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Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

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

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Reminiscence of Hangzhou

After a wonderful meeting in Hangzhou: Jan Bos, our secretary, is wrapping up the event:

Dear colleagues,

I am really astonished about the amount of library work in the field of rare books and manuscripts and of book historical research in China! There is so much going on! Of course, before coming here, I was aware of the great and important tradition of book production and paper making in China. But already during the first speeches of this morning by Mr. Yang Jian Xin, Director General of the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Province, and by Dr Zhan Furui from the National Library of China, I was also informed on the extensive cataloguing programmes, preservation programmes and digitization programmes that are being executed. I was very glad to learn about these programmes, as they are the basis of modern library work.

The predominant place of China in the invention and development of woodblock printing, movable type printing and paper making is evident and is being recognized world-wide. The tradition of a book society in China is longer than anywhere else in the world. And if I make some comments on what we have heard today, please remember that I have been listening with western ears and that I speak with a western mouth. And I hope that you will also realize that a wrap up of a conference like this can only be very fragmentary.

I can only comment on the papers that we have heard today. But in fact there are many, many more papers in this conference as we can see in this huge volume of collected papers. I have only had the opportunity for a quick glance through the abstracts of the 66(!) collected papers, but I

was impressed by the variety of subjects and the richness of book historical research and library work that is presented. And I am also looking forward with great expectations to the visits that we will make in the next two days to the old libraries, museums and printing villages; these are part of the conference as well, but can not yet be summarized now!

As paper is one of the most basic materials for book production and also for calligraphy, paper making, preservation and restoration fully deserved the attention they received from various speakers. The really spectacular slides by Nancy Tomasko were highly instructive for this subject; but also the proposals and advice by Mr. Li Dadong regarding the restoration of ancient paper and the discourse by Pan Mengbu are worth to be mentioned.

Enormous numbers of woodblocks for printing have been preserved, and many speakers dealt with this fascinating subject. For Europeans like me both the number and the nature and the size of these woodblocks are exciting. I agree with Prof. Xiao Dongfa and Dr Lin Zuzao that all efforts to preserve these woodblocks are very important, and that both the central government and the local organizations should take a responsibility in this.

The influence of Taoist seals on the development of Buddhist woodblocks, as explained by Mr. Zhang Zhiqing, brings me to the function of books and texts in society. In our research on early books and manuscripts we should never forget to study their role in society, a role that could change substantially through the centuries and in different regions. But also at the same moment and in the same region books could have different functions for different social layers. We heard some very fine examples of that, e.g. from Lin Zuzao, but also in relation to the genealogical publications that Ms Ding Hong spoke about.

Understanding the practical processes and procedures that are involved in book production is a very important knowledge. In the first place when we speak of very early writing and printing techniques, e.g. the use of bamboo strips which Ms Yi Xuemei introduced to us. But it is also important to know and understand all activities in the printing process in later ages, like the calculation of characters, the way of proof reading, the economical aspects of publishing, and copyright standards, as explained by Prof. Chen Zhengong.

At the beginning of my speech I mentioned cataloguing, digitization and research as basic tools for old and rare books librarians. But I think that one task is even more basic, more elementary. That is the task of advocacy. Cultural heritage is always under pressure. There is always a great risk of neglect. By speaking out loud to government institutions, to scholars and students, but also to the general public, we, librarians and

book historians, should promote the collecting, preservation and research of these precious materials. That is exactly what we have been doing today: by the papers that we heard, by the other papers that were published and by the exhibition in the library hall. I want to thank you for everything I have learned today. Thank you.

And our host, Lin Zuzao, Senior Librarian of Zhejiang Library, China added concerning the Publication of the Proceedings of 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference in Hangzhou:

The publication is in Advancing smoothly. After the successful conclusion of the 2006 IFLA Pre-conference in Hangzhou, we made a suggestion to Dr. Jan Bos, Secretary of IFLA RBMS for the publication of the proceedings of this conference "Chinese Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and Library Work ". This idea was confirmed by discussed and passed in the Standing Committee of IFLA RBMS in Souel.

On June 1/2007, we received the official confirmation that IFLA and Saur have agreed that they will publish the proceedings of our preconference "Chinese Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and Library Work" in the IFLA Publications Series in 2008, which will also contain a preface of Dr. Alex Byrne.

Most of the authors agreed to translate their papers and will submit their English version according to our schedule. We are at the moment busy in collecting our conference's materials, in translating the papers and articles.

By the end of the year the book will be ready for publishing. We would like to show our sincere thanks to our Section's colleagues for the cordial support of this work and hope to complete this work smoothly.

IFLA 73rd General Conference and Council in Durban

"Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships" is this year's motto for the conference in Durban, South Africa from 19-23 August 2007. The final draft of the programme is not yet online, but you can find the preliminary programme at

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm> . The Section Committee meetings will take place on Saturday, 18 August and Friday, 24 August. They will be used for elections of new Section Officers this year. Meetings on Wednesday afternoon will be held together with Preservation and Conservation Section members on "Preservation in African collections: perspectives and case studies". Details on these meetings you might have read in our mailing list in May, but they are online now. Some of the texts can be found at the moment. Just look at the programme from time to time to find out more.

Prior to the main conference there are some satellite meetings, one of them called "Mould, Integrated Pest Management and Dust in Collections"

in cooperation of RBMS, Newspapers, and PCS. Programme details at <http://nlsahopta.nlsa.ac.za/IFLAPAC2007/program.htm>.

From the Libraries

Hannover

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek – Niedersächsische Landesbibliothek:
The library's collection of manuscript papers of Leibniz has been added to UNESCO's "Memory of the World" register. About 50.000 items, including about 15,000 letters from and to about 1,100 correspondents belong to the collection. More details on the Leibniz papers can be found at www.unesco.org/webworld/mow (go to search, search for Leibniz).

London

The British Library

After a successful fundraising campaign the BL bought a lavishly illuminated medieval manuscript, the *Wardington Hours*. The manuscript from the Bedford workshop in Paris dates from the first half of the 15th century and was finished in around 1440.

Munich

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek:

The Munich copy of the Gutenberg Bible has been digitized recently and is now accessible via our website and online incunable catalogue:

http://mdz1.bib-bvb.de/~mdz/kurzauswahl.html?url=http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/bsbink/Ausgabe_B-408.html

The Munich Gutenberg Bible is one of only two copies which contain the table of rubrics, a printed list of headlines which served as a guide to the rubricator. The Bible is printed on paper and contains some illumination and manuscript annotation, the latter can be ascribed to a Benedictine monk from Tegernsee. In 1803, the Bible was transferred to Munich from the Benedictine monastery of Andechs.

The website includes links to our cooperation partner, the Humanities Media Interface Project of Keio University Tokyo who carried out the digitization, and to an article (in German) about the project.

New Haven, Conn.

Yale University Library

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library has received one of the largest gifts for years when Yale alumni David Richards donated his Kipling collection recently. Beinecke's Kipling collection now ranks with Harvard and the University of Texas, both owners of large collection of this writer. Beinecke earlier this year received the important collection of William Reese, bookseller and equally a former student of Yale, on the poet Siegfried Sassoon. An exhibition "Rudyard Kipling: The Books I Leave Behind" is on display at the library till September.

Rijeka, Croatia
University Library

University Library Rijeka published a catalogue of 16th century books in Rijeka. The project is online and the catalogue can be browsed at the following URL: <http://www.svkri.hr/povijesnazbirka/> Reading about the project is difficult for all those of us who cannot speak Croatian, there are, however, some texts in English under "dokumenti". The text by Senka Tomljanovic is on the website of this year's CERL workshop (v. Events May in this newsletter).

Rome
Vatican Library

Due to renovation work, the Vatican Library will be closed for three years starting July 14th, 2007. At the moment there are no further details on the library's website: http://bav.vatican.va/it/v_home_bav/home_bav.shtml.

Exhibitions

Scottish National Library, Edinburgh, has just opened an exhibition on the John Murray Archive, entitled "Ideas that Shaped the World: An Introduction to the John Murray Archive". The archive of one of the most influential printers has been acquired by the SNL only last year with considerable financial help from the Scottish Executive and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The library now for the first time exhibits parts of the archive. Details: <http://www.nls.uk/news/press/2007-06-26.html>

National and University Library of Slovenia, Ljubljana, shows an exhibit in connection with the XIXth Congress of IOSOT, the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament in July: "The Slovenian Holy Bible". Translations into the Slovenian language from the earliest time till today are on display. URL: <http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/nukeng.asp>

The National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague, together with the National Library of Sweden, is preparing an exhibition starting September 20th, 2007 on the so-called "Devil's Bible". The Codex Gigas dates from the early 13th century and is the world's largest codex. Interesting details on the exhibition can be found at http://www.nkp.cz/files/codex_gigas_en.pdf.

Events

May 2007

CERL conference and workshop "The European Manuscript & Hand Press Book Heritage: The role of the Consortium of European Research Libraries" took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this year. The programme included lectures by Drs Marian Lefferts on CERL, giving details on the

state of art and on future activities, by Alexander Jahnke on the CERL Thesaurus, by Dr Zoran Velagic on "HPB as the Source for Early Modern Book History", by Ivan Boserup on "CERL Portal and Assisted Searching", by Dr Ingrid Svensson on cataloguing archival sources in Sweden, by Dr David Shaw on "Books and Their Owners: CERL and Provenance Research", and by colleagues from Croatia - Senka Tomljanovic, Dr Irena Galic, and Mr.sc. Vesna Cucic - on rare books and manuscripts in Dubrovnik, Rijeka, and Zagreb. Some of these lectures can be found as powerpoint presentations on the website of CERL, so especially when you like to know more about rare books and manuscripts in Dubrovnik and Rijeka, go to http://www.cerl.org/CERL/dubrovnik_seminar_2007.htm.

October 2007

The programme for the annual meeting of *Arbeitskreis fuer die Erfassung, Erschliessung und Erhaltung Historischer Bucheinbaende* was not available when we published our last issue in April. Now we have got the details of the conference on bookbinding in Wolfenbüttel starting October, 18th this year:

Thursday, 18th, October 2007

Guided tour in the exhibition "Bucheinbände der Herzog August Bibliothek aus dem 16. bis 18. Jahrhundert" (Bindings of the 16th to 18th century in HAB) Dag Ernst Petersen (Wolfenbüttel)

Opening of the conference and lecture on Hermann Herbst by Dr. Helmar Härtel (Wolfenbüttel)

Friday, 19th, October 2007

9.00 am: Religiöse Bücher in Frauenhand. Darstellung und Selbstdarstellung by Dr. Wolfgang Undorf (Stockholm)

9.45 am: Zu den Einbänden der mittelalterlichen Handschriften und Inkunabeln in den Beständen der Vereinigten Domstifter Naumburg, Merseburg und Zeitz by Frank-Joachim Stewing (Zeitz)

11.00 am: Die Bedeutung des Titelaufdrucks bei Bucheinbänden des 15. und 16. Jahrhunderts für die Einbandforschung by Dr. Konrad von Rabenau (Schöneiche/Leipzig)

11.45 am: Stecher und Schriftdruck auf Bucheinbänden by Klara Jahn (Halle)

15.00 pm: Workshops (at the same time)

1: Datenbanken oder Repertorien – Lösungen für den Nachweis von Bucheinbänden in Bibliotheken

Moderated by Thomas Klaus Jacob (Berlin)

2: Die Restaurierung von wasser- und hitzegeschädigten Einbänden der Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek Weimar – Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Originalerhaltung

Moderated by Matthias Hageböck (Weimar)

3: Die Sammlung von Einzelstempeln der Stadtbibliothek Braunschweig (still not sure)

Saturday, 20th, October 2007

9.00 am: Ein unbekannter Einband von Johannes Richenbach aus Geislingen. Einbandtechnik, Provenienz, Inhalt by Dr. Dietrich Hakelberg (Wolfenbüttel)

9.45 am: Buchbinder-Eigenwerbung vom 18. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart by Dr. Claus Maywald (Mainz)

11.00 am: Kunst, die Buch ist – Bücher, die Kunst sind. Malerbücher und moderne Einbandkunst in der Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel by Almuth Corbach und Katharina Mähler (Wolfenbüttel)

11.45 am: Zweierlei Gold ... Zu Leben und Werk des Braunschweiger Buchbinders Johann Jacob Selenka by Dr. Ute Maria Etzold (Wolfenbüttel)

12.30 pm: End of meeting

This is only a preliminary programme. Colleagues interested to join the meeting should go to <http://aeb.sbb.spk-berlin.de/programm.html>. There you can also find the booking details (booking open till August 15th).

28th -30th November 2007

Third International Conference of LIBER's Manuscript Librarians Group, Berlin

Manuscript librarians from across Europe will meet at the Staatsbibliothek Berlin from 28-30 November 2007 to discuss matters of mutual professional interest. This Third International Conference of LIBER's Manuscript Librarians Group follows meetings at the Kungl. Biblioteket, Stockholm, in 2000 and at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, in 2003. The conference will focus on ways in which we communicate the manuscript holdings of our institutions to researchers, to scholars and to the public who visit exhibitions and use the internet. The meeting will work towards a greater mutual knowledge and an active exchange of information and experiences among European libraries, in keeping with the aims of the Group. There will be a limit of 100 participants. As we anticipate a high demand, you are advised to book early.

April 2008

Exhibitions and other events will start for celebrating 500 years of printing in Scotland. A preliminary list of planned events is on <http://www.500yearsofprinting.org/index.php> .

Projects

In cooperation with AREA - Archives of European Archaeology (EU, Culture 2000), Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris, and Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg i. Br. *Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel* has launched a project on "Archaeological Finds in the Early Modern Period". A bibliographic database will be established and made accessible online. It will contain key texts on archaeological practices and finds from the soil of the Holy Roman Empire (incl. Switzerland and Prussia) printed before 1806. Provenances and marginalia for the individual books will be

recorded in order to provide sources for the reception of the printed text and for the history of private libraries. Books from the holdings of the HAB will be fully digitised and indexed through a special thesaurus. The project is funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation). For more details go to

<http://www.hab.de/forschung/projekte/archaeologische-funde-e.htm> On the German-language site you can find a list of all books digitized up to now. There are also some examples for annotations made to the texts, and for bindings, owner marks, library notations, etc.

Also at *Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel* another project in cooperation with Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich tries to catalogue all subjects, persons, and places mentioned in Zedler's "Universal-Lexicon", one of the most important encyclopaedia of the 18th century. The text has been digitized by Bayerische Staatsbibliothek some years ago. For more details go to <http://www.hab.de/forschung/projekte/zedler.htm>.

RBMS Task Force Committee on Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship has published a new draft of the "Competencies for Special Collections Professionals" on June 4th, 2007. Fundamental and special competencies are discussed. The draft can be found on the website of RBMS: www.rbms.info/committees/task_force/core_competencies and has been discussed at a public hearing at the Task Force meeting in Washington.

The Institute of English Studies in the University of London starts with a series of lectures and workshops that will become the *London Rare Books School (LRBS)*. This year, there will be 6 courses in only four days, but the Course Director, Professor Simon Eliot, hopes to expand the number of courses and the number of weeks as well next year. Details on the school can be found in *Sharp news* 16,2 (Spring 2007) or at <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/cmeps/events/courses/LRBS/index.htm>.

Publications

Bettina Wagner from Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich informs about a catalogue of an exhibition in 2006:

Auf den Spuren des Mittelalters. 30 Jahre Handschriftenzentrum an der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek : Ausstellung anlässlich der Tagung "Die Katalogisierung mittelalterlicher Handschriften in internationaler Perspektive" 25. Oktober - 2. Dezember 2005 Ausstellung und Katalogredaktion: Béatrice Hernad und Bettina Wagner. München : Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, 2005. 100 Seiten : 31 Farbabb.

As the catalogue has been out of print since January 2007, we have now

put an electronic version online. Due to the numerous illustrations in the catalogue, the PDF file is rather large (142 MB) and may take some time to download.

You can access the file under "Lieferbare Publikationen der BSB"

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/265.0.html> or directly under

http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/fileadmin/imageswww/pdf-dateien/BSB_Katalog.pdf

Raphaële Mouren

maître de conférences en histoire du livre Enssib, chercheur associé centre Gabriel Naudé enssib/ephe sent information about an important recent publication

Manuel du patrimoine en bibliothèque, sous la direction de Raphaële Mouren, avec la participation d'Isabelle Westeel, Stéphane Ipert, Marine Planche et al., Paris, Éd. du Cercle de la Librairie, 2007 (collection bibliothèques). ISBN 978-2-7654-0949-6

Various specialists of the ancient and rare book propose with this "Manuel" a complete vademecum of actions and decisions that a librarian in charge of these collections has to make in numerous fields : constitution, conservation, description, exhibition... Resting on precedent French and international publications, especially those focusing on preservation and conservation (Ifla, Bibliothèque nationale de France, ministère de la Culture and others books of the « collection Bibliothèque » ...), the Manuel complete them with chapters on others fields rarely studied in professional publications.

Web News

From our colleague Andrew Stephenson, Cultural Collections, University of Melbourne Library, we got the following news in early April. Unfortunately, it was late for our last issue:

The University of Melbourne Cultural Collections Group

The new web site for the University of Melbourne's Cultural Collections Group was launched in October 2006 and is available at

<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/> .

Details of the more than thirty individual collections that the Group brings together are now assembled on the site, including Rare Books, Special Collections, Archives, the Print Room and the Grainger Museum, together with galleries and museums across the University. The site provides a range of alternative access points to the collections, including name, category, a fully cross-referenced alphabetical listing and a search engine customised to search the full content of the web site.

One of the functions of the new site is to act as a portal to the collections, providing descriptive information on each collection and links to individual web sites.

Students in various conservation and curatorial programmes are involved with the collections and the site lists the projects that are currently being undertaken, together with those available for student placements. These projects are arranged and co-ordinated through the Cultural Collections Group.

Research and publications that draw on the collections, whether in whole or in part are detailed on the site, grouped by the respective collections and with links to the final published material where available, whether it is online in full text or via a link to the Library catalogue entry.

Details are provided of exhibitions drawing on the collections – current, forthcoming, past and online. There are also links to an extensive array of current and archived news items relating to the collections, plus pages of relevant web links.

One of the manifestations of the raised level of awareness of the Cultural Collections and their grouping into a co-ordinated programme of promotion both within the University and beyond to the wider community is the appointment of a Pro Vice-Chancellor for University Relations and the consequent publication of a Cultural Policy Statement (<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/culturalcollections/culturalpolicystatement.pdf>). This Statement supports the integration of the Cultural Collections into the teaching programmes of the re-structured Bachelor of Arts degree that is currently being developed in readiness for implementation in 2008. The Collections will be included in a Foundation Skills subject in one of the clusters that form the basis of the revised degree. This means that rare books, manuscripts, archives, prints, the vast holdings of the Percy Grainger Museum, the Ian Potter Museum of Art – together with photographs, medical and dental implements, scientific apparatus, musical instruments, mineral, plant and animal specimens and ethnographic and archaeological artefacts – will all be fundamental components of the new degree structure.

A further new appointment is that of Curator – Exhibitions and Partnerships. Exhibitions and collaborative projects are now centrally co-ordinated across the thirty-plus collections, allowing for improved forward planning and the mounting of complementary exhibitions and displays in the various venues across the University. Exhibitions are also timed to coincide with other related activities on campus, such as conferences, public lecture programmes and the teaching and research fields of visiting academics.

Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel has launched a new online catalogue containing the *Lutherdrucke* 1513 – 1546 owned by the library

last year. Besides detailed descriptions of about 6 000 imprints there several articles on the collection itself and a bibliography. All illustrations of the imprints are described and digitized. Book owners can be searched in the catalogue. To find out go to

<http://diglib.hab.de/edoc/ed000007/start.htm>

Humboldt University, Berlin, has launched a new website in May to present its collections on the World Wide Web. Material from the University Library, the University Archives, and the manuscript and book collections of the Museum für Naturkunde will also be included.

Documents have been catalogued and digitized. You can, e.g. search the complete archive of portraits of professors and staff. To try go to

<http://www.sammlungen.hu-berlin.de/>

Harvard University Library published the *Directory to Photographs at Harvard* as an online guide earlier this year. The online guide is updated regularly and provides information on all the about 51 repositories that hold photographs or photographically illustrated books. The address is

<http://preserve.harvard.edu/photographs/directory.html>

Austrian public libraries have launched *Orbis Librorum* by the end of June. Special collections from Austria report on their projects, digitization news, and events. The URL is <http://www.orbislibrorum.at/>

In June, a new database in portal "b2i Library, book and information sciences" (<http://www.b2i.de/index.mhtml?&language=ger>) went online: www.buchwissenschaft.info Three important bibliographies can be searched *Wolfenbütteler Bibliographie zur Geschichte des Buchwesens*" (WBB), "*Bibliographie der Buch- und Bibliotheksgeschichte*" (BBB) and the online library catalogue of "*St. Galler Zentrum für das Buch*" (SGZFB). Also searchable there is the *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland, Österreich und Europa* ed. by Bernhard Fabian.

The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Muenchen has set up a special website devoted to digitized manuscripts and manuscript fragments (mediaeval and modern, Western and Oriental) from its ample collections.

The lists can be accessed from the library homepage http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Digitale_Sammlungen.72.0.html choose "Recherche starten" - "Handschriften" to get a list of all projects and subcollections (e.g. Latin manuscripts: Clm, German manuscripts: Cgm, early modern illustrated manuscripts: CodIcon). On the page of each individual project, you can then display a list all manuscripts of which digital images are available in alphabetical or chronological order or by shelfmark.

The list of projects also includes a link to the "*Forschungsdokumentation zu Handschriften und Seltenen Drucken der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek*", a database recording secondary literature on the manuscripts and rare printed books (inasmuch as known to the library).

Cooperation

The LIBER STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. European Research Libraries and their Commitment to Special collections

The LIBER STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES for the management of special collections, prepared after consultation with colleagues in European research libraries by a small virtual task force, led by Mr Graham Jefcoate, Director, Nijmegen University Library, was unanimously adopted by LIBER members at the LIBER Annual General Assembly in Warsaw on Friday 6 July 2007

Alice Prohaska sent the following information:

A new working group on special collections is set up by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in North America. The Association of Research Libraries is a group of 123 of the largest research libraries in North America. It runs programs under the heading of three broad strategic initiatives: Scholarly Communication; Public Policy; and Research, Teaching and Learning. Within the third of these initiatives, a new working group on special collections has been established, to carry forward some of the proposals that were first shaped by a task force on special collections, reporting in 2006. The new group is described on the ARL web site (<http://www.arl.org/rtl/speccoll/index.shtml>) as follows:

Charge to the Working Group

The Working Group on Special Collections is charged with advising the Research, Teaching, and Learning Steering Committee on special collections issues on an ongoing basis. In this context, "special collections" is construed broadly to include distinctive material in all media and attendant library services.

Priority Issues

The two issues that the Steering Committee identifies as first priorities for the attention of the Working Group are

1. Identify opportunities and recommend actions for ARL and other organizations that will encourage concerted action and coordinated planning for collecting and exposing 19th- and 20th-century materials in all formats (rare books, archives and manuscripts, audio, and video, etc).
2. Identify criteria and strategies for collecting digital and other new media material that currently lack a recognized and responsible structure for stewardship.

These two issues are closely linked. An enormous amount of valuable material in all formats remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost. Coordinated strategies for identifying, collecting, preserving, and exposing these materials are greatly needed.

International efforts are under way – and more are needed – to support the digitization of 19th- and 20th-century newspapers and books. Even

before such digitization is possible, strong efforts must be made to identify and acquire culturally significant materials from these periods. While individual libraries should ultimately take action to acquire and expose such materials, ARL can provide leadership for encouraging collective activities. These would include but not be limited to, collection analysis, identification of gaps, coordination, and use of a “preliminary record” for identifying and making accessible otherwise hidden collections.

General Issues

In addition to the priority issues listed above, the Working Group may also wish to advise the Steering Committee about the following:

- ways to illustrate examples of how special collections contribute to innovative research, teaching, and learning.
- contributing to the work under way within ARL to develop qualitative and quantitative measures for the evaluation of special collections. These might include a target for surfacing hidden collections and mechanisms for tracking progress.
- contributing to and/or validating the work being done by the ACRL/RBMS Core Competencies Task Force to define the skills needed for work in special collections.

From time to time, the RTL Steering Committee may ask the Working Group to provide advice on other issues. For example, the Working Group may be asked to address preservation strategies for special collections in both physical and electronic spheres following Steering Committee discussion of a report from the ARL Task Force on the Future of Preservation in ARL Libraries.

Timeframe, Reports & Assessment

The Working Group is expected to be ongoing. However, the RTL Steering Committee asks the Working Group to report on their progress semi-annually. No later than October 2008, the RTL Steering Committee will review the charge to the Working Group, assess accomplishments, and consider if this is the most effective way to ensure that the special collections agenda remains strategic to the directions ARL has set.

The Working Group is chaired by Alice Prochaska, of Yale University Library, a member of the IFLA RBMS standing committee. Mark Dimunation of the Library of Congress, an officer of this committee, also serves on the ARL Working Group, and Graham Jefcoate, a frequent attendee at RBMS committee meetings, is a corresponding member. At a lively first meeting in May, we discussed a wide range of issues. We hope to convene a conference at some stage within the next eighteen months. Many of the concerns that are high on the agenda of North American research libraries are common to others around the world. It is encouraging news that the leading umbrella organization for America's largest research libraries has placed special collections so high on its list of priorities.

Olga Vega, Head of Special Collections Department of the National Library "José Martí" in Havana informs us about a working group "RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS" which is set up by ASCUBI in Cuba:

The professional groups of ASCUBI (Cuban Association of Librarians) have been conceived of agreement with the categories that are typical in these associations, based on their diverse functions, users, or types of documents. The groups must maintain, as much as possible, relations with their colleagues of IFLA or other associations in different countries. One of them is the Rare Books and Manuscripts Group .

The members of the groups belong to ASCUBI (Cuban Association of Librarians) or SOCIT (Cuban Society of Sciences of the Information).

Its purpose is that the librarians analyze topics of interest related with the areas that represent in workshops, scientific meetings or maintain information exchanges by means of the electronic mail, that allow the later presentation and discussion of works that contribute to the professional development of the participants.

Equally they will receive documents linked with their specialty for a permanent bring up to date of the librarians. In the case of the group that I coordinate are distributed among them: the IFLA RBMS Newsletters, as well as standards, guidelines and all type of material of their interest.

Are members of this Rare Books and Manuscripts Group not only the librarians in charge of collections of rare books or manuscripts, but bookbinders or restorers in charge of them and also university professors. Belongs to the Group librarians of the most important libraries in the capital that store valuable documents and of the provincial public libraries that have Reading Rooms of Rare and Valuable Holdings, where take care of the provincial bibliographical patrimony and other important documents that should receive a special treatment

It has already been seen in the practice that members of one group incorporate in parallel to other groups related with their specialty, for example History of the libraries or Theory and investigation.

In the practice a bigger exchange of information is appreciating, especially in the last year, although we expected to reach better results in the future.

Subject Index to RBM-Newsletter online editions

As this is newsletter number 16 online now, it is time to have a short Index to numbers "Summer 2000" to "April 2007". This index is by no means complete. It does not list exhibitions, events, publications or any

smaller notices but only the main articles on IFLA conferences, bibliographies, etc. Quoted is the issue, no pages as online and printed edition differ in pages.

IFLA conferences:

Bangkok		
Programme		Winter 2000
Minutes		Winter 2000
Berlin		
Preconference		Summer 2003
Programme		Winter 2003, Summer 2003
Minutes		Winter 2003/2004
Boston		
Programme		Winter 2001, Summer 2001
Minutes		Winter 2002
Buenos Aires		
Programme		Winter 2003/2004, Summer 2004
Minutes		Winter 2005
Glasgow		
Programme		Summer 2002
Minutes		Winter 2003
Jerusalem		
Programme		Summer 2000
Minutes		Winter 2001
Oslo		
Preconference Copenhagen		Winter 2006
Programme		Summer 2005
Minutes		Winter 2006
Seoul		
Preconference Hangzhou		July 2006, April 2007
Programme		July 2006
Minutes		April 2007
<i>European Research Libraries</i>		
Special Collections		April 2007

Bibliographies and Organizations:

ABHB	Summer 2000
Bibliopolis	Summer 2000, Winter 2003
Book History Online	Winter 2003
CCILA Latin American Imprints File	Summer 2001, Winter 2003/04
CERL	Winter 2002
Digital Preservation Consortium (DPC)	Summer 2002
Edit 16	Winter 2001
ESTC	Winter 2000, July 2006
ERROM	Summer 2002
Fathom	Summer 2000
Kalliope	Summer 2001
LEAF	Summer 2001
Leipziger Zentralkartei von Antiquariats-, Auktions- und Kunstkatalogen	Winter 2003
Malvine	Summer 2000, Summer 2001
Manuscripta mediaevalia	Winter 2002, Summer 2002
MICHAEL	April 2007
Scipio	Winter 2000, Summer 2000
Swedish National Incunable Census	Summer 2001
<i>Loan conditions:</i>	
Berlin, Staatsbibliothek	Summer 2001
Canberra, National Library	Summer 2003
London, British Library	Winter 2001
Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek	Winter 2002

The Hague, Royal Library	Winter 2001
Stockholm, Royal Library	Summer 2001

Libraries:

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich	
Bibliography RBMS	Winter 2005
Reichenau Manuscripts	Winter 2005
Colloquium on Cataloguing	
Medieval Manuscripts	Winter 2006

Biblioteca de Catalunya	Winter 2003 July 2006
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Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome	
Online projects	July 2006

British Library	
Burney Collection	Winter 2002
Digitisation	Winter 2001
Manuscripts	Winter 2000
Pamphlets	Winter 2000

Bodleian Library	
Broadside Ballads	Winter 2000

Centro de Estudios de Historia de Mexico	Winter 2003/04
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Franckesche Stiftungen, Halle	Summer 2003
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Helsinki University Library	Winter 2006
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Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, Weimar	
Provenance	Winter 2003
Special Collections Conference	Winter 2006

Lund University Library	
Digitisation	July 2006

Majles Library, Teheran	Summer 2004
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National Library, Helsinki	
300 years of legal deposit	April 2007

National Library, Madrid	
Virtual Library Miguel de Cervantes	Winter 2006

National Library, Oslo Building Morgenstjerne	Winter 2003/04 Summer 2004
Royal Library, The Hague Special Collections	Summer 2004
Royal Library, Stockholm Digitisation Image Databases Printing Type	Summer 2001 Summer 2003 Summer 2000
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Prussian Legal Documents	Winter 2001
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Joint Manuscript acquisition	Summer 2001
University of Melbourne Library Cultural Collections Group Kelmscott Chaucer	Winter 2006 Winter 2006
Victoria & Albert Museum, London Chapbooks study day	July 2006
Yale University Library Archives 300	Winter 2002
Zhejiang Library Ancient Rare Books Repairing Rare Books	Winter 2003 Summer 2003

From the Editors

As Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin will not send a section's member in the next years, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your kind cooperation with the newsletter, which we happily provided in the last years. Our special thanks go to Jan who always helped when necessary.

We wish you a very good conference in Durban and we do hope that we will stay in contact even without IFLA.

Best wishes to all of you,

Regina and Jutta

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