



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

LIBER DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

1. SUMMARY

The Forum is a shared LIBER/CERL activity. Its focus is on the transfer, role, place and exploitation of cultural heritage collections, as this is the most valuable asset for a research library which assures the library's uniqueness, distinctiveness and identity in the digital environment. The Forum works to allow better insights and sharing of these collections. The remit includes the challenges of the new, digital born cultural heritage assets which need to be identified, cared for, described and preserved. For this, close co-operation takes place not only with CERL and the Digital Collections Working Group of the Reshaping the Research Library Steering Committee but also with IFLA and relevant EU projects. The Chair of the Forum has also been acting on behalf of LIBER on the TEL Board. The Forum serves within LIBER as an awareness guarantee and exchange space for best practices and ideas, to encourage practitioners in their daily concerns, and to support each other in common approaches, to develop strong networks, and meaningful collaboration.

2. ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL 1: Participate in the Early European Books Library Advisory Board

STATUS: ongoing

SUMMARY: The role of this Board is to advise and support the development of ProQuest's EEB (Early European Books) collections. The terms of reference are that the Board should:

- Act in an advisory capacity on the digitisation of early printed books in Europe
- Help explore how such outputs could be used
- Identify standards to be used

The link between ProQuest and LIBER is non-exclusive and LIBER reserves the right to discuss its principles on the digitisation of cultural heritage materials with any other suitable suppliers. Meetings have taken place in Riga, June 2014, in London, March 2015, and the next meeting will take place on 23 June 2015. LIBER Libraries interested in ProQuest's services can approach the Forum for advice.

GOAL 2: Ensure that LIBER Libraries which were formerly members of the LIBER Security Network were transferred to the continuation of the Network at CERL.

STATUS: Achieved (and ongoing)

SUMMARY: As one of the activities of the (now) CERL Security Working Group, the Security Network mailing list was set up as a safe environment for members to exchange information on thefts and on patterns of theft, and to work closely together on methods of detection and prevention. All LIBER Libraries on the former mailing list were invited to nominate one member of staff (typically the Head of Security or equivalent) to join the new mailing list. The former mailing list archive hosted at the KB Denmark was transferred to CERL. All libraries were invited to the first Conference of the CERL Security Network on 'Library Security: Practices and Strategies', which was hosted by the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and took place on 8 May 2015. The full programme is available [here](#). LIBER Libraries are encouraged to join the Security Network for their physical collections, the Forum acting as an adviser: please contact Marian Lefferts (marian.lefferts@cerl.org).

GOAL 3: Support an international exploration and discussion on how digitally-available provenance information is best recorded and exploited across collections

STATUS: Achieved (and ongoing)

SUMMARY: The recording of provenance is a major concern for cultural heritage collections, as this is related to the uniqueness of a copy or object, an important part of its history and materiality which needs to be translated in the digital world. This also allows to go beyond physical collections, reconstituting historical contexts in the digital environment. All LIBER Libraries were invited to attend a series of events that highlighted the importance of recording provenance information and engaged with the audience to discuss how to shape provenance records:

- SHARP (Antwerp, 17 September 2014). CERL workshop on 'Historical Provenance Research: Material Evidence, Documentary Evidence, and Digital Humanities' (presenters included M. van Delft, C. Dondi, M. Hulvey, M. Lefferts, P. Cullhed). It focused on today's integrated approaches to provenance research. Another stream focused on other European projects on provenance research integration, as well as on the use of documentary evidence to complement evidence-based historical research. Finally, there was a discussion on digital repositories for provenance images.
- Workshop on 'A coordinated approach to recording and searching provenance records and images: moving forwards', organised by IFLA RBMS and CERL at the Warburg Institute (London, 11-12 March 2015). This was a follow-up to the successful Pre-SHARP CERL Workshop in Antwerp. Conceived as a series of roundtable discussions, the programme explored a coordinated approach to recording and searching provenance records and images. Discussion topics included: What do we have and what do we need? Can we agree upon a common model or metadata structure; How do we achieve interoperability between existing databases; Can we consider a contributed model that includes scholars, libraries, and research institutions; What are the principal challenges (ex: coat of arms)?; and the use of Iconclass. The programme and powerpoint presentations are made available [here](#).
- A conference on 'Signa vides - Researching and recording printers' devices: current activities and new perspective's, organised under the auspices of CERL by Professor Dr Anja Wolkenhauer (University of Tübingen), Michaela Scheibe (Berlin State Library) and Dr Andreas Fingernagel (Austrian National Library) took place in Vienna on 17-18 March 2015. Articles are currently being prepared and CERL intends to publish the proceedings and powerpoint presentation will be made available via the CERL website.

GOAL 4: Prepare a LIBER fDigital Cultural Heritage Forum Workshop to take place during the LIBER Annual General Conference (London, Senate House, Wednesday 24 June 2015, am only)

STATUS: in progress

SUMMARY: The theme of the workshop is the state of the art in Image recognition. This is a quite new feature which is extremely useful for better discovering for comparing and describing images in cultural heritage material thanks to digital procedures, applying intelligent technical developments.

GOAL 5: Prepare the programme for the 4th Digital Curation Workshop

STATUS: in progress

SUMMARY: Istanbul has invited LIBER to organise the workshop there in 2016. A brainstorming of possible themes and strands to be covered by the workshop started in Riga (June 2014) and will continue in 2015. The outcomes of the brainstorming were shared with the participants in the Forum session in June 2014, and Titia van der Werf of OCLC Leiden, who offered to sit on the organising committee for the 2016 event.

GOAL 6: Bring together an active group of participants, promotion, advocacy

STATUS: Partly achieved

SUMMARY: The LinkedIn Group on 8 May 2015 had 532 members (join us at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups?viewMembers=&gid=3315506&sik=1400754295013>). A small Committee organised the Forum's London Workshop, and a small Committee is being formed to

organise the 4th Digital Curation Workshop in 2016. There has been dissemination to the CERL and LIBER communities at large, and all are warmly invited to join the Forum. The Forum has a

dual approach with a small flexible core group (to initiate activities, to coordinate events, and bring together relevant information) feeding into a much larger group who are informed, invited to participate in (the organisation of) events, and called upon to share all manner of relevant information. The transfer of information between LIBER, CERL and IFLA works well. The Forum is advertised in the relevant meetings of these bodies, and in activities like Dr Fabian's keynote speech in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2014 (International congress on the management of cultural heritage and cultural memory institutions), Cultural heritage in the digital world: from the treasure house to global traveller. An important medium for dissemination is also LIBER Quarterly, where issues of digital cultural heritage can be addressed (see the publication on manuscript digitisation in Germany).

GOAL 7: work with the LIBER Office to update and improve the Forum's section on the LIBER website and prepare fact sheets

STATUS: ongoing

SUMMARY:

The website is an excellent place for sharing information with LIBER Libraries. The general information and record of past activities about the Forum are present, but need updating. We particularly welcome the possibility of integrating subject-oriented fact sheets. This will be discussed in our working session in June 2015. A fact sheet on the [IFLA Guidelines for Planning the Digitization of Rare Book and Manuscript Collections](#), is in development, more should follow, trying to collect and thus publish presentations of workshops and activities. We invite LIBER Librarians to submit ideas and fact sheets on relevant information to the Forum.

3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Forum will organise the 4th Digital Curation Workshop (Istanbul, April/May 2016)

The Forum will identify issues of common concern in its working session in London and throughout the Annual Conference and liaise with LIBER's Steering Committees and Working Groups in this area.

The Forum plans to prepare a high-level overview of technical issues that are being approached in a variety of projects and library workflows and to present these as fact sheets through the LIBER website (e.g. Digital curation, Image recognition, Viewers for cultural heritage material). The aim is to raise awareness of these activities to ensure that work is not duplicated and to stimulate collaboration rather than parallel developments.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

All LIBER members are warmly invited to attend the CERL Annual Seminar on 'Library History, why, what and how?' (University of Antwerp, 27 October 2015). The full programme will soon be made available [on the CERL website](#).

A Conference about the future challenges for libraries 'What Do We Lose When We Lose a Library?', to be held on 9-11 September 2015 in Leuven, should be noted. It commemorates the destruction of the physical collections of Leuven University Library twice and questions the role of physical collections in a digital world. For more information, see <https://kuleuvencongres.be/libconf2015/website>

5. INVITATION TO JOIN AND HOW TO SEND FEEDBACK TO THE FORUM?

If you would like to join the Forum, would be prepared to work with us on preparing a fact sheet on technical developments in the field, or would like to share your news with us, then please write to Marian Lefferts at marian.lefferts@cerl.org.

Dr Claudia Fabian
Drs Marian Lefferts
Chair

May 2015

