's electronic resources*
- Dr Kristian Jensen (British Library, London): *Security issues in rare books collections*
- D<sup>a</sup> Fernanda Campos (Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal): *Provenance research at the National Library of Portugal*
- Dr David Shaw (CERL Secretary): *Provenance studies: Spain in the European dimension*

- Mr Tomas Psohlavec (AiP Beroun s.r.o. Czech Republic): *ENRICH: Towards a European Digital Library of manuscripts*
- D<sup>a</sup> Isabel Moyano (Jefa de Reserva Impresa de la BNE): *El Portal de Teatro del Siglo de Oro de la Biblioteca Nacional*
- D. Luis Rodriguez (Fundación Biblioteca Virtual Cervantes): *El Fondo antiguo en la Biblioteca virtual Miguel de Cervantes*

The presentations can be downloaded from  
<http://www.bne.es/esp/bne/cerlseminantiguo.htm>.

### September 2008



The programme of the annual conference organized by the German 'Arbeitskreis Einbandforschung (AEB)' (working group for the recording and preservation of historical bookbindings) is now available under  
<http://aeb.sbb.spk-berlin.de>

The conference will be held from 25-27 September 2008 in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek Weimar.

More details, hotel information etc. can be found on the website.