



**International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions**



NATIONAL LIBRARIES NEWS MARCH 2023

The following stories have been submitted from colleagues in national libraries around the world. The Newsletter is prepared by the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR).

KBR (Royal Library of Belgium)

[Webinars: Historical Newspapers in the Digital Age](#)

The massive digitisation of historical newspapers in the past two decades has dramatically changed the ways in which researchers can make use of these sources. Discover projects that have implemented digital tools in investigating digitised newspapers:

- 25/05: Assessing Biases in Digitised Newspaper Collections
- 15/06: Reliable Semantic Indexing of Historical Newspapers at Scale

Sara Lammens appointed Director General of KBR

KBR is pleased to inform you that last month, Mrs. Sara Lammens was officially appointed as Director General of KBR. Over the next six years, she will continue to work with all KBR staff and partners to build the library of the future.

National Library of Finland

Collection of 19th century Finnish reader's letters available in Digi



The National Library of Finland has opened a digital collection of reader's letters called [Translocalis](#) on its digital collection website Digi, found at digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi. The collection includes letters from different parts of the country published by 1885 in Finnish newspapers.

All four of Sibelius's String Quartets published as a critical edition in the collected works of Jean Sibelius

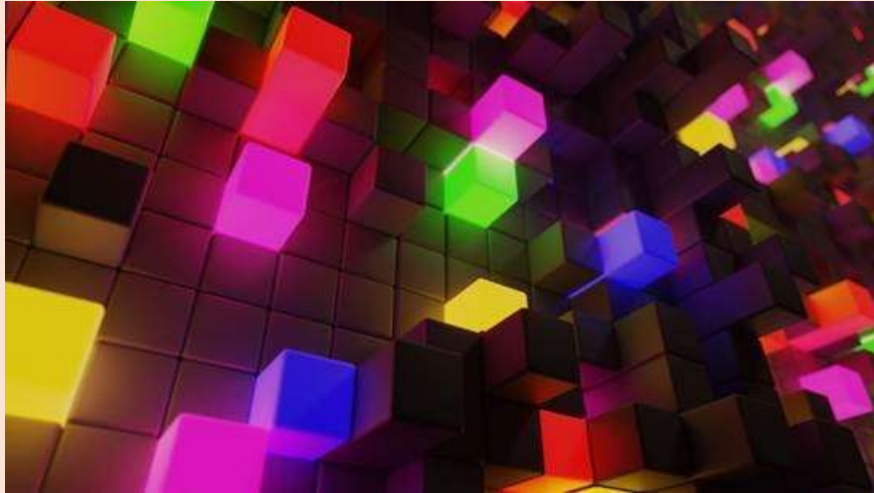


Description: The time lapse between Sibelius's first (JS 184, 1885 at left) and last (Op. 56, 1909 at right) String Quartets is 24 years, which shows in the autograph manuscripts.

All four of renowned Finnish composer Jean Sibelius's (1865-1957) String Quartets have now been published as a critical edition in the collected works of Jean Sibelius.

[The Jean Sibelius Works project](#) began in 1996. The aim is to publish Sibelius's production in its entirety in editions based on a thorough study of all surviving sources. The latest volume is the 37th in the series.

Dozens of online forums collected for the Finnish Web Archive



Online forums and message boards have long been significant venues for special-interest discussion and debate. They have also played an important role in the emergence of Finnish online culture. The National Library of Finland has now collected 55 Finnish online forums as a part of national cultural heritage.

National Library of Finland to terminate microfilming in early 2024



The National Library will discontinue microfilming in early 2024. This is done for several reasons. One is that as the required technology is no longer developed except to a very limited extent, we would be unable to replace our ageing equipment. Access to equipment maintenance services is also uncertain, making microfilming risky.

As resources are becoming increasingly digital, the National Library will use the Digital Preservation Service offered by CSC (The Finnish IT Center for Science) to ensure the preservation and usability of digital newspapers for future generations.

National Library of France (BnF)

[Gallica celebrates 10 million documents and 25 years of existence](#)

Launched in 1997 with a few thousand documents Gallica, the digital library of the BnF and its 260 partners, has grown considerably over time: on the occasion of its twenty-five years of existence, it has just reached the milestone of 10 million documents accessible online.

[Ukraine: one year of collecting ephemeral printed documents at the BnF](#)

Following the example of the mobilisation of staff which made the May 1968 leaflets collection possible, the Collections team of the BnF has been collecting all ephemeral printed documents such as brochures, leaflets, posters, flyers, etc. relating to the war in Ukraine. Thanks to the contributors, nearly 450 documents have been collected in one year. They can be consulted in the research library. The complete references of the collection can also be found in the [general catalogue](#) of the BnF.

[Call for applications - Research Grant on the History of non-European Collections 2023-2024](#)

Since 2020, the BnF and the Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac are jointly proposing grants with the aim of facilitating research undertaken by PhD students, post-doctoral candidates and university researchers on the subject of the history of non-European collections within their two institutions. The call for applications is opened until 2 May 2023.

[Call for Applications for BnF-CRFJ Research Grants to Study the Documentary Collections of the Custody of the Holy Land in Jerusalem](#)

The BnF, in partnership with the Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem (CRFJ, French Research Centre in Jerusalem), has launched a call for applications for individual research grants aimed to support the identification, description and/or study of collections held by the Custody of the Holy Land. These collections, which are being digitised with the assistance of the BnF, will be made available on Gallica as part of the [Bibliothèques d'Orient \(Libraries of the Middle East\) project](#).

The call for applications is opened until 31 May 2023.

National Library of Ireland

NLI launches redesigned and bilingual website. <https://www.nli.ie/news-stories/news/nli-launches-new-website>

The National Library of Ireland (NLI), on March 7th 2023, launched a new and entirely redesigned website: [\[www.nli.ie\]](http://www.nli.ie)www.nli.ie.

With more than one million page views per year, our website is the primary means by which the public can access information about the NLI. The new website, launched ahead of St Patrick's Day celebrations, now features more ways of inspiring people and revealing all the National Library has to offer. New features include bilingual presentation in English and Gaeilge and fully searchable database with events calendar and mobile responsiveness. The new [Learn](https://www.nli.ie/learn) section provides access to information on the NLI's educational resources and exhibitions for use by teachers, students, and the public.

People and Places | New photographic exhibition in Dublin City Centre
<https://www.nli.ie/exhibitions-events/people-places>

Exhibition | People & Places: Ireland in 19th & 20th Centuries

Look back through the camera lens at 150 years of life in Ireland in images selected from some of our most popular photographic collections.

The National Library of Ireland holds over five million photographs in our collections, and they create a unique and fascinating record of life in Ireland. This exhibition showcases 50 of those photographs, revealing the people and places of the island of Ireland from the 1850s to the turn of the 21st century in images.

National Library of Mauritius

Silver Award Winner – National Production and Quality Convention (NPQC) 2020-2021

National Library of Mauritius

Project

Presentation NPQC 20/21

Theme

Pursuing Productivity & Quality amidst COVID-19

The National Library of Mauritius is a Para-Statal body under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage. It was established by the Government under the National Library Act of 1996 (Act No. 32) and was officially opened to the public in January 2000. It is mandated to collect and preserve the library materials and make these available to the public for consultation.

The National Library of Poland

New reading rooms at the National Library win Property Design Award

The modernisation of the reading rooms at the National Library of Poland, designed by Konior Studio, has won a Property Design Award in the category "Design - Interiors: Public Buildings". The award was made during the 4 DESIGN DAYS in Katowice.

New issue of Polish Libraries from the National Library of Poland

The peer-reviewed, English-language journal *Polish Libraries* from the National Library of Poland presents articles on the historical and current challenges facing Polish libraries and libraries and information studies, including ancillary and related sciences.

National Library of Singapore

[NLB's Historical Asian Children's Literature Collection Recognised By UNESCO As Documentary Heritage Of Influence](#)

The UNESCO Memory of the World Committee for Asia Pacific has recognised The National Library Board's (NLB) Historical Asian Children's Literature Collection (HACL) as an indelible part of the region's culture and heritage. The collection, housed at Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, comprised about 5,000 books produced from 1890 to 1990, and featured mainly fictional titles which included folktales, fairy tales, and historical fiction set in Asia, with titles in English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil and other Asian languages.

In this article, [Vintage Gems from the Asian Children's Collection](#), Librarian Michelle Heng presents some of these old-time children's titles.

[NLB and BAC Launch Bioethics Corner](#)

In partnership with the Bioethics Advisory Committee, the National Library Board launched the Bioethics Corner at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, allowing patrons to discover and learn more about the ethical issues in areas such as Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, surrogacy, organ transplants and genetic manipulation. Patrons can find more than 13,600 books and 5,500 e-books related to bioethics in the library or through the NLB Mobile app.

[Light Amidst Adversity Book Display](#)

Light Amidst Adversity showcases historical and archival treasures from the National Library's Rare Materials Collection and the National Archives to commemorate Singapore's Total Defence Day. It seeks to explore the themes of resistance and resilience during World War II and post-war remembrance in Singapore. The display features a selection of rare books, photographs, artworks, personal documents, and ephemera that record local war preparations and poignant stories in a time of adversity. In conjunction with the display, a [talk](#) was held on 23 February 2023.

In this article, [Taking Cover: Air Raid Precaution Measures in Singapore During the Second World War](#), Librarian Gracie Lee looks at a donation of three war-time air raid shelter plans to the National Library, as well as air raid precaution measures implemented in Singapore during the Second World War.

Library of Congress

[Copyright Office Launches New Artificial Intelligence Initiative](#)

The U.S. Copyright Office launched a new initiative to examine the copyright law and policy issues raised by artificial intelligence, including the scope of copyright in works generated using AI tools and the use of copyrighted materials in AI training. To address the copyrightability and registration issues raised by these works, the Copyright Office is issuing new registration guidance. Throughout the spring, the Copyright Office will host public listening sessions with artists, creative industries, AI developers and researchers, and lawyers working on these issues. Later this year, the Copyright Office plans to publish a notice of inquiry soliciting public comments on a wide range of copyright issues arising from the use of AI.

[Collection Close-Up Book Series Provides Intimate Look at Library of Congress Collections](#)

A new series from the Library of Congress invites readers to experience the Library's treasures in compact, accessible books.

The first two books in the new Collection Close-Up series were released March 14.

“American Feast” Spotlights Food from America’s Library

“American Feast: Cookbooks and Cocktails from the Library of Congress,” by Zach Klitzman and Susan Reyburn, traces the lip-smacking evolution of American recipes, from the earliest founding-era American household manuals to 21st century themed cookbooks and everything in between.

“The Joy of Looking” Draws on the Library’s Immense Photography Collection

“The Joy of Looking: Great Photographs from the Library of Congress,” by Aimee Hess and Hannah Freece, showcases 108 thought-provoking images selected by photo curators and subject specialists from the 17 million photographs in the Library’s collections.

[Inaugural Library of Congress Film and Sound Festival Set to Gather Film Fans, Archivists and Authors in Celebration of Rare Silent and Sound Cinema](#)

The Library of Congress National Audio-Visual Conservation Center announced the inaugural Library of Congress Festival of Film and Sound, a new four-day film event celebrating the Library’s rich moving image and recorded sound collections. The festival will be held in association with AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center and will take place June 15 to 18 at the American Film Institute’s historic theater in Silver Spring, Maryland. The festival will showcase restored archival 35mm prints from the collections of the Library of Congress and other preeminent archives, as well 4K digital presentations of new restorations and rarities. All silent films will feature live musical accompaniment. This will be the first film festival devoted to showcasing the national library’s film collections.

[Library of Congress Holds Symposium on Women Leadership in Tech and Investments for International Women's Day](#)

The Library of Congress Science, Technology and Business Division co-sponsored an International Women’s Day symposium on Wednesday, March 8, with Parliament51, a social impact venture that promotes equal opportunities for women in the workforce. The symposium brought together scientists, entrepreneurs and technology experts to discuss the current state of investments in technology, increasing women in leadership positions, and incorporating diverse thinking into problem-solving through technology.

Various

The Slavic Reference Service and the Diasporas Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign would like to share the call for proposals for the upcoming online conference, "National Libraries - Beyond Borders. Mission and Future Directions."

In an interconnected digital world, national libraries are more transnational, striving to preserve diverse experiences, identities, and the intellectual histories of their respective countries in multiple formats and languages. With increased migration of communities due to socio-economic and environmental challenges, the prevalent conceptual model of a national library confined to territorial boundaries is undergoing significant changes to address the growth of diasporas and other transnational communities.

We invite representatives from national libraries and scholars to discuss the conference theme and subthemes, to share original research as well as their perspectives on the future directions of national libraries. We strongly encourage students and early career scholars to submit paper proposals to this conference. Presenters will have the opportunity to submit their papers to be included in a collective work. Selected papers will undergo a rigorous review process by the conference editorial board.

The National Libraries Conference will take place online through Zoom on May 17-18, 2023. We hope the conference will serve as a platform for fruitful discussions on how national libraries collect, preserve, share, and curate their collections in a rapidly changing environment. Please submit your 250-words abstract by April 5, 2023.

Sub themes:

Preservation

International Cooperation

Digital Repositories

Cultural Heritage

Digitization

Web archiving

National Bibliographies

For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://forms.gle/FYfQBDDn1uVqZcom7>