

CENL

Foundation Conference of European National Librarians

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CENL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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CENL Annual Report 2023-2024

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Foreword by the Chair of CENL

Dear CENL Members,

Tempus fugit! Another eventful year has passed since the last Annual report. A highlight for all CENL members was certainly the Annual General Meeting at the National Library of France in Paris, which focused on the important topic of sustainability. I am very pleased that we were able to publish the contributions earlier this year. The publication **All roads lead to Rome or: National Libraries on their ways to sustainability** is available on the CENL website.

This Annual report provides a comprehensive overview of CENL's activities over the past year. We continued the successful Erland Kolding Nielson (EKN) Grant but closed the Hidden Stories Fund at the end of 2023. Instead, we discussed a possible Emergency Planning Fund and agreed to have a survey first to assess our members need for support regarding emergency planning.

There have been some changes in the management of national libraries. We welcome all new members and look forward to working with them to support each other by sharing skills and knowledge. Together we can make our rich cultural and heritage collections more widely known - across the continent and around the world.

One of the defining features of our profession is the spirit of collaboration and knowledge sharing that permeates our work. As (national) librarians, we understand the power of partnership and the importance of building networks that extend beyond geographical boundaries. In an era marked by rapid change and complexity, our ability to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another has never been more crucial. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all members and their staff for their continued dedication and engagement.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you all to Warsaw in June.

Our Annual General Meeting will focus on legal deposit of digital publications this year and will help us again to build bridges and promote the power of knowledge and information.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Scholze". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Scholze".

Frank Scholze, CENL Chair, May 2024



2. Activities June 2023 – May 2024

2.1 CENL Executive Committee



Frank Scholze
Chair



Karin Grönvall
Treasurer



Sara Lammens
EC Member



Ivanka Stričević
EC Member



Hans Petschar
EC Member

During the reporting period, two members left as members of CENL and are therefore no longer members of the EC. Janne Andresoo was a member until 15 September 2023 and Laurence Engel was a member until 4 April 2024.



Janne Andresoo



Laurence Engel

We would like to thank both Janne Andresoo and Laurence Engel for their good cooperation and constructive contributions.

Following the Annual General Meeting in Paris in June 2023, the Executive Committee met on three occasions:

- 18 September 2023 at Kungliga Biblioteket / National Library of Sweden, Stockholm
- 5 February 2024 (Zoom)
- 28 March 2024 (Zoom)

The EC discussed a number of issues at its meetings. The funds and grants programme as well as the issue of finances have been important subjects.



Hybrid meeting of the Executive Committee at the Royal Library/
National Library of Sweden in Stockholm in September 2023

2.2 CENL Secretariat

The Secretariat manages the day-to-day business of CENL.

The Secretariat keeps in touch with members, answers their questions and provides information on various issues.

The team includes the following colleagues from the National Library of Germany who focus on specific topics:

Secretary Susanne Oehlschläger

Finances Michael Duchardt

Funds and grants Sabine Schrimpf

Organisation, minutes and papers Svenia Pohlkamp, Katharina Schöneborn and Stefanie Schust

Social media, Website, News and Newsletter Stephan Jockel, Kerstin Meinel and Angelika Cremer-Reiber



Susanne Oehlschläger
Secretary



Michael Duchardt
Finances



Sabine Schrimpf
Funds and Grants



Svenia Pohlkamp
Minutes and Papers



Stefanie Schust
Minutes and Papers



Katharina Schöneborn
Minutes and Papers



Kerstin Meinel
Website and Newsletter



Kerstin Meinel
Website and Newsletter



Stephan Jockel
Social Media

2.3 CENL Annual General Meeting

2.3.1. AGM 2023

The Annual General Meeting 2023 took place from 19 – 21 June at the National Library of France in Paris, France.



The meeting focused on the important topic of sustainability. The contributions were published in February 2024.

The publication **All roads lead to Rome or: National Libraries on their ways to sustainability** is available on the CENL website.

2.3.2 Annual General Meeting 2024

Each AGM is unique in its focus on special topics and its individual cultural perspective. Preparations for this year's AGM to be held 16 – 18 June 2024 at the National Library of Poland in Warsaw are in full swing.



This year's programme will focus on one of a real national library topic: Legal deposit of digital publications or e-Legal deposit. The manifold threats to cultural heritage are another important issue.

We are very much looking forward to being guests in Warsaw and to discussing these important topics with our members and hearing their views on the subject.

2.3.2 AGM 2025

After the AGM is before the AGM!

In 2025 we will meet at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh from 15 – 17 June.

Please save the date!

2.4 Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

In January 2017, CENL introduced a grant to celebrate the valuable contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen (EKN) made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career as Director General of the Royal Library in Denmark from 1986-2017.

The annual Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant awards funds of up to 5,000 EUR to national library projects which promote international collaboration and thus strengthen the bonds between CENL member libraries.

The scheme was intended to run for 5 years initially. In 2022, the Executive Committee agreed that EKN be prolonged for four years (2022-2025).

The grant applications can focus on any aspect of international library collaboration including:

- development of collections (physical and digital)
- improving research
- educational or cultural services including exhibitions
- promoting interlibrary staff communications
- infrastructure development
- staff development

2.4.1. EKN Grants 2023

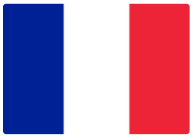


Hungary – The aim of the cooperation is to improve the web archiving infrastructure of the National Széchényi Library and the Bibliothèque Nationale du Luxembourg, to renew certain workflows and to share knowledge.



See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/ekn-grant-2022-study-tour-for-national-library-of-estonia-management-to-national-library-of-luxembourg/>



France - Three major CENL member libraries, which are carrying out projects to build high-rise, robotic, hypoxic storage facilities (BL, BnF, KB) organized a knowledge-exchange seminar involving the staff of the respective institutions.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/ekn-grant-2022-wealth-of-colour-and-tradition-exhibition/>



Moldova - Organization of an international conference "Social resilience and stronger professional networks as a precondition for peace" in September 2023 with participants from Moldova, Ukraine, Lithuania and Latvia, with follow-up webinars and informal sessions at each participating library.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/stronger-professional-network-for-building-social-resilience-and-peace/>



2.4.2. EKN Grants 2024

In 2024, three EKN grants were to be awarded. The call for applications for the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant was open from 7 February 2024 to 20 March 2024. The Secretariat received five applications, and the Executive Committee agreed in its meeting on 28 March 2024, to accept the following:



Georgia - The National Library of Georgia is planning a maximum of two days - for a working conference and one day for cultural activities around the library. The program will include various activities. A more detailed program with its study topics will be developed later, but first topics of the conference, which are very important for them, are the circulation process in the library system, as well as how to work in different models of SIERRA, how to implement a support base, which helps to run an electronic catalogue.



Bulgaria - Cross-Border Collaboration for European Cultural Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Development of Library Services: The project will encompass a 3-day exchange program (to be scheduled for the second half of September, along with the European Heritage Day initiative) hosted at the National and University Library in Zagreb, accommodating 5 delegates, comprising librarians and management staff from the National Library of Bulgaria.



Moldova - The project consists on organizing a study visit of 4 specialists from the National Library of Moldova to the National Library of Lithuania, focussing on international relations, project management, developing new services, using informational resources and innovations of the National Library of Lithuania and others.

2.5 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL's Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary programme for members was launched in 2017. Bursaries are available for CENL members to share skills and knowledge. They are up to the value of 1,000 EUR per application.

Applications can be made for any skills and knowledge exchange activity, such as:

- Visiting a national library for face-to-face mentoring and shadowing to learn new skills and share experiences
- Attending a training event (e.g. tutorial, workshop, seminar, conference) run by other members
- Running a workshop for members to attend and share best practice

2.5.1. Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries 2023

Four SKE bursaries were awarded in 2023:



Romania - Study visit of the National Library of the Netherlands for one week in June 2023.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/bursaryreport/2023-professional-visit-to-the-national-library-of-the-netherlands/>



Latvia - Study visit of the DNB in Leipzig to learn about the organisation of the Humanities and Natural Science Reading Rooms of the DNB, in June 2023.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/bursaryreport/2023-visit-to-the-german-national-library/>



Serbia - Study visit of the National Library of Finland in November 2023.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/bursaryreport/2023-director-of-the-national-library-of-serbia-in-visit-to-the-national-library-of-finland-and-oodi-helsinki-central-library/>



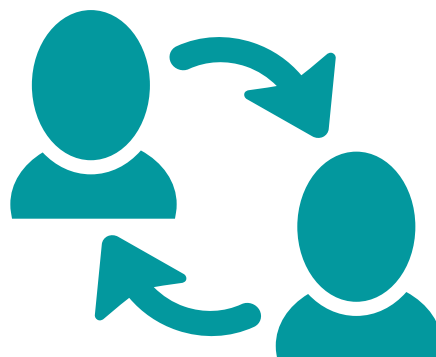
Moldova - Participation at Let's Go green Conference, 9-10 November 2023, organized by the National and University Library in Zagreb.

See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/bursaryreport/2023-participation-at-lets-go-green-2023-the-second-nsk-international-green-libraries-conference-zagreb-croatia/>

For 2024, the Board of Directors has approved a budget of 10,000 EUR for this programme, i.e., 10 bursaries for 1,000 EUR each.

In the first months of 2024, three applications were submitted, all of which the CENL secretariat approved. The bursaries go to the national libraries of Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Latvia.



2.6 Hidden Stories Fund

In 2020, CENL supported IFLA's dedication to inclusion and to actively work against racial discrimination of all kinds.

The Hidden Stories Fund aimed to support projects to collect, preserve, research and highlight the stories from, by and related to underrepresented communities in our national collections.

In 2023, three grants were awarded for 2,000 EUR each. On 18 September 2023 the EC confirmed that the Hidden Stories Fund shall not be continued. The fund was closed at the end of 2023.



Croatia - „The first Croatian woman librarian: the road to gender equality.“

Through the exhibition and the video reportage on Elza Kucera, the public's attention shall be drawn to the first Croatia woman doctor of philosophy, woman psychologist, woman librarian and woman public servant. The exhibition and reportage are part of the year-long celebration of the achievements of women in culture and science organized by the National and University Library in Zagreb in 2023 under the name "Women in NSK".

See report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/hiddenstoriesfund/2023-the-first-croatian-woman-librarian-the-road-to-gender-equality/>



Greece - „We, the Afro-Greeks: Black literature as a bridge between cultures.“

The project aims to address the lack of visibility and inclusion of Greeks of African descent, frequently referred to as "Afro-Greeks", in the dominant public narrative of Greece, by enriching the collections of the National Library of Greece with black literature and by creating spaces for their stories to be told, heard, and spread among its audience.

See report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/hiddenstoriesfund/we-the-afro-greeks/>



Romania - „The woman and her professional avatars. Representations in the communist press.“

In Romania, like in all communist countries, great attention has been paid to the role of women in new professional fields. The press of time, following the ideological principles of the regime, built through images and texts the typology of the working woman. The project selected visual material, which illustrate the female's gender stereotypes. The most representative images were scanned and assembled into a virtual exhibition with curatorial texts. The exhibition appeared on the library website and Digitool and social media.

The project is still ongoing.



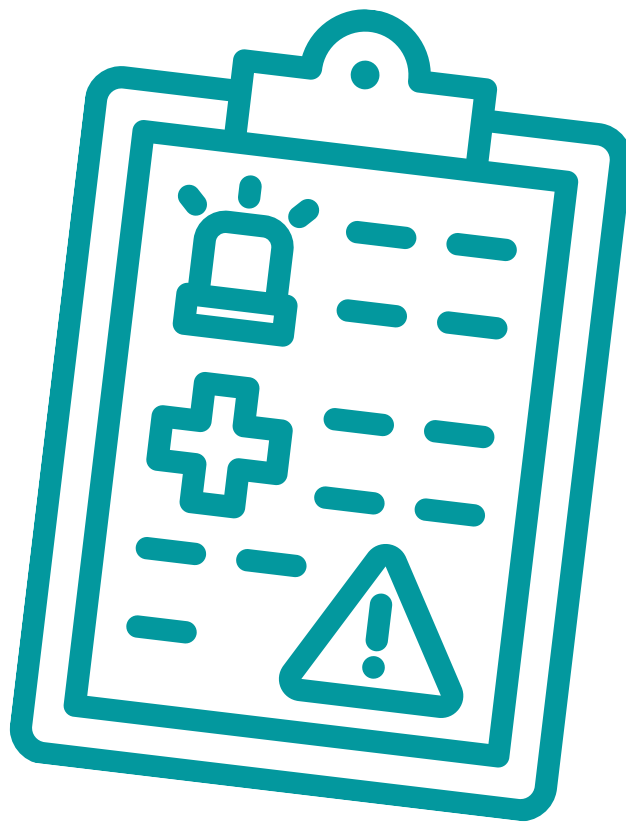
United Kingdom/British Library - A youth-led project with support from the Library, working closely with local youth group, KCBNA (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association). The Library will support local young people to develop research and interviewing skills exploring their own family histories with sensitivity. British Library curators will help the young people tell their stories through collections pertaining to specific areas of the world: Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Bangladesh and India. The project will be filmed to document the process. The project is still ongoing and now scheduled for 2024.

2.7 Survey on the Status of Emergency Planning

Fire, water, cyber attacks, earthquakes, but also armed conflicts and wars, among others, pose significant threats to cultural heritage.

To get an impression on how the European National Libraries prepare themselves to respond to these threats and dangers, the secretariat asked CENL members to answer some questions.

The results of the Survey will be presented and discussed during the Annual General Meeting in Warsaw.



3. CENL Network Groups update

For the term 2023-2025, CENL has three Network Groups:

- Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group
- Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG)
- Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Group (EDI).

3.1 Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group

Chair Jean-Philippe Moreux, Gallica Scient. Advisor, National Library of France
Treasurer & Secretary Svein Arne Brygfjeld, Head of Ai-lab, National Library of Norway

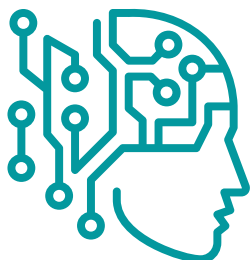
Members ·Max Kaiser (National Library of Austria), Zdenko Vozár (National Library of the Czech Republic), Neil Fitzgerald (British Library), ·Love Börjeson (National Library of Sweden), Yves Maurer (National Library of Luxembourg), Ralph Marschall (National Library of Luxembourg), Oliver Sievi (Swiss National Library), Tan Lu (Royal Library of Belgium), Bjarne Andersen (National Library of Denmark), Zahra Mousavi (National Library of Denmark), Claus Jensen (National Library of Denmark), Urmas Sinisalu (National Library of Estonia), Elisabeth Mödden (German National Library)

As a potential new member has been recently identified:
Elsbeth Kwant (National Library of the Netherlands)



AING members at the BnF DataLab Workshop in October 2022; Credit: Marie Carlin, BnF

Introduction and goals of the network group



The demand for better knowledge in the field of Artificial Intelligence is significant, both in the short-term and concrete use of AI in libraries as well as in the long-term potential of the technology. This group will contribute to the general understanding of AI in libraries, and thus leverage the use of AI in libraries.

2023 Activity report

The group's online meetings have resumed, and actual work has mainly targeted the organisation of two series of webinars. Each webinar attracted an average of 25 participants, mainly from Europe:

- #1, “Automatic classification of subject groups of e-dissertation”, National Library of Switzerland, Marcel Gygli
- #2, “Fine grained language identification in multilingual corpus with OCR errors”, National Library of Luxembourg, Yves Maurer
- #3, “Image classification and retrieval with CLIP models”, National Library of France, National Library of Norway, University of Oxford, Jean-Philippe Moreux (BnF), Javier De La Rosa (NLB), Horace Lee (University of Oxford)
- #4, “ChatGPT in an information retrieval context”, National Library of Luxembourg, Yves Maurer
- #5, “Machine-based subject cataloguing”, German National Library, Maximilian Kähler
- #6, “Identification of duplicates in radio and TV archives”, Royal Danish Library, Bjarne Andersen

Video recording and presentations of the webinars have been uploaded on the CENL group web page at: <https://www.cenl.org/networkgroups/ai-in-libraries-network-group/>

The Fantastic Futures 2023 (ai4lam.org) conference held in Vancouver in November was an opportunity for several group members to meet up in 2023 and discuss their activities.

A joint project has been initiated, involving the submission of a proposal to a future European call for projects (A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage – Innovative tools for digitisation and analysis of dynamic processes, objects and complex combined data), concerning the creation of a multimodal model (CLIP like) trained on European iconographic corpora (library and museum collections).

- EC call for project: September 2024, development of tools for the ECCCH cloud Extract: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UOtp4AV929RwHn--rFa-S0KdO7rb5tPb/view?usp=sharing>

Potential partners are KBR, BL, NLN, BNF, ONB + VGG (Oxford university).

2024 Activity report

The last webinar of the 2023 series took place in January 2024:

- #7, “Power Automate flow with Microsoft AI Builder”, KBR – Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, Hannes Lowagie

2024 webinars will emphasise on LLMs and AI strategy (AI statements, AI policies, AI roadmaps in libraries). Both subjects are at the core of how AI private sector and public institutions holding materials can agree on reusing massive textual datasets for training models.

The network group decided to update the AI CENL survey (<https://www.cenl.org/2021-survey-on-artificial-intelligence-report/>), published in 2021. A new survey is being prepared and a link with the KB.nl initiative on Generative AI in Europe has been established. The updated survey will include a specific section on generative AI activity in Europe.

Upcoming activity

- Continue the work on the ECCCH project proposal with the identified partners.
- Schedule a new series of webinars (April-December 2024).
- Update the AI survey (first semester).
- Find a proper location to meet in Fall 2024. As the next ai4lam conference will be held in Australia, it is best to find an opportunity to meet in Europe, either during a conference or by organising a workshop.

3.2 Books and Audiences Network Group

Chair Vanessa Braekeveld, Royal Library of Belgium

Treasurer & Secretary Ineta Vaivode, National Library of Latvia

Members Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), German National Library, National Library of Latvia, Royal Library of the Netherlands, British Library, National Library of Scotland, Lodret Vandret - Independent Book Publishers, University of Leicester, University of Manchester, The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UCL Special Collections, National Museum of Scotland, Kalāči

Core team Ineta Vaivode (National Library of Latvia), Vanessa Braekeveld (Group Chair, Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)), Inga Surgunte (Kalāči), Armand De Filippo (University of Leicester), Susana Sanchez-Gonzalez (University of Manchester)

Mission To provide a dynamic environment for discussion, dialogue and exchange of ideas and practices for bringing books and audiences together in exhibition settings, with an ambition to bring our findings to fruition.



Important values of the group are:

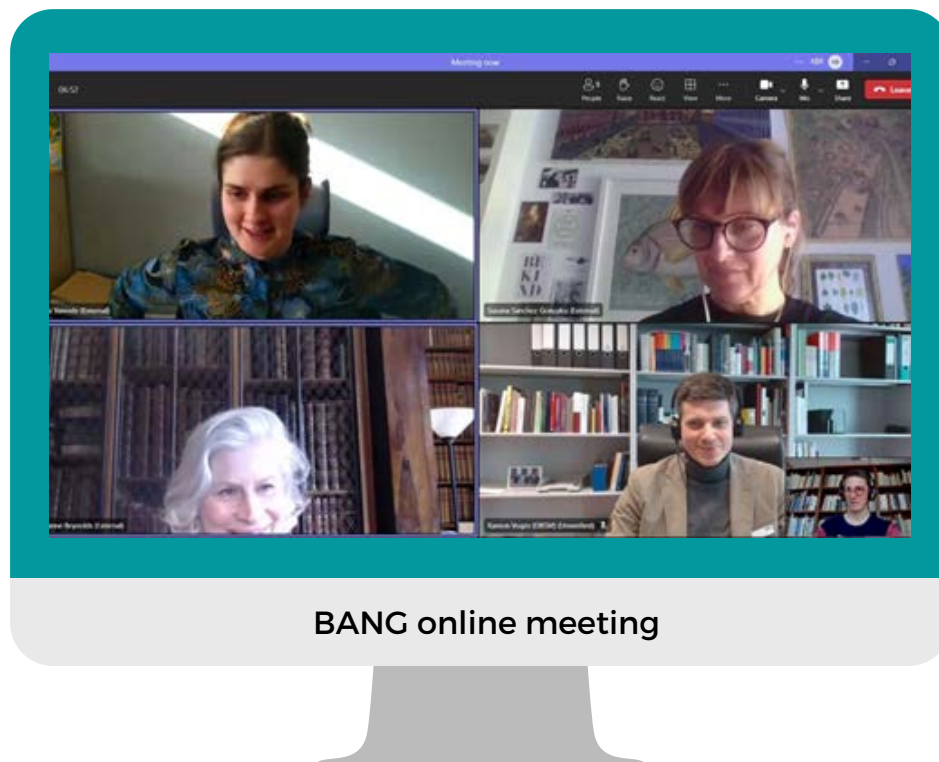
innovation, curiosity, openness, inclusivity, generosity and diversity.

Vision BANG! is synonymous with excellence and creativity in bringing books and audiences together in a diverse range of exhibition contexts.

Aims of BANG!

- Create a thriving network of expertise in the field of 'book exhibitions and their audiences'
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and creating opportunities to learn
- Organizing seminars and creating a shared online platform

Activities in 2023



BANG online meeting

1. Meetings & presentations

We've held several meetings this year. We've made a difference between the BANG member meetings and the strategic meetings with a smaller BANG core group (mostly the President & Secretary, together with some other members):

- 3 BANG member meetings
- 5 strategic meetings (with some extra preparatory meetings for the webinar in specific)

During those meetings we discussed several topics:

- The plans for BANG and how to proceed in the future
- Deciding on the topic for the webinar, discussion of possible speakers and format
- BANG website: content, feedback on the structure, input for the content

Presentation of BANG during the CERL conference. CERL held its conference in Brussels, KBR on the topic 'Connecting Books & Audiences through Public Displays':

<https://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/presentations2023>

We presented our network group, what we do, some case studies and we announced our upcoming webinar.

2. Webinar

Since BANG started, it has organized one webinar a year. We do this on a specific theme, related to our books and audiences theme and current needs. Thanks to our BANG members, we know what the hot topics are in the field and we look for an interesting angle for the webinar.

The webinar took place on 11 December 2023. The topic was “**Libraries: Unlocking non-visitor potential**”.

The webinar explored the theme of engaging with diverse library visitors, including those who are not typically part of the library’s target audience. We identified the current challenges and delved into the strategies libraries are using to attract these individuals and overcome participation obstacles. It’s a question that has gained increasing attention: how can we effectively bridge this gap? What positive approaches can be adopted from art museums?

We worked for the first time with a call for applications and received three proposals.

With 100 participants from 10 countries (Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands and the UK) the webinar was very successful. 80 participants stayed during the whole webinar.

3. Website

We gathered further content and images for the website. This was further tweaked and pretty much finalised.

We will launch the website once we can add all the videos from our last webinar, this will happen as soon as possible.

3.3 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Group

The Executive Committee agreed on the establishment of a new network group for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).



Chair Elizabeth Kirwan (National Library of Ireland)

Treasurer & Secretary Lauren Turner (British Library)

Members National and University Library in Zagreb, National Library of France, National Library of Ireland, National and University Library “St Clement of Ohrid”, National Library of Serbia, Royal Library of the Netherlands, British Library

In 2023, EDI held four Committee meetings virtually: 7 March, 13 June, 26 September and 23 November, and an end of year virtual social coffee meeting on 19 December.

The format of quarterly Committee meetings will continue throughout 2024. We held our first virtual meeting of the year on 7 March. Further virtual meetings are planned for 6 June, and 5 December.

EDI drafted the EDI Network Group’s Terms of Reference, which were approved by CENL EC in Quarter 3, 2023. This included change of name: Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Network Group, and an update to the pronoun from referring to the Chair as ‘his,’ to ‘their’.

EDI issued a survey to all CENL members as to the status of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion in their national libraries. The response rate was 70% (32 responses from 46 CENL members). The group received 13 expressions of interest in joining the EDI network group. During 2024, EDI will plan on including those interested members in specially-designed networking events.

EDI held their first in-person meeting at the National and University Library “St Clement of Ohrid” in Skopje, 24 October 2023.



Six Committee members attended. The group was welcomed to Skopje by Jovica Tasevski (Program Director) and Zorica Jakovlevska Spirovska (Head of Sector) and both joined us later for lunch.

Maja Micevska updated the meeting on the projects that the National and University Library St. Clement of Ohrid, Skopje had initiated to realize its commitment to the EDI goals of equality, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

A North Macedonia United Nations women’s representative presented on UN findings from research undertaken in 2022 on gender equality in North Macedonia, highlighting that just two of 80 mayors in North Macedonia’s local government municipalities identify as women. The EDI Network Group survey results were the main focus for the Committee’s day long Skopje business meeting, and a seven-point strategic plan with short, medium and long term actions was agreed, to run over the next three years. Roll-out plans will be finalised, and commenced, in the first quarter of 2024.

Our 2024 in-person meeting is at the scoping and planning stage, and is scheduled provisionally for 22 October, in either Zagreb or Dubrovnik. The group will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) during this meeting.

4. CENL Dialogue Forum



Launched in 2022, the CENL Dialogue Forums are designed as an informal format where CENL members can meet with representatives of other stakeholders or organisations to discuss issues of mutual interest

4.1 FEP CENL Dialogue Forum

The Dialogue Forum between representatives of the Conference of European National Librarians and the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) discusses common issues between national libraries and publishers such as legal deposit, copyright, European framework regulations, digitization etc.

Chair Ute Schwens, German National Library

Representatives of FEP

Anne Bergman (FEP),
Catherine Blache (SNE), Barbara Kalumenos (STM),
Giulia Marangoni (AIE),
Jessica Sanger (Borsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels)



Ute Schwens
Credit: DNB, Stephan Jockel

Representatives of CENL

Jasper Faase (National Library of the Netherlands), Emmanuel
Jaslier (National Library of France), Richard Price (British Library),
Jonny Edvardsen (National Library of Norway), Ute Schwens
(German National Library)

In 2023 until now the group met 3 times – March 2 and September 4, 2023 (online) and March 4, 2024 at the German National Library in Frankfurt/Main.

The main issues on the agenda have been

- Digitization of Out-of-Commerce Works
- WIPO toolkit for preservation
- Implementation of the European Accessibility Act
- Use of research data: legal aspects and scientific demands
- Consequences of the adoption of the AI Act
- European Language Data Space
- Current activities on legal (e-)deposit
- Other national developments and best practices

Minutes of the meetings are not publicly available. They can be made available to either CENL or FEP members if required

A subgroup of the FEP CENL Dialogue Forum is the **French-German meeting on copyrighted works in digital libraries**.

The group met on 14 December 2023 at the National Library of France in Paris.

4.2 CENL Dialogue Forum National Libraries as Data Infrastructures

National Libraries are not only pioneers in the development of data infrastructures, but they also play an essential role in facilitating research, especially through the provision of their digitised and born-digital collections. Similarly, European Research Infrastructures such as CLARIN, the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, and DARIAH, the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities have been established to support research in the Humanities and Social Sciences using digital methods.

Libraries as Data Infrastructures

CENL, CLARIN and DARIAH

CENL, the Conference of European National Libraries, is a network of 46 national libraries in 45 European countries in the Council of Europe. CENL's mission is to enhance the state of Europe's national libraries through collaboration to preserve the continent's cultural heritage and making it accessible to all.

CLARIN, a European Research Infrastructure for Language Resources and Technology, makes digital language resources available to scholars, researchers, students and others connected from all disciplines, especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

DARIAH-EU is a pan-European infrastructure that enables research in the Arts and Humanities by exchanging and sustaining tools, services, data and knowledge from its member countries, and bolstering the wide variety of digital methods.

CENL Dialogue Forum

Facilitates structural and strategic collaboration between Europe's National Libraries and research infrastructures, especially CLARIN and DARIAH.

The CENL Dialogue Forum provides an ideal opportunity to:

- Compare how national libraries could benefit from structural collaboration with, and active participation in, Research Infrastructures (RIs) such as CLARIN and DARIAH
- Assess the current state of collaboration between RIs and national libraries
- Identify common topics of interest, specific challenges and opportunities as basis for creating a joint mission statement for future activities

Key Issues:

- Interoperability of RIs (Metadata, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) systems and related challenges to implementation
- With the increasing emergence of born-digital and collections as data throughout the library community, such data could be an ideal point of interaction between the library, RIs and digital humanities research communities
- How can we "steer" data from the view of libraries in the data space, at the same time, it would have awareness of the crucial topic throughout the national library community.

Which RIs does your library collaborate with?

National Research Infrastructures: 47%

European Research Infrastructures: 47%

INDICATORS

Category	Value
Open	10
Close	10
Both	2
Other	8

CENL Dialogue Forum Questionnaire

The survey, which was distributed among CENL Members, aimed to obtain a deeper understanding of existing and planned collaborations between national libraries and research infrastructures and to elicit information about activities in the areas of digital scholarship and digital data curation.

How relevant are these topics to national libraries?

Topic	Very relevant	Relevant	Not relevant
Open Access	45%	45%	10%
Open Science	45%	45%	10%
Open Data	45%	45%	10%
Open Research	45%	45%	10%
Open Education	45%	45%	10%
Open Publishing	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Data	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Outputs	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Instruments	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Facilities	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Services	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Software	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Data	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Outputs	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Instruments	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Facilities	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Services	45%	45%	10%
Open Access to Research Software	45%	45%	10%

Next Steps

Workshop
Large Language Models and Libraries
National Library of Norway
7-8 December 2023

BYRON, M., WIT, A., JONEN, R. and CHAMBERS, S. (2023) Libraries as Data Infrastructures: a primer for the CLARIN Annual Conference 2023, Louvain, Belgium, 16th - 18th October 2023.

CENL **CLARIN** **DARIAH-EU**

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Furthermore, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is becoming increasingly important. To facilitate structural and strategic collaboration between Europe's National Libraries and Research Infrastructures, the idea of a CENL Dialogue Forum "National Libraries as Data infrastructures", was born and approved by the CENL Executive Committee in Autumn 2022.

2023 was therefore the inaugural year for the CENL Dialogue Forum: National Libraries as Data Infrastructures. This resulted in a presentation at the DARIAH Annual Event 2023: Cultural Heritage Data as Humanities Research Data? (<https://www.dariah.eu/2023/07/07/recap-of-the-annual-event-2023-cultural-heritage-data-as-humanities-research-data/>) in Budapest on 6-9 June 2023 and a poster at the CLARIN Conference 2023 (<https://www.clarin.eu/event/2023/clarin-annual-conference-2023>), which took place in Leuven on 16-18 October 2023.

Survey

A survey of CENL member's institutions was chosen as the starting point for the activities. The survey aims to obtain a deeper understanding of existing and planned collaboration between national libraries and research infrastructures and to elicit information about activities in the areas of digital scholarship and digital data curation. Questions cover areas including compliance with the FAIR principles and Open Science, collections as data, data labs, data access, digital literacy, artificial intelligence and data science.

There were 31 National Libraries that responded to the survey, of which 20 (64%) institutions indicated that "Participating in Research Infrastructure" initiatives is a strategic priority of the National Library. However, feedback in other responses also indicated that activities may well already be part of everyday life, not a priority for development or preparing a strategy on research Infrastructure. Overall, the responses indicate that the percentage of institutions actively engaged in research infrastructure or intending to do so is 82%.

The survey results were presented and discussed at both the DARIAH Annual Event (2023, Budapest) and the Clarin annual conference (2024, Leuven). The focus was on both strategic aspects and best practices. Both presentations attracted a great deal of interest, which is also reflected in the diverse collaborations between libraries and infrastructure projects that have now been established. Many of the participating institutions met for the second workshop "Clarin and Libraries" in Oslo on the topic of Large Language Models in December 2023.

Presentations and discussions in the group showed the different status of developments in the national libraries as well as the opportunities and risks of this development. Finally, the CENL Dialogue Forum participated in the Collections as Data: Collaborating across Data Spaces for Cultural Heritage and Open Science at KBR, Royal Library of Belgium in February 2024.

For all survey results, please contact CENL secretariat.

The CENL Dialogue Forum was organised by Sally Chambers (DARIAH-EU), Andreas Witt (CLARIN) and Peter Leinen (German National Library).

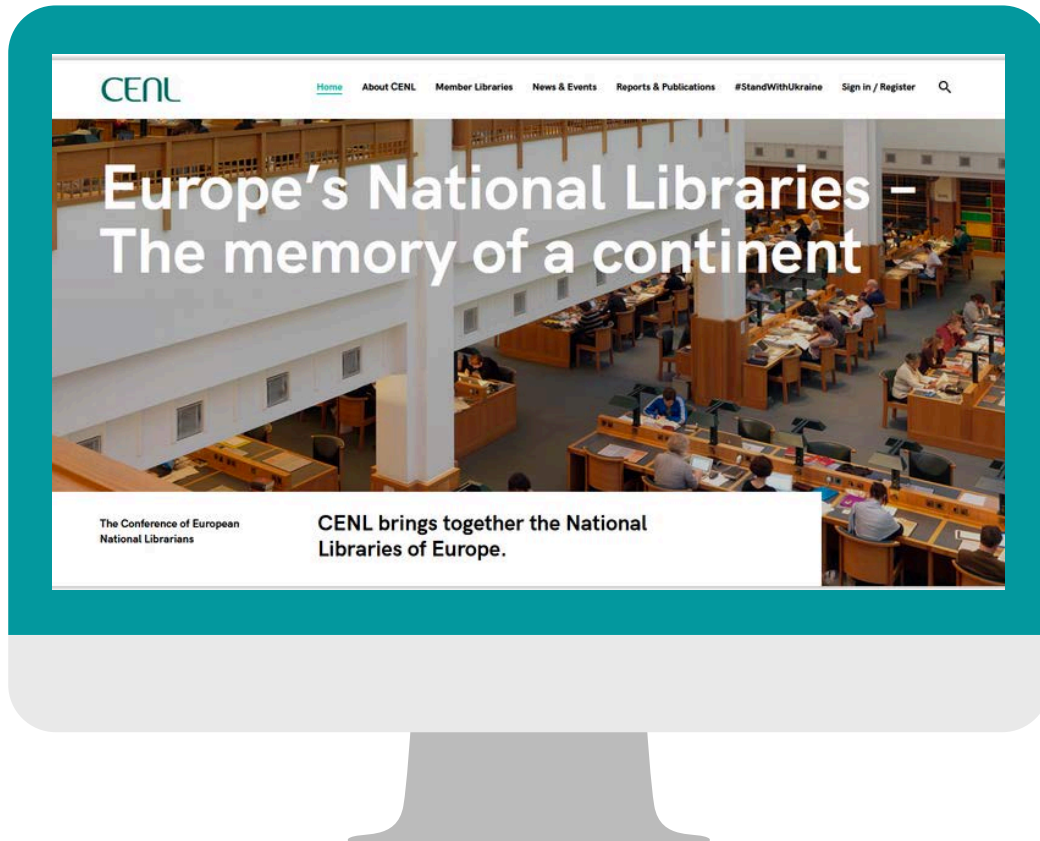
Organisations who took part in the meetings include:

CLARIN, DARIAH

CENL Austrian National Library, German National Library, KBR Royal Library of Belgium, National and University Library in Zagreb, National and University Library Slovenia, National Library of Armenia, National Library of Finland, National Library of Lithuania, National Library of Luxembourg, National Library of Norway, National Library of Poland, National Library of Serbia, National Library of the Netherlands, National Széchényi Library (Hungary) and the Swiss National Library

5. CENL communication

5.1 CENL website



The website is the central information channel of CENL. The Secretariat regularly publishes news and events of the CENL member libraries there.

We have a good with Line Industries as the support company for the website. This and the fact that the CENL website is quite complex has led us to continue working with them.

5.1.1 Audience overview



During the period from April 2023 to March 2024, the Matomo statistics show a constant traffic of visitors. On average, there are a bit more than 2,000 visits per month and visitors stay on the site for about two minutes. There was a peak of duration (orange line) in the beginning of December 2023 driven by the page “Looking back and ahead” – in average visitors stayed about ten minutes on the page.

Key facts for the CENL website from April 2023 to March 2024:

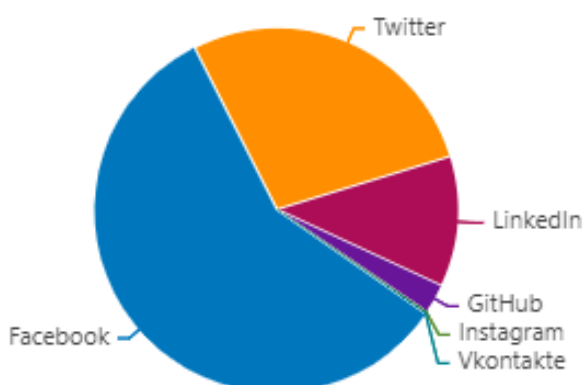
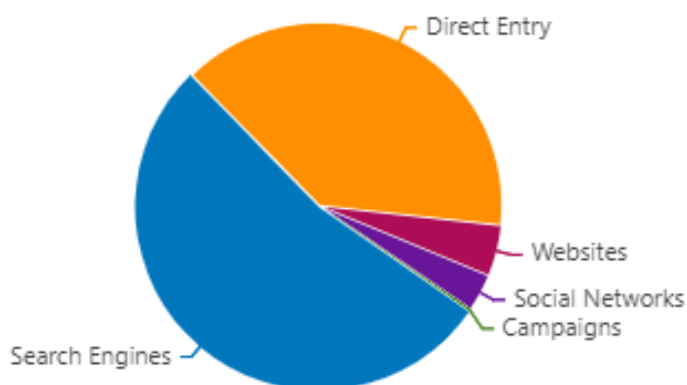
- about 28,000 visits with approximately 63,000 page views (2.6 actions per visit)
- 2.14 minutes average session with a bounce rate of 59% (left website after one page)
- About 3,000 total searches and just as many downloads on the website
- The list below shows a top 10 ranking of page views for the period from January to April 2023 (Matomo). As expected, the home page – as the landing page of the site – has the highest number of page views followed by the section about CENL. The high number of visits on the news and events page is also very pleasing.

PAGE TITLE	PAGEVIEWS
The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	9,235
About CENL – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	3,751
Member Libraries – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	4,143
News & Events – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	3,866
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma / The Central National Library of Rome – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	2,000
Biblioteca Națională a României / National Library of Romania – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	1,478
Sign in / Register – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	1,435
Apply to join the International Library Leaders Programme at the British Library, 3-10 July 2024 – The Conference of European National Libra...	1,083
18.-20. June 2023 – Paris, France – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	1,430
Bibliothèque nationale de France / National Library of France – The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)	980

5.1.2 Users reach to the CENL website

Between April 2023 and March 2024 the top channels through which users arrive at the CENL website are like in the past via search engines and direct access. The further increase in direct accesses from 29% in the previous year to now 39% is a positive development.

The top 3 of social networks bringing visitors to the CENL website are Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn again. Although CENL does not have an official Facebook page, many of our member libraries do. Therefore, when promoting shared content, their links are directly accessible through the CENL News & Events pages.



5.1.3 Geographical location of usage and browser language

The lists below represent the top 10 visits of CENL website of geographical spread of countries on the one hand and web-browser language on the other.

The high rate of visits registered from the United States – although CENL is a European institution – can be explained by the high number of server locations in the US.

Country						
COUNTRY	▼ VISITS	ACTIONS	ACTIONS PER VISIT	AVG. TIME ON WEBSITE	BOUNCE RATE	
United States	11.3% 3,168	5,615	1.8	43s	73%	
Germany	9.3% 2,593	9,721	3.7	4 min 58s	54%	
United Kingdom	6.4% 1,780	4,377	2.5	1 min 59s	58%	
France	4% 1,119	2,818	2.5	2 min 28s	57%	
China	3.5% 975	1,292	1.3	36s	90%	
Italy	3% 826	1,778	2.2	1 min 3s	58%	
Romania	2.9% 825	2,364	2.9	2 min 18s	53%	
Moldova	2.8% 774	2,292	3	3 min 15s	50%	
Spain	2.7% 763	2,128	2.8	1 min 47s	51%	
Latvia	2.2% 625	1,904	3	4 min 20s	55%	

Web-browser language						
LANGUAGE	▼ VISITS	ACTIONS	ACTIONS PER VISIT	AVG. TIME ON WEBSITE	BOUNCE RATE	CONV
English	51.4% 14,371	33,658	2.3	1 min 45s	62%	
German	7% 1,963	9,666	4.9	6 min 38s	35%	
Russian	4.6% 1,292	2,749	2.1	1 min 20s	73%	
French	4% 1,113	2,896	2.6	2 min 43s	54%	
Spanish	3.2% 907	2,397	2.6	1 min 39s	57%	
Chinese	2.7% 753	1,342	1.8	1 min 10s	78%	
Unknown	2.4% 683	755	1.1	5s	95%	
Italian	1.9% 540	1,053	2	1 min 1s	61%	
Romanian	1.8% 514	1,584	3.1	3 min 25s	49%	
Dutch	1.7% 488	1,443	3	1 min 58s	61%	

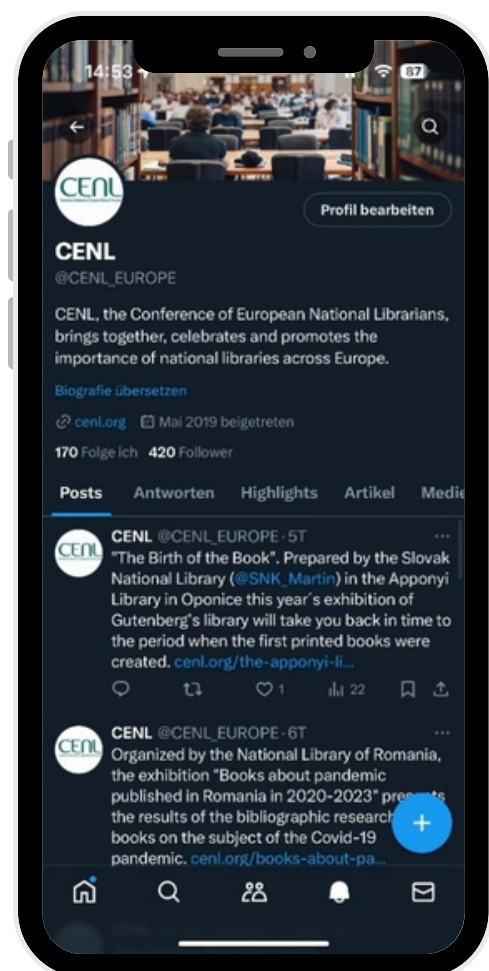
5.2 CENL newsletter

About 400 subscribers receive the monthly CENL newsletter, which contains the news and events contributions from the member libraries as well as the CENL news from the Secretariat, Executive Committee or Annual General Meeting.

In order to provide an even better user experience we switched the newsletter distribution system from Mailchimp to the Mailpoet plugin in WordPress. This has made the newsletter more in line with the CENL website and has made it easier to produce.

5.3 CENL X account

Since 2019, CENL has been communicating to a wider audience via Twitter, now X (@CENL_EUROPE). The tweets focus on news from member libraries, mostly generated from news of the the CENL website and linked to them.



The account @CENL_EUROPE has 420 followers as of 20 March 2024, an increase of 25 followers compared to the previous year - despite the change of ownership to Elon Musk, the associated shift in discourse and the development of active users of the platform that can be observed.

During this period, CENL has posted 154 tweets, averaging 221 impressions per post (2022: 363 impressions on average). The decline in reach is consistent with media reports and analyses on the development of the platform following the takeover and renaming.

6. Members

Since our last Annual General Meeting in Paris, there have been a number of changes at the level of directors of European national libraries, and therefore within our membership.

We thank and say goodbye to:

- Dr. Demetris Nicolaou, Cyprus Library
- Janne Andresoo, National Library of Estonia
- Laurence Engel, National Library of France
- Giorgi Kekelidze, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia
- Dr. Luca Bellingeri, Central National Library of Florence
- Renaldas Gudauskas, National Library of Lithuania
- Katarína Krištofová, Slovak National Library
- Ana Santos Aramburo, National Library of Spain

We welcome as new members:

- George Hadjigeorgiou, Cyprus Library
- Martin Öövel, National Library of Estonia
- Gilles Pécout, National Library of France
- Konstantine Gamsakhurdia, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia
- Dr. Anna Lucarelli, Central National Library of Florence
- Aušrinė Žilinskienė, National Library of Lithuania
- Ivana Kostrabová, Slovak National Library
- Óscar Arroyo Ortega, National Library of Spain

A very warm welcome to all of you.

We look forward to working with you in the future!

