

## CENL Network Groups – 2020 Activity Reports

### 1. Introduction

In 2018-19, CENL reviewed the Working Groups as they existed, and the decision was taken to introduce a new model of CENL Network Groups. Applications received by the end of December 2019 were assessed by the CENL Executive Committee in January 2020. Three CENL Network Groups were established:

#### AI in Libraries Network Group

*Chair: Jean-Philippe Moreux, Bibliothèque nationale de France.*

*Treasurer: Svein Arne Bryggfeld, National Library of Norway.*

*Secretary: Svein Arne Bryggfeld, National Library of Norway.*

#### Books and Audiences Network Group

*Chair: Inga Surgunte, National Library of Latvia.*

*Treasurer: Vanessa Braekeveld, Royal Library of Belgium.*

*Secretary: Vanessa Braekeveld, Royal Library of Belgium.*

#### Copyright Network Group

*Chair: Maja Bogataj Jančič, Intellectual Property Institute, Slovenia.*

*Treasurer: Fredric Lemmers, Royal Library of Belgium.*

*Secretary: Matthew Lambert, British Library.*

The newly established Network Groups will enable the exchange of skills and knowledge, network-building and professional support in relation to their chosen area. In addition, they are aligned with the four priorities of the CENL Strategy 2018-2022:

- To support national libraries to increase their impact and to be strong organisations.
- To develop CENL’s services.
- To develop as memory institutions.
- To strengthen CENL as a community organisation.

The Chairs of the Network Groups have each submitted a short written report to introduce their group’s work and give an update on their activities since February.

### 2. Network Group Reports

#### Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group Activity Report

The CENL AI in Libraries Network Group started its work in March 2020 and organized its first e-meeting on 26 March. The Covid-19 situation has meant that all in-person meeting opportunities for 2020 have been cancelled (conferences, symposia, European projects meetings, etc.) During the second e-meeting on 2 September, the Network Group decided to implement a six-week e-meeting frequency, and to wait for better opportunities in 2021. Besides, in agreement with the CENL Secretariat, the funds that were originally set aside for the Network Group’s work (particularly travel expenses) have been shifted to 2021.

The Covid-19 situation also affected the AI in Libraries Network Group members, and this was reflected in the reduced activity of the Network Group. Nevertheless, the first two e-meetings allowed the Network Group to plan its actions and organize its activities. As a reminder from the AI in Libraries Network Group application form, the objective of this group are:

1. To leverage the use of AI through better understanding and use.
2. To promote sharing, collaboration and standardisation on AI between institutions.

3. To identify areas of AI with particular significance for libraries.

To fulfil these objectives, the Network Group completed the following actions:

- Created an ‘AI Cookbook for Libraries’, based on real use-cases, designed in a way that allows a deep understanding of the core technologies and the reproducibility of the technical implementation. The Network Group started to identify use-cases and set up a ‘GitHub Organization’ to store and disseminate the recipes (objectives 1 and 2).
- Wrote a report on ‘Strategy and Roadmaps’, to help practitioners and managers to think about and build their own AI strategy (objectives 1 and 2).
- Developed a survey, to be sent to the CENL Network, about AI projects, initiatives, and roadmaps that are already active. This survey will go live in November 2020 and the results will feed into the two previous actions (objective 3). In August 2020, the National Library of Luxembourg joined this Network Group as a new member; it is hoped that this survey will also contribute to enlarging the membership of the Network Group with new member libraries.

On the dissemination and communication level, the AI in Libraries Network Group decided to organise workshops and hands-on panels - virtual or in-person, depending on the Covid-19 context. These actions will leverage the Cookbook and Strategy Report resources.

Other international events which have already been identified as opportunities:

- Fantastic Futures 2021 international conference (Paris, December 2021)
- NewsEye (<https://www.newseye.eu/>) European project final conference (Paris, March 2021)

*Jean-Philippe Moreux, Chair of the AI in Libraries Network Group*

### Books and Audiences Network Group Activity Report

The CENL Books and Audiences Network Group was established in January 2020. It consists, firstly, of libraries with permanent exhibitions dedicated to book publishing - the National Library of Latvia, the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), the National Library of Germany (Museum of Books and Writing), the British Library, the Royal Library of the Netherlands, the National Library of Estonia, Marsh’s Library (Ireland) - and, secondly, The School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester (UK) and the independent art books publisher Lodret Vandret (Denmark).

The origins of the network can be traced back to the seminar, ‘Book Exhibitions and Their Audiences’, organised by the National Library of Latvia in 2018. This innovative event brought together book exhibition professionals from 13 countries for the first time.

‘Books and Audiences’ is a trans-disciplinary network whose mission is to bring together communities of professionals working in various fields related to exhibiting books, including librarians, archivists, researchers, designers, book artists, educators and heritage professionals. The network ensures a free and open dialogue to facilitate the exchange of experiences, and to develop the capacity of book exhibitions to form long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with a diverse breath and range of audiences. In order to fulfil this mission the network is planning its work through two strands:

- Firstly, organising annual symposiums that would reflect creatively on topical challenges and findings in the sector, as well as learning from case studies of some of the best book exhibitions of the past year.
- Secondly, the network aims to become a hub for gathering and sharing research materials that can support makers, curators and creators of book exhibition. This includes, but is not limited to, for example, developing understandings of the book as a museological object; audience research - how people visit book exhibitions, how visitors respond to book exhibitions; the needs of audiences; discovering and developing novel and innovative interpretive methodologies, interventions and techniques.

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the annual seminar will be transformed into two online webinars, which will take place on 22 and 29 October.

The first webinar will address two pertinent questions of contemporary museums and exhibition practice:

- Exhibition themes relevant to modern society.
- Modern methods of exhibition project management.

The British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Latvia and the Royal Library of the Netherlands will be sharing their recent project experiences.

In the second webinar participants will share their experiences of maintaining, modifying and creating book exhibitions during the Covid-19 confinement. Speakers and participants will discuss the possible lasting consequences and new approaches that may be necessary for book exhibitions in future years.

Registration for the webinars opened in September. The first edition of the *Bibliography on book exhibitions and related themes* will be published in the Members Area on the CENL webpage by the end of October.

In 2021, it is hoped that the network will be able to return to the initial concept of an annual, in-person seminar. It is planned to take place at KBR, Brussels, where a new book museum is due to open in the very near future.

The Books and Audiences Network Group is inviting the participants of the CENL AGM to join the Network Groups session at the AGM to share their observations and ideas on contemporary book exhibitions and audiences.

*Inga Surgunte, Chair of the Books an Audiences Network Group*

### Copyright Network Group Activity Report

The CENL Copyright Network Group was reformed in February 2020.

The Copyright Network Group would normally meet twice per year, but the Covid-19 situation prevented the in-person meeting in spring. All in-person meetings for 2020 will be cancelled. The funds that were originally planned to be primarily spent in connection to the organization and travel expenses of the in-person meetings will be shifted to 2021.

The Covid-19 situation hindered the operations of libraries in general and imposed new responsibilities which was reflected in the slow-down of the activities of the Copyright Network Group as well. In spite of the situation the Copyright Network Group did manage to complete the following actions:

- Agreed on the standardised form of the country reports and started to collect the samples.
- Agreed on the structure of the webpages dedicated to the Copyright Network Group on the CENL website.
- Started to collect info on the DSM Directive implementation.
- Started to compile information on Covid-19 measures implemented by national libraries.

In September 2020 the Copyright Network Group will continue its work with the following actions:

- Continue to collect country reports to be published on a closed webpage of the Copyright Network Group.
- Prepare a short report on Covid-19 measures related to copyright.
- Continue to collect info on the DSM Directive implementation.

The Copyright Network Group has a planned online meeting scheduled for the end of September/early October to exchange information about general activities in the area of copyright and data protection, and also specific information about the Covid-19 measures and the DSM implementation.

The Copyright Network Group will discuss the strategy of how to enlarge the membership of group with new members.

The work of the Copyright Network Group will be presented at the annual CENL meeting that will take place online in October.

*Maja Bogataj, Chair of the Copyright Network Group*