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From the Editors

The present edition has been prepared by 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!
2011 Midterm meeting in Madrid

Last April, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section celebrated in Madrid its 2011 Midterm meeting hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. It was dedicated to the development of Guidelines for digitalization of old and rare material, as asserted in RBMS’s strategic direction n.1, goal 1f, priority activity 1.5. The objective of these guidelines is to provide, from the study of specific characteristics of manuscripts and rare books, a document that can be used for the creation of digital collections intended for longterm access and dissemination. They include recommendations to produce accessible digital objects of scientific reliability that can, at the same time, be available for the use of a broader public.

These guidelines will follow the process of creating a digital collection from its very beginning (the vision of the project) to its longterm preservation, with different chapters for the design of the digital collection, process of digitization and metadata, presentation and dissemination. They lay stress upon the different needs inherent to this kind of collections and how they must be considered in all the mentioned phases with procedures unlike those for other digitized materials. The goal of these reunions was to assemble the information and ideas to elaborate an agreed document. The starting point for the discussion was both the reference documents on this subject that were sent by different colleagues and the experiences from those projects developed in Standing Committee members' institutions.

From the discussions of this Midterm meeting Anne Eidsfeldt and David Farneth have elaborated a first draft which is being studied by the members of this initial working group, which will be subsequently examined by the rest of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. As part of this meeting, the Committee members also had the opportunity to visit some of the main heritage libraries in the area of Madrid. This section wants to thank the welcome offered by our colleagues in the Universidad Complutense Historical Library, Museo del Prado Library, Spanish National Library and Monasterio de El Escorial Library.
From the Libraries

ACRL / Rare Books & Manuscripts Section

Standards

*Guidelines for Borrowing and Lending Special Collections Material* approved by RBMS and Association for College & Research Libraries. These guidelines combine revised and combined two previous guidelines, one for the Interlibrary Loan of rare material and the second for loaning and borrowing material for exhibit into one guideline for covers both topics. The full text will be available at [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/index.cfm).

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

Recent acquisitions by the Getty Research Institute include:

Albrecht Dürer, *The Life of the Virgin* *Epitome in divae parthenices Mariae historiam* (Nuremberg, 1511). One of the artist’s “The Three Large Books,” this is one of the most significant productions in the history of printmaking and book design.

Karl Friedrich Schinkel, *Theater-Decorationen* (Berlin, circa 1823/4 and after). Thirty hand-colored theater designs bound for the Duke of Braunschweig comprise a unique set of stunning images of stage sets, including 8 images for Mozart’s *Magic Flute*.

Man Ray, Two related archives of agenda books, correspondence, photographs, and publications (1923-1991); and Gianfranco Baruchello, *La Traversée du Grand Verre*
(1995) a portfolio with eight photographs of Marcel Duchamp inspecting his monumental work of art.

The Robert Mapplethorpe Archive donated by the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation contains comprehensive coverage of Mapplethorpe's artistic and commercial career. Complementing a collection of photographs and editioned prints housed at the Getty Museum and jointly owned with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the archive holds personal correspondence with close friends Patti Smith, and Sam Wagstaff, dozens of Polaroids, and more than 200 unique works of art, including drawings, hand-painted collages, and assemblages.

**Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense**

**Clive Griffin in the Biblioteca Histórica of the Complutense University**

In February 2011, Clive Griffin, professor at Oxford University and renowned specialist on the history of the book in Spain and Spanish literature, participated in classes for a Master on Bibliographic and Documentary Heritage held by the Complutense University. Along with other events, he gave an interesting lecture at the Biblioteca Histórica on the Crombergers of Seville and Mexico, a family of printers from the sixteenth century. Professor Griffin showed students and the general audience how to undertake research work in the field of descriptive bibliography and the history of printing.

**Vargas Llosa’s doctoral dissertation**

The Complutense University Library organized, in May 2011, an exhibition devoted to the writer Mario Vargas Llosa, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. The collection of books related to the writer, in the holdings of the University, was shown to the public, being of particular interest his doctoral dissertation written in 1971. This
important document, a study on García Márquez, is stored in the Biblioteca Histórica of the Complutense University, and has been recently restored and rebound, in order to ease its proper access. All restoration and binding work was performed in the Biblioteca Histórica Preservation Department. A Working Paper (Documento de trabajo) covering the work performed has been written up by the Department staff.

VD 18 – retrospective German national bibliography of the 18th century

VD 18 is the national retrospective bibliography and national digital library for imprints published in Germany or in the German language from 1701 to 1800. The cooperative project, which is funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and coordinated by Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt in Halle, implies recataloguing and digitization of the material held in the libraries of Halle, Göttingen, Dresden, Berlin and Munich. Following precoordination of the title material done in a separate project part by the University of Cologne, each edition should be treated only once by one of the partner libraries. In Spring 2011 preliminary VD18-identifiers were added to the records of the Bavarian union catalogue as well as the GBV and SWB, and they are visible in KVK. The VD18-identifiers consist of an identical basis number for all titles which are likely to be identical, followed by a different suffix for each individual record in such a set. The cataloguer in a member library who edits the record according to VD18-standards then removes the suffix from its title and links it to a digital copy of the book created by the holding library. The edited titles and digital copies are accessible via all German union catalogues and also presented in an online portal for VD 18 established by ULB Halle.
The Bavarian State Library contributes all digital copies of relevant 18th-century publications created in the Google project and thus has the responsibility for editing more than 100,000 titles. Overall, VD 18 is supposed to comprise 600,000 titles. After the first 1.5 years of the project, 27,000 titles will have been edited and be available with a digital copy.

**VD 16 – new interface**

The new software used for the Bavarian Union Catalogue Gateway Bayern is now also in place for retrieval in VD 16. The new interface allows for faceted retrieval and thus gives better guidance to the user. It also allows to cross-search in an overall early printed books environment, comprising VD 16, VD 17 – and the growing VD 18.

Homepage of the VD 16:

http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/16-Jahrhundert-VD-16.180.0.html

New interface of the VD 16:

https://opac.bib-bvb.de/InfoGuideClient.fasttestsis/start.do?SearchProfile=VD16&SearchType=2
In the course of a four-year-project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, over 4,500 incunabula from the BSB’s collections have been digitized and are now accessible via the library’s incunable database, the local OPAC and Bavarian Union Catalogue as well as the bibliographic databases Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke and Incunabula Short Title Catalogue.

http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/lnkunabelkatalog-BSB-Ink.181.0.html
http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/OPACplus.92.0.html
http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Gateway-Bayern.88.0.html
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html
http://www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke.de/

App – Oriental books

After the success of the BSB’s first app for mobile devices: Treasures of the Bavarian State Library a second app, Oriental books, is now available in the app store: http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/App-Oriental-Books-Oriental-Treasures-of-the-Bavarian-Sta.3026.0.html

In the context of Bayerische Landesbibliothek a new access “Bavarica-Volltexte” allows full text searching in 40,000 books relevant to Bavarian history and culture which were published before 1870: http://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/bavarica-volltexte.

Digital images of a group of bookplates of Bavarian monasteries whose collections were integrated into the BSB in the course of secularisation in the beginning of the 19th century are now available online in the digital collections of the library. The collection can be browsed by location of monastery.
Short records for manuscripts have been integrated into the Bavarian Union Catalogue and thus the local catalogue of the BSB. This allows hyperlinking to the academic descriptions in databases like the library’s research documentation or printed catalogues of which images are available online. Their main purpose from an administrative point of view is to make it possible to integrate these special collections into the online systems for lending and reproduction ordering.

Please note that you can obtain and share information about the Bavarian State Library also via Facebook and Twitter.

**Rotterdam City Library**

Rotterdam City Library owns 10,037 pamphlets published between 1504 and 1850. All of these have now been catalogued in the Dutch Central Catalogue (Picarta). An astonishing 22% of these pamphlets is not found in any other Dutch library. The 17th and 18th centuries are best represented in this collection, especially the 1610s, the 1650s-1690s, the 1740s, and the 1780s-1800s. Dutch is the language of the great majority of these pamphlets (94%).

For the benefit of its huge collection of books concerning Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536), Rotterdam City Library has been granted a generous donation of some 200,000 euro by a foundation wishing to remain anonymous. As a result of this, over 250 severely damaged erasmiana will be restored within the next few years. For all sorts of reasons, these books are in bad condition and, therefore, cannot now be consulted by students and scholars. Restoration will solve this problem.
The Koninklijke Bibliotheek recently acquired eight rare prints from the Second World War made by H.N. Werkman (1882-1945). They are in perfect condition and could be purchased thanks to generous support from the Society of Friends of the KB. Among the works in this important addition to the KB’s collection of rare prints there is a unique copy of *De zee* by H. Marsman.
Exhibitions

**Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya**

Itàlia i Catalunya . Recepció i projecció culturals. 17 March-10 April.

The proclamation of Victor Emmanuel II as king of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 -150 years ago- was the pretext for underlining the relationships between the Italian and the Catalan cultural universes, which have maintained a constant stream of reception and projection along the time. The literary periplus begins in the Middle Ages: a miscellaneous compilation with historiographic texts about Sicily, a selection of manuscripts of the XV century, translations -texts by Petrarca and Boccacio among others-, until the arrival of printing. Authors as Berlinghieri or Perotti influenced the Catalan culture; at the same time authors as Ramon Llull, Arnau de Vilanova or Bernat de Granollacs were published in Venice, Milan or other places. In order to illustrate the production of the XVI to XIX centuries there were displayed printings of works by Boscà and Garcilaso or texts as Lazarillo published in Italy, Spanish translations of Aminta by Tasso or Italian ones of Tirant lo Blanc, and texts of other typologies. The XX century focused the translations of literary works of both cultures. The musical world had its role too: manuscript parts of the Missa Scala Aretina by Francesc Valls; a manuscript register book of the Italian operas performed at the Gran Teatre del Liceu since 1847, and an original caricature by Enrico Caruso of himself. For more information, see [http://www.bnc.cat/expos/detall.php?id=96&css=6/](http://www.bnc.cat/expos/detall.php?id=96&css=6/).

Pau Milà i Fontanals. 12 May-5 June.

The BC organized this exhibition focused on Pau Milà (Vilafranca del Penedès 1810– Barcelona 1883), painter and outstanding art theorist, after the acquisitions of some manuscripts, drawings and documents related to him. Pau Milà -whose brother
was Manuel Milà i Fontanals, the philologist of the Catalan Renaixença- had a great deal of influence on the Romantic Catalan art by his activity as teacher at the Escola Oficial de Belles Arts de Barcelona, Llotja, more than for his own artistic works. The exhibition consisted of a selection of documents related to this family, as well as others connected with the activity of Pau Milà as landowner, others which reflected his facet as professor of Fine Arts, and letters from important figures of the cultural world of that moment. The exhibition showed also some drawings and paintings by some of his pupils as Josep Mirabent, Agustí Rigalt or Antoni Caba. For more information, see [http://www.bnc.cat/expos/detall.php?id=99&css=9/](http://www.bnc.cat/expos/detall.php?id=99&css=9/).

**Medieval and Renaissance Music Manuscripts and Printed Books. 4-31 July.**

This exhibition was intended to be a contribution of the BC to the International Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference -Med and Ren. Barcelona 2011- on 5-8 July, organized by the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (IEC) and the Institució Milà i Fontanals (IMF/CSIC). Reproductions of a selection of music manuscripts and printed books from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance kept at the Biblioteca de Catalunya were displayed; most of them came from the former library of Joan Carreras i Dagas (1828-1900), a Catalan composer and chapelmaster.

The Medieval manuscripts (10th-13th centuries) of Catalan provenance illustrated different types of early monophonic notation (Catalan and Aquitanian neumes) with and without staff lines. The Renaissance manuscripts were represented by manuscripts from the late 15th century to the early 17th century all copied for different Catalan institutions, with both local and international polyphonic repertory. The printed books, dated from 1503 to 1628, included editions from early Petrucci to early 17th-century publications from Spain and Italy. Composers represented were: those of international standing (Josquin des Prez, Palestrina...); Italian Counter-Reformation composers (Asola, Soriano...); Spanish composers whose works were printed outside the Iberian Peninsula (Morales, Guerrero, Victoria, Fletxa...); and Spanish composers of more local profile (Vila, López de Velasco...). Formats, genres and repertories were varied, including folio editions of Masses and Magnificats, and partbooks of music for Mass, Vespers..., as well as of motets, chansons, madrigals,
villancicos and ensaladas. For more information, see http://www.cat/expos/detall_desc.php?id=101&css=1/.

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

October 1, 2011–February 5, 2012

Beginning in the 1950s, Southern California saw the emergence of newly diverse audiences for art. While gallerists cultivated collectors, Beat artists Wallace Berman and George Herms distributed handcrafted works among friends. Others, including Chris Burden, exploited the mass media to circulate their work. Art schools became innovative forums for artists such as Judy Chicago and John Baldessari. Social and political movements that championed peace and feminism mobilized artists to take their messages to the streets. Drawn from the Getty Research Institute’s archives of Los Angeles art, this exhibition features photographs, ephemera, correspondence, and artwork—many on view for the first time—that reveal how these artists disseminated their works to a broader public.

A Nation Emerges: The Mexican Revolution Revealed
Sept. 8, 2011–June 3, 2012

The Mexican Revolution (1910–20), which lasted a decade and transformed the nation, was extensively chronicled by Mexican, American, and European photographers and illustrators. Thousands of images captured a country at war. From postcards of the 1910 Fiesta del Centenario, to images of a war that was waged on several fronts by ever-shifting revolutionary factions, to photographs of the 1923 assassination of Pancho Villa, this exhibition chronicles this
complex, multifaceted chapter in Mexico’s history. Organized by the Getty Research Institute with support from Edison International. This exhibition will be on view in the Getty Gallery at the Los Angeles Public Library’s Central Library in downtown Los Angeles.

Organised by the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, the exhibition "La biblioteca de la antigua Residencia de Estudiantes en la Universidad Complutense: fondos del Colegio Mayor Ximénez de Cisneros (marzo-abril 2011)," offered a look of the Silver Age (1900-1936) of Spanish culture, through a selection of 170 books from the library of the old Residencia de Estudiantes that was placed in 1943 in the Colegio Mayor Ximénez de Cisneros of the Universidad Complutense. Works by Immanuel Kant, Aniceto Sela, Azorin, Pedro de Madrazo, Alfonso Reyes, Ricardo de Orueta, George E. Street, John M. Keynes, Herbert G. Wells, Adolfo Posada, William L. Fichter, Eugenio de Castro, Julio Rey Pastor, Jesus Pabon, Miguel A. Catalan, Hermann Weimer, Rubén Darío, Jorge de Montemayor, Adolfo Posada, Lenin, Lawrence Sterne, Ramón Gómez de la Serna, Woodrow Wilson, Gabriel Miró, Gonzalo R. Lafora, Francisco Ayala, Jean Lépine, Cesare Lombroso and Concepcion Arenal... most of them with autographs and handwritten notes, were displayed for the first time ever. The catalog Catálogo de la Biblioteca del Colegio Mayor Ximénez de Cisneros: fondo histórico, 1773-1936 has been developed with the initiative of the Colegio Mayor Ximénez de Cisneros of the Universidad Complutense and the collaboration of the University Library and it includes holdings from the old Residencia de Estudiantes from the 1940's, which are now placed in the Library of the Colegio Mayor. Access to virtual exhibition.
This exhibition, organised by the Biblioteca Histórica and the Museo Pedagógico Textil of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, shows 2 selected samplers or models of very best traditional embroidery handicraft from the collection “Colección Pedagógico Textil” of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

These selected needlework models, dated 1877 and 1911, are illustrated with artistic borders and decorative motives and, more importantly, with series of different letters, numbers and types of writings. They were used not only to learn to hand-embroider and to mark clothing with initials, but to teach the young girls the alphabet, in order to acquire writing and reading skills. That’s why the opening was tied to the celebrations of the Day of the Book. The show is the first one of a series that will periodically show different pieces from the Museo Pedagógico Textil. More detailed information can be found here.

Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid houses an exceptionally complete collection by one of the most important and influential writers of all time: Giambattista Piranesi. This collection brings together almost all of his production and it is one of the Library’s most precious treasures and, no doubt, it’s the heart of the Department of Prints and Drawings.

For the first time, a small portion of these prints is being displayed to the public in what we hope is only the beginning of a series that will show the different facets Giambattista Piranesi developed as an artist: *Vedute*’s creator, architect,
archaeologist and decorator. For this initial approach, one of his most brilliant works, the one which made his name, has been chosen: *Vedute di Roma.*

Due to space limitations and in view of the enormous size of the prints, the exhibition gathers only 40 of the 135 views of the series. The difficult choice, given the extraordinary quality of the collection, combines chronological criteria, in order to provide a representative selection of prints throughout his career, so the public can perceive easily and in a very comprehensive and rigorous technical and artistic evolution of the Venetian genius; and thematic criteria, attempting to capture the enormous variety of architectural motives Piranesi reflected in his most famous series, included the most famous views or the monumental landmarks of Rome.

Apart from the partial exhibition, the complete *Vedute di Roma* collection has been digitalised. ([Web page and virtual exhibition](#)).


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*München, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek*

From 11 to 31 July 2011, the BSB shows a newly-acquired illuminated Kempten chronicle written in 1499 in a short term presentation accompanied by a flyer. The purchase of the manuscript (Cgm 9470) has been financed by Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung and is on permanent loan to the BSB. The manuscript is presented together with two more of the six existing manuscripts of this chronicle which are also held in the BSB. All three mss have been digitized and are available through the
From 26 September to 11 December 2011, the BSB will be showing an exhibition commemorating the 125th anniversary of the death of the Bavarian king Ludwig II (the “mad” or “dream king”). The exhibition will display the different collections donated by the King to the library, show documents relating to the private theatre and music performances organized for the King, and follow his traces in the archival documents preserved in the library. Photos of the King will also be shown. A catalogue for this main exposition of the year 2011 will be published by Pustet, Regensburg. Again, the Bayerische Landesbibliothek online will provide access to interesting material on this theme. An augmented reality app is under preparation and will be announced on BSB’s websites as soon as it becomes available.

New Haven CT, Yale University – Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011
July 8 through October 1, 2011

Do I contradict myself? Very well then . . . . I contradict myself; I am large . . . . I contain multitudes. —Walt Whitman, from Leaves of Grass, 1855

Founded in 1911 when Yale College graduate Owen Franklin Aldis donated his distinguished library of first editions of American fiction, drama, and poetry to the Yale Library, the Collection of American Literature is one of the most important collections of its kind. In the century following Aldis’ s gift, the Collection has continued to grow, building on core areas and expanding to include complementary materials, from individual manuscripts to expansive literary archives, from little magazines and lively ephemera to high-tech artists’ books. The highlights exhibited in Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–
2011 reveal areas of bibliographic strength and new development while demonstrating the Collection’s extraordinary richness, eclecticism, and depth. From the colonial period to the present, the Collection celebrates American literature as a living art form with a complex history. Its evolving and vibrant traditions are a subject worthy of rigorous scholarly attention as well as leisurely pursuit for the general reader.

**How Is A Book . . . written? illustrated? printed? bound?**

*July 11 through October 1, 2011*

This summer exhibition shows just how a book goes from idea to ink-on-paper. Drawn from the archives in Beinecke Library's collections of children's literature, visitors will see the many stages a (pre-digital) book goes through on its journey from inspiration to the hands of a reader. Using Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire's *Book of Greek Myths*, the exhibition follows the trail from research, through drafts, sketches, press proofs and color separations, to the bound book. A companion display, "Dummies!," shows off early book mock-ups by Peter Newell, Lillian Saarinen, Ludwig Bemelmans, and Maud and Miska Petersham. [ca. 100 items]

**Upcoming exhibits**

Fall 2011 – 100th Anniversary of Czelaw Milsoz. The Beinecke Library which is the repository of Czelaw Milsoz’s papers will be organizing an exhibit and hosting a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Nobel Prize winning writer Czelaw Milsoz.

**The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek**

**Powerful Books**

From 2 April until 23 October the Edams Museum mounts an exhibition of books from the old library (‘librije’) of St. Nicholas’ Church. The books from that library are on permanent loan in the KB. The exhibition shows a selection from the librije’s books, centering around books from the Reformation.
Powerful & Precious Middle Ages

The Verdieping van Nederland, the joint exhibition room of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and the National Archives, is host to the exhibition Powerful & Precious Middle Ages from 3 September 2011 to 8 January 2012. The wealth of both institutions offers a great diversity in medieval archival records and books: from charters to gospels, from accounts to chronicles, from indulgences to books of hours.
RBMS held its 52nd Annual Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference in Baton Rouge at the end of June. The preconference was entitled: In the Hurricane’s Eye: Challenges of Collecting in the 21st Century.

In the last several years special collections and archives have assumed a new and more prominent role within our larger host institutions as well as in the wider library community. Once perceived as peripheral to core library services, our collections are now viewed as central. Despite – or perhaps because of – this centrality, we face a perfect storm of increasing needs in a time of decreasing support. How can we keep building and providing effective access to collections that will remain central in the future, fulfilling our obligation to provide stewardship of the cultural record?

While we continue to collect a multiplicity of formats from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries – with the attendant issues of physical storage space, preservation, and access – the twenty-first century offers a new set of evolving challenges. Demographics in the United States and elsewhere are shifting dramatically, and human use of digital technologies is changing what makes up the historical record, in both format and content. How do we capture records of the evanescent “now” without abandoning the documentation needs of the
recent past? Podcasts of sessions will be available later this year through the website at [www.rbms.info](http://www.rbms.info).

**2012 – 53rd Annual RBMS (U.S.) Preconference**

Planning is underway for next year’s preconference to be held in San Diego, Calif. on June 19-22. The preconference is entitled: **Futures!** and will explore not only the future of the book, but a multiplicity of futures such as the future of collections and collecting, the future of the library and librarians, the future of the creation and use of information, as well as the future of the past.

**Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab Exhibition Catalogue Awards**

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) has selected five winners and one honorable mention for the 2011 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab “American Book Prices Current” Exhibition Awards.

The awards, funded by an endowment established by Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab, editors of “American Book Prices Current,” recognize outstanding exhibition catalogues issued by American or Canadian institutions in conjunction with library exhibitions as well as electronic exhibition catalogues of outstanding merit issued within the digital/Web environment.

**Category 1 Winner (Expensive)**

“Claude Bradgon and the Beautiful Necessity,” submitted by the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Rochester River Campus Libraries.

**Category 2 Winner (Moderately Expensive)**

Stanford University Libraries Department of Special Collections and The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley for “Celebrating Mexico: The Grito de Dolores and the Mexican Revolution, 1810 | 1910 | 2010.”
Category 3 Winner (Inexpensive)

Category 4 Winner (Brochures)
Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University for their brochure entitled “A View of the Parade: H. L. Mencken and American Magazines.”

Category 5 Winner (Electronic Exhibitions)

Category 5 Honorable Mention (Electronic Exhibitions)

Antwerp, University of Antwerp

Call for Papers:


What are the competences needed for the heritage librarians of the future, and how can these competences be taught at different levels of library education? Those questions will be discussed during an international conference at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), on 1 and 2 February 2012. During two days, librarians and people in charge of library teaching programmes will be invited to confront their ideas. It is hoped that presentations of best practices during the conference will serve as inspiring models of new programmes in the future, and that at the end of the
conference, some consensus may be reached about the range of competences needed. The conference is organized by the Library and Information Science Department of the University of Antwerp and Flanders Heritage Library, with the collaboration of the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l’information et des bibliothèques (enssib, Lyon), Flemish interface centre for cultural heritage (Faro), and under the auspices of the IFLA-Rare Books and Manuscript Section, the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collection and Preservation, and the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL). The conference will be held in English.

**Submissions**

Submissions are invited for 30 minutes presentations on the competences that librarians in charge of special (or heritage) collections should acquire during their training, and how library training programmes can teach these competences. Participants may also want to discuss related issues such as the re-training of library staff or the ways in which skills can be kept up-to-date. We welcome both presentations of best practices (e.g. discussions of existing programmes) and papers discussing these matters at a more fundamental level. The deadline for submission is 31 August 2011. Submissions received after this date will not be considered for acceptance. If you wish to put forward a paper for the conference, please send the following information in the form of a Word-document to prof. dr. Pierre Delsaerdt, chair of the organizing committee, at pierre.delsaerdt@ua.ac.be:

1) name
2) institutional affiliation
3) contact e-mail
4) title of your proposed paper
5) abstract of no more than 500 words

**Deadlines**

August 31, 2011: Deadline for submission of proposals
September 30, 2011: Notification of acceptance or rejection of proposals
October 15, 2011: Deadline for confirmation of acceptance by presenters.
Background

It seems trivial, these days, to state that libraries have been challenged by recent technological, social and economic developments. On the other hand, these developments have not minimized the library’s mission as a memory institution, quite the contrary. Among the many roles that libraries will continue to play in the 21st century and beyond, their responsibility for the preservation of the written heritage is perhaps the one that is questioned least. This role of libraries, ancient as it may be, implies that library staff be trained adequately to meet the specific requirements of heritage collections in libraries. These requirements are multiple. Expertise in preservation and conservation is a major one, but it certainly has to be supplemented ? and perhaps even preceded ? by other competences, e.g. an insight into heritage policies, a profound knowledge of the management of collections and acquisitions, a familiarity with the material aspects of books and manuscripts, with the history of libraries and book collecting and with techniques of bibliographical description, an awareness of the need to open the collections to the public and of the challenges of digitisation, an understanding of the marketing of heritage collections...

Will heritage librarians who are equipped with such diverse qualities be able to serve as the future Ambassadors of the Book?

Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya

5nes Jornades de Cultures Medievals. Hospitals medievals: espais, assistència i medicina. 19-21 May

The BC hold the 5th Workshop on Medieval Cultures, co-organized by the IRCUM (Institut de Recerca de Cultures Medievals) of the University of Barcelona and the Biblioteca de Catalunya. The setting -the Library is located in the old Hospital de la Santa Creu whose origin dates from 1401- attracted an international gathering of hospital historians. The workshop dealt with medicine and hospitals in the Middle
Ages, poverty, shelters, the care of foundlings, healing strategies… In order to reinforce the workshop's aims, the BC, as a host institution either keeper of the archive of the old hospital, organized a display of historical documents.

**LIBER Conference**

On 30th June the Library offered a reception and a visit to the participants of the 40th Annual LIBER Conference (Barcelona, 29 June-2 July 2011). This event included a performance of “castells” (human towers building), a Catalan tradition. On November 2010, UNESCO declared human towers a masterpiece of the oral and intangible Heritage of Humanity.

**Los Angelos, California Rare Book School**

The 2011 Program of the California Rare Book School (CalRBS) is as follows:

*Week 1 - August 1-5, 2011 (All courses will meet at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA)*

- Descriptive Bibliography - Bruce Whiteman
- Preservation Stewardship of Library Collections - Mark Roosa
- History of the Children's Book from the Old Babylonian to 1989 - Ivy Trent
- Management Issues in Special Collections - Lynda Claassen and Laura Stalker

*Week 2 - August 8-12, 2011 (All courses will meet at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA)*

- Books of the Far West, with an Emphasis on California - Gary Kurtz
- Artists Books: Collection Development and Assessment - Johanna Drucker
- History of the Book, 200-1820 - Susan M. Allen

*Week 3 - October 17-21, 2011*

- Rare Book Cataloging - Randal Brandt (Course will meet at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA)
- Donors and Libraries - Susan M. Allen and William P. Barlow, Jr. Co-sponsored
by The Book Club of California (Course will meet at The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA)

To apply, see: www.CalRBS.org.

In June the General Directors of the BSB and the Russian Presidential Library Boris Jelzin signed a cooperation agreement, in order to - among others - share digital objects concerning Russian history which can have an important impact on Eastern European Studies.

The triennial conference organized by the manuscript cataloguing centers in Germany will take place from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Wolfenbüttel. The programme is available online.

From 16-17 February 2012, a conference on blockbooks will be held in the BSB, marking the completion of the project to digitize and catalogue c. 90 blockbooks held in Bavarian collections. The conference will be accompanied by an exhibition; a catalogue is in preparation.
Projects

Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya

Incunabula digitization

The Biblioteca de Catalunya has digitized 461 incunabula of the 632 which constitute its collection. The rest of them will be digitized this year. Although not very extensive, the collection is remarkable: many editions show an extreme rarity, 74 incunabula are printed in Catalonia -by European printers established in Catalonia (Barcelona, Montserrat, Lleida...) and by the first Catalan printers. For instance, the BC preserves 17 editions (in 22 copies) and 4 postincunabula editions of Pere Posa, the first Catalan printer, among the forty editions issued of his printing press known so far. Incunabula gather works of authors of Catalan culture -Francesc Eiximenis, Ramon Llull...- and a wide variety of themes: philosophy, theology, law, literature, medical sciences, commercial activities (Llibre del Consolat de Mar)... as well as popular works -religious instruction, bulls, education or mercantile arithmetic (Suma de la art de arismètica de Francesc Santcliment).

Pampinea y sus descendientes: Novela Italiana y Española del Siglo de Oro frente a frente

Pampinea is the queen of the first day of Boccaccio's Decameron. Taking its name as a guide, a group of researchers has studied the holdings of the Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla related to the Italian boccaciana and 16th century literature, and, on the other hand, holdings related to the group of short novels, that inspired by that literature, were published in Spanish during the 16th and 17th centuries, or were reprinted in the 18th century. This new web page is part of the project Pampinea y sus descendientes: novela italiana y española del Siglo de Oro frente a frente, granted by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain, carried out by a remarkable group of researchers and collaborators, who has selected from the holding of the Biblioteca Histórica of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 20 master pieces for understanding the 16th century Italian literature, influenced by the work of Boccaccio, and their impact on the emerging novel of the Spanish Golden Age. This project has been shaped as permanent virtual exhibition: Web page "Pampinea sus descendientes".

The BSB is a partner in the European project Europeana Regia which has now completed more than half of its activities. In the course of the project, which is under the leadership of Bibliothèque nationale de France, more than 870 manuscripts will be digitized, described in academic detail and made accessible through both Europeana and TEL as well as in local and national repositories. The BSB oversees workpackages 4 and 5 which concern digitization and quality control. For both
workpackages, extensive reports on the state of art have been established which will be shared with a wider public via the Europeana website.

The website of the Europeana Regia project maintained and administered by BnF is continually growing. It will also comprise a multilingual approach to short information of the digitized manuscripts - in order to provide multilingual content which is not yet feasible inside Europeana or TEL: http://www.europeanaregia.eu/.

Parts of these reports have also been discussed at the occasion of IFLA RBMS' midterm meeting in Madrid concerning IFLA Guidelines for Digitization.

Prof. Dr. Alice Cohen-Mushlin finished her detailed description of mostly illuminated Hebrew mss in the BSB, the catalogue will now be prepared for publication.

Since July a task force cataloguing 18th century learned journals and studying the network of the scholarly world in the 18th century has been established at the BSB. The project is coordinated by the Academy of Sciences in Göttingen. Another group is working in University Library Leipzig.

Cod.gall. 17 has been digitized in order to be integrated into the Roman de la Rose project.
New Haven CT, Yale University – Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

The Beinecke Library’s Digital Images database just reached a milestone with our 300,000th digitized image: an opening from WA MSS 50, Joseph Goldsborough Bruff Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks, from the Western Americana Collection. This is one of 16 volumes describing an 1849 Western expedition by Joseph Bruff, a draftsman in the Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Learn more about the Bruff journals here. To quote Robert Frost’s 1923 poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”: The woods are lovely, dark and deep, / But I have promises to keep, / And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep. And we too, have many miles of library shelves to go, and many, many items from our expansive collections to digitization before we sleep.

Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France

La numérisation des manuscrits de Marcel Proust (1871-1922).

La numérisation des brouillons d’A la recherche du temps perdu

Depuis quelques années, l’actualité du fonds Proust à la BnF est essentiellement liée à la numérisation grâce à deux programmes financés par l’Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR) et menés en partenariat avec l’équipe Proust de l’Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes (ITEM) du CNRS, dirigée par Nathalie Mauriac.


Points d’accès

The Bindings database of the Bibliothèque nationale de France
A work in progress

The Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) possesses one of the most important collections of bindings in the world and the richest to be found for French material. For a number of years, the Rare Books Department has been working on providing an online catalogue of these collections. The intention is to propose an extensive panel of bindings illustrating the history of French binding. The database, as the project stands today, is expected to contain 3,000 to 4,000 volumes and the main purpose is to provide an online tool for identifying bindings, thus allowing specific searches on their characteristic elements: typology, ornamentation, structure. Moreover, no information will be bypassed in helping to retrace the history of a copy.

This Web application dealing with the bindings collections of the BnF is currently in the making. The model is required to be affixed to other applications already in use at the BnF, in particular through interactive links leading to all information contained in the General Catalogue. The model is also to allow the inclusion of illustrations with interactive links to their storage. Finally the model is requested to develop into a future gateway associating other libraries in France and abroad. Among the various XML solutions available, the BnF has chosen to use the TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) and to create a fresh and appropriate schema. Each binding is thus described in a TEI XML document and linked to at least one high definition digital image. The model has undergone several tests, verifying its pertinence and comprehensiveness. It appears satisfactory. We are now building the Web application in the intermediary form of a static site.
The schema of the description of the binding as defined is divided into five main sections: identification of the document, description of the binding itself, description of the document’s history, identification of owners or institutions associated with the document, and bibliographic references. The section “description of the binding itself” is of course the core of the database. It consists of a short description of the binding as an header, completed with terms defining the typology of the binding and the typology of the ornamentation. Each binding is thus described in a free text but in the form of a pre-definite list of components regarding both binding ornamentation and structure. The section “description of the document’s history” comprises information about the origin, the provenance and the acquisition of each document.

This richly illustrated database is to become a truly helpful tool in discovering the BnF’s collections of bookbindings, and, more widely, in offering an extensive panel of models of bindings’ descriptions, with a controlled vocabulary. Aside from this primary vocation, this BnF database also takes into account all the pertinent information needed to retrace the history of the art of binding in France and the history of component volumes. It must be said that this bindings database project is being built in close relation with another BnF online project dealing with Book History, in the way of a digitized gallery with extent texts. All this material is to be available on the BnF Website next autumn 2011.

Poznań, The Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences

In April 2011, in the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences, there was created the first in the this part of Europe electronic database of precious bookbindings from the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The Library stores circa 15 thousand incubabula and old prints made between the 16th and the 18th centuries. Many of them are covered with original bookbindings. Especially interesting is our rich collection of not widely known Polish bookbindings – ranging from Gothic till Classicism. Among them especially attractive are these made in Poznań, which, except Cracow and Gdansk, was the most dynamically
developing Polish bookbinding center in the 15th and the 16th centuries. Moreover, the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences posses foreign works, mainly German, deriving from the greatest bookbinding centers. Some books are decorated with Renaissance humanists’ and European elite aristocratic class’s and Clergy’s (including popes) superexlibris.

The database contains only artistic bindings. The criterion of being artistic is the type of decoration placed on a cover and on a spine of a book, or at least on one of those, made by a bookbinder or – rarely - by another artist. This refers both to the bindings made of precious materials (mainly of leather) and to semi-leather and parchment bindings. In some cases, the bindings made of different materials are also considered to be pieces of art – providing their surface is enriched with decorative motifs or covered by precious material, like silk or velvet. At present (in July 2011) the database contains circa 150 bookbindings from the 16th century. This amount is going to arise systematically. Firstly, there are going to be added more bookbinding from the same period (these are firstly and best described in the Library) and, secondly, the bindings of the incunabula and of the books from the 17th and the 18th centuries. In order to facilitate the use of the database, the following formula of cataloguing records has been introduced:

1. The catalogue number of the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences.
2. Bibliographic data (the author’s name, the title, the place and the date of publication).
3. The country where a binding was created.
4. The place of the creation of the bookbinding.
5. The name of the author or the artist who made the binding.
6. The material of which the binding was made
7. The date when the binding was made
8. The provenance of the binding

The description of the decoration, motifs and of the tools used is replaced by detailed photographs (of the front cover, the back cover, the spine). As copies of the decorations drawn by pencil are helpful for professional analysis, the database
contains also scans of all decorative elements engraved on the bookbindings with millimeter scale. Moreover, there are presented also photographs of flyleaves - taking into consideration investigators of papermaking. The described photographs and scans are supposed to facilitate conducting accurate analysis of the whole composition and of any single decorative element of the bookbindings. Together with the bibliographic data, the information about the provenance about the paper used they enable conducting interdisciplinary historical research. Scientists, antiquarians and hobbyists who would like to see the originals bookbindings are served by English – and German – speaking staff (more information: www.biblioteka.ptpn.poznan.pl).

The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek

ProQuest

ProQuest has started digitizing more than 30,000 rare early printed books from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, capturing every volume in high-resolution colour scans. The KB is the third major European national library to participate in ProQuest’s Early European Books Online project after the Danish Royal Library, Copenhagen and the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze in Italy.

ProQuest will scan the holdings from the KB up to 1700, beginning with books printed in the Netherlands. The digital material will be freely accessible in the host country. From this summer, the Early European Books Online website will be available to everyone in the Netherlands. Initially, there will be a few hundred books online, but over the years all relevant books from the KB’s collections will be added.

Children’s books

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek has a collection of some 170,000 children’s books. Together with 10 other institutions, the library presents this collection in a joint catalogue: The Centraal Bestand Kinderboeken (Central Children’s Books File),
which contains some 200,000 records:
http://picarta.pica.nl.access.authkb.kb.nl/DB=3.34/LNG=EN/.

In order to be able to search in such a vast number of titles, a Genre Thesaurus was compiled, with 475 terms and c. 150 crossreferences (unfortunately in Dutch only). The pdf may be found at http://www.kb.nl/vak/kinderboeken/kinderboeken.html (sixth bullet). All special book forms have been included as well, with scope notes and broader and narrower terms – an excellent tool for researchers and compilers of exhibitions. A private collector has made an survey of the special book forms at http://www.hetoudekinderboek.nl/verzamelaarsinfo/AlfabetischeLijstBBV.htm.
A new illustrated book on the Getty Research Institute’s Special Collections highlights rare books, prints and drawings, archives and manuscripts, and rare photographs from the diverse collections which focus on original sources for art historical research and significant works of visual culture. Copies are available to libraries free of charge from Marcia Reed, Chief Curator (mreed@getty.edu). Please provide your institution’s complete mailing address.

Javier Tacón, the head of the Department of Preservation in the Biblioteca Histórica, has just published the third and final volume of his work on the restoration and preservation of documentary materials, entitled: Soportes y técnicas documentales: causas de su deterioro (Madrid, 2011). In this book – the most general of the three volumes- the author first describes different types of documents, both historic and modern, different media (such as papyrus, parchment, paper, etc.), different types of inks and different printing techniques. The second part is dedicated to studying reasons for book damage: physical, chemical and biological, which can compromise the constitution of documents and prevent accessing their contents.
Working Papers of the Biblioteca Historica

The Biblioteca Histórica of the Complutense University has published a collection of Working Papers (Documentos de trabajo) since 2003 dealing with topics related to the library and its collections. So far in 2011 thirteen documents have been published, all very interesting and varied in their subject matter: restoration and preservation, personal and institutional archives, library catalogs, engravings, promotion of the special collections through web tools, etc. The paper on Japan in the Complutense Library, published as a tribute to Japanese people after the earthquake, is of particular note.

München,
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

A number of manuscript catalogues have been finalized and are ready and close to publication:


New Haven CT, Yale University – Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Stieglitz – O’ Keeffe Correspondence

In the spring of 2011, the Beinecke Library published two different works relating to one its most prominent collections, the archive of Alfred Stieglitz / Georgia O’ Keeffe. The first was a collection of their correspondence entitled My Faraway One: selected letters of Georgia O’ Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz, volume one 1915-1933. This work is available through Yale University Press at http://yalepress.yale.edu/book.asp?isbn=9780300166309. The Beinecke Library has digitized the complete correspondence of Stieglitz and O’ Keeffe and has made it available through its website and the finding aid or guide to the collection. This allows a researcher to use the guide and read through all of the correspondence. For more information on this project see http://beineckepoetry.library.yale.edu/2011/05/20/stieglitz-okeeffe/

Gertrude Stein’s To do: A book of Alphabets and Birthdays

The Beinecke Library recently published a new edition of Gertrude Stein’s To do: a book of alphabets and birthdays. Written in 1940 and intended as a follow-up to her children’s book The World Is Round, published the previous year, To Do is a fanciful journey through the alphabet. Each letter is represented by four names (including Gertrude for “G”) and features a short story told in verse. “[This is] a
birthday book I would have liked as a child,” said Stein of *To Do*. For more information about this work see:

Web news

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Universidad Complutense

In addition to the collections of bibliographic and documentary heritage preserved in the Historical Library, the University Complutense keeps more than 103,000 books and documents printed in the nineteenth century in the libraries of the University that make up the Complutense library system. These collections are especially relevant in the oldest Faculties as Medicine, Law, Philology, Pharmacy or Fine Arts.

A collection of almost 800 Japanese ukiyo-e engravings, preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Fine Arts. They are dated into early Meiji period from 1868 to 1912, organized into book form, but originally intended as independent documents. Documents on Santiago Ramón y Cajal, Nobel Prize in Medicine, in the Library of the Faculty of Medicine, or the interesting "Flora de Filipinas (Manila, 1877-1880) by Francisco Manuel Blanco kept in the Faculty of Pharmacy are some examples of these collections.

Seminario Internacional sobre bibliotecas digitales. Bases de datos especializadas para la investigación en Literaturas Hispánicas (BIDESLITE). Madrid, 4 y 5 de julio

During the last 4th and 5th of July was held the International Seminar on Digital libraries and specialized databases for research in Hispanic literature (BIDESLITE). It was organized by the Group of late medieval and Hispanic Prose Renaissance and the following platforms were provided:

BIESES Bibliografía de Escritoras Españolas,
The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Alba amicorum

The KB’s collection of over 430 alba amicorum has been digitized within the scope of the Europeana Travel project; all images have been made accessible via the KB’s catalogue, Tel and EuropeanaTravel. The highlights of the EuropeanaTravel project, including 30 inscriptions in alba may be viewed in the European Library’s online exhibition Travelling Through History (13 partners, 520 digital objects, available in 10 languages). A number of alba amicorum (Heyblocq, Moens, Bolten) are available as digital facsimiles on the KB’s website, via http://www.kb.nl/bladerboeken. In the course of this year, more will follow.
Cooperation

Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

Heritage of the Printed Book (HPB) Database breaks the 3 million records barrier

With the completion of the update to the SBN(A) records provided by the Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico in Rome, which provided over half a million new records, the HPB has finally broken the barrier of 3 million records. The total number now stands at 3,462,212 bibliographical descriptions. As regards the display of HPB records, OCLC and CERL are proud to announce the introduction of hotlinks for records connected via the MARC21 subfield $w$ in the 76x-78x fields. This is an important step towards the HPB goal of making visible the interrelation between bibliographic entities not only within files, but also across files, and will allow users to explore the hierarchical structure of multivolume works more conveniently.

New provenance index

CERL and OCLC have also been working together on the introduction of a new provenance index, to be added to both the HPB and the WorldCat databases. The index is expected to be ready in August 2011. The keyword index will be built using data from the following MARC 21 fields: field 561 (Ownership and Custodial History, parallel to UNIMARC field 317), field 563 (Binding Information, parallel to UNIMARC field 310), and fields 700 and 710 with specific relator codes (Added Entries for Personal Names and Corporate Names, parallel to UNIMARC 7XX fields).

CERL Annual Seminar and Annual General Meeting

The 2011 Annual General Meeting will take place at the Vatican Library, on Saturday 12 November. The AGM will be preceded by CERL meetings on Thursday 10 November and the Annual Seminar on Friday 11 November. At the time of writing, sixty participants had already signed up to attend this year’s Seminar, the theme for
which is “La stampa romana nella Roma dei Papi e in Europa / The Roman Press in the Papal City and in Europe”. For more information, including how to register, go to http://www.cerl.org/web/en/services/seminars/main.

**Collaboration in Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)**

Eleven libraries are already recording their provenance information for incunabula in MEI (and a further ten have shown a marked interest in this service). The database, which was started by CERL Secretary Cristina Dondi is being populated with detailed provenance information for incunabula in a truly collaborative spirit:

- London, British Library
- London, Middle Temple Library
- Madrid, Real Biblioteca
- Padova, Biblioteca Universitaria
- Regione Lombardia (at present records from the collections of Università Cattolica Milan, Università Cattolica Brescia, Seminario Brescia, Chiari, Biblioteca Morcelliana)
- Roma, BNC
- Venezia, Biblioteca del Museo Correr
- Venezia, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana [part of C. Dondi’s research project].

**Seminar: Tools for Provenance and Bibliographical Research**

CERL will present its services as resources for provenance information in conjunction with the Rare Books in Scotland AGM (Glasgow, 24 November 2011). Rare Books in Scotland is a group of some 30 libraries (see also http://www.nls.uk/about-us/working-with-others/rare-books-in-scotland) and Cristina Dondi and Marian Lefferts look forward to discussing with them the HPB Database, CERL Thesaurus, CERL Portal, Material Evidence in Incunabula, *Index Possessorum Incunabulorum* (IPI), and CERL’s Can-you-help?-pages. Colleagues from Scotland will present the Glasgow Incunabula Project, which is a web catalogue (currently in progress) of the University of Glasgow’s 1,000 incunabula. The catalogue emphasises copy-specific details (provenance, bindings, decoration, annotations). See http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/specialcollections/incunabulaproject/.
CERL Newsletter (July 2011)

The latest issue of the CERL Newsletter has just appeared (see http://www.cerl.org/web/en/publications/newsletter). It contains detailed reports on the Europeana Libraries project, the LIBER Steering Committee on Heritage Collections and Preservation, and an important meeting of scholars of book bindings. The Newsletter also features articles on the Worth library in Dublin and the library of the Botanical Garden in Padua, announcements of conferences, workshops and seminars, a press release on the latest Google Book deal, and announcements of publications of digital materials in CERL member libraries.

Early Dutch Books Online

On May 25 the new Digital Library Early Dutch Books Online (EDBO) was festively launched with a conference and a lecture by prof. dr. Wijnand Mijnhardt, director of the Dutch Descartes Centre. EDBO offers full-text access to more than 2 million pages in 10,000 books from the period 1781-1800. For the Dutch this was a turbulent period, including the fourth Anglo-Dutch war, the French revolution and the Batavian Republic. But it was also a period of scientific and cultural growth. The collection of free-accessible books contains classic titles from Dutch literary history, including the letter novel History of Miss Sara Burgerhart (1782) and many political, historical, theological and scientific texts. But also popular prints like horror novels, song books, erotic novels and children’s books.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Royal Library of the Netherlands and the university libraries of Amsterdam and Leiden. Printed books from their collections have been digitized and made available on word level via optical character recognition (OCR). The books are all in the Dutch language or printed in the Netherlands, which means that interested researchers will also be able to find texts in Latin and French.
The EDBO database, accessible at [http://www.earlydutchbooksonline.nl/](http://www.earlydutchbooksonline.nl/), is connected directly to the Short Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN), the retrospective bibliography of Dutch books published between 1540 and 1800. And of course, the STCN also links back to EDBO.

Early Dutch Books Online is intended as a first step towards an online laboratory for the Humanities. Digitizing the various Special Collections from these three libraries, and in time also from other libraries, makes a large quantity of previously mostly inaccessible texts accessible to scholars and for education.

**The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek**

**Eberhard König KB-fellow**

In the autumn, the art historian Erberhard König (Freie Universität Berlin) will be the next KB fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Science (NIAS). He is the eighth scholar of repute in the field of the humanities to be offered the fellowship since 2005. During his tenure König will be studying the KB’s collection of books of hours from an international perspective.