

CENL

Foundation Conference of European National Librarians

CENL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020- 2021

CENL Annual Report 2020-2021

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Foreword by the Chair of CENL

Dear CENL Members,

This past year has been another remarkable and unpredictable one, with the prolonged impact of the coronavirus pandemic affecting our lives and the work in our national libraries to an extent most of us had not foreseen. It might have been wishful thinking to expect us all to go back to our normal business after 12 months. There is no doubt now that we find ourselves in a long-term phase of uncertainty, even though we may have become used to that phase a little more by now.

Yet, in the face of many challenges, CENL has had another prolific year, and this Annual Report highlights just how resilient and strong the organisation continues to be.

Our Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant in 2021 successfully supported wonderful projects in Austria, Estonia and the UK. CENL rose to the challenge and adapted its bursary programme to support CENL libraries through the Covid-19 Support Fund, helping CENL libraries to adjust their services to new health and safety routines and processes. And we launched another important new bursary scheme around Hidden Stories and are excited to see the outcomes of the projects this fund supports. Our social media activities have continued to grow and we have made further expansions to our website, creating spaces for our CENL network groups.

Despite careful planning, our hopes of meeting in person for our 2020 Annual General Meeting were disappointed by the ongoing pandemic, but we were thrilled to see so many of you at our virtual conference. While this format can never fully replace the pleasures and benefits of our physical meetings, it nonetheless delivered on a rich programme of speakers and provided for some much needed exchange.

After six years of hosting the CENL Secretariat at the British Library, our team has spent a bit of time in this report reflecting on the journey we have had, and on the many experiences and achievements along the way. It is difficult to express in a few short paragraphs the gratitude I feel in having been given the opportunity to chair this wonderful organisation for the past six years, and I also speak for my colleagues when I say that it has wholeheartedly enriched our professional lives.

The friendship and camaraderie as well as the outstanding expertise concentrated in the CENL network truly mattered during many moments of change and challenge, something we deeply cherish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated CENL Executive Committee who have steered us so well during the past term, and our CENL Secretariat for its outstanding work in serving the CENL community. We are confidently handing over the reins to the Germany National Library in the autumn, who have signalled their full dedication in continuing our shared work on areas such as artificial intelligence, copyright and book exhibitions, as well as the many skills and knowledge exchange initiatives CENL has focussed on in these past years.



This journey continues, for us all individually as well as for our professional network, and though we are travelling at speed in the direction of sometimes uncharted territory, we must feel comfort that we are facing these challenges together. This is what I take away most from my time chairing the organisation: CENL is an exemplary community of library leaders who are willing to share, to support and to grow together when it matters most, and I am very proud to be a part of it.

With warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roly Keating". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Roly" and "Keating" being capitalized and prominent.

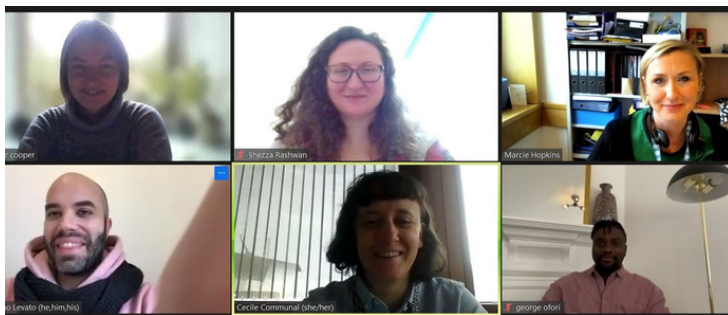
Roly Keating, CENL Chair, October 2021

2. Activities June 2020 – May 2021

2.1 CENL Secretariat

The CENL Secretariat Team

2020/21 has been a busy year for the CENL Secretariat based at the British Library and run by the British Library's International Office. As the Covid-19 pandemic went on throughout the year in large parts of Europe, the Secretariat continued to work from home and focused on moving all CENL activities online and supporting CENL members with their new needs arising from the pandemic. The Secretariat planned and coordinated four Executive Committee meetings online. We successfully completed the audit of 2020 accounts on time. We administered and promoted the bursary and grant schemes, supporting one Erland Kolding Nielsen grantee in 2020 and two grantees from 2019 whose projects were delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic brought historical challenges to national libraries and to support the CENL members in their answers to this new landscape, the CENL Secretariat, with the support of the Executive Committee, created two new funds: the Covid-19 Support Fund and the Hidden Stories Fund. We continued to update regularly the CENL website and Twitter accounts launched in 2019, creating new resources such as the Covid-19 Map of the opening plans of national libraries in Europe. We liaised with the National Library of Belgium, National Library of Turkey and Bibliothèque nationale de France on rescheduling the physical AGMs in 2021, 2022 and 2023. We continued work with Hans Petschar on refining the CENL survey of library spaces and carried out a training and development survey.



2021 will mark the end of the current Executive Committee's term and the Secretariat successfully ran elections for the new Executive Committee members online with eight CENL member nominations.

This strong interest in actively engaging with CENL demonstrates the ongoing regard CENL members have for the organisation.

The team has seen one change last year: Shezza Rashwan came back from her maternity leave and returned to lead on the bursary and grant schemes.

George Ofori continued to work part-time to look after the CENL communications updates to the website and the Twitter account. Cecile Communal has done a sterling job in continuing to lead on all aspects of financial management, coordinating the AGM and introducing new grants. Giuliano Levato continued to provide administrative support and monitors all CENL email communications. Marcie Hopkins continues to head the Secretariat and acts as CENL Secretary.

2.2 CENL Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on four occasions over the course of the year:

- August 2020 via Zoom
- December 2020 via Zoom
- March 2021 via Zoom
- June 2021 via Zoom

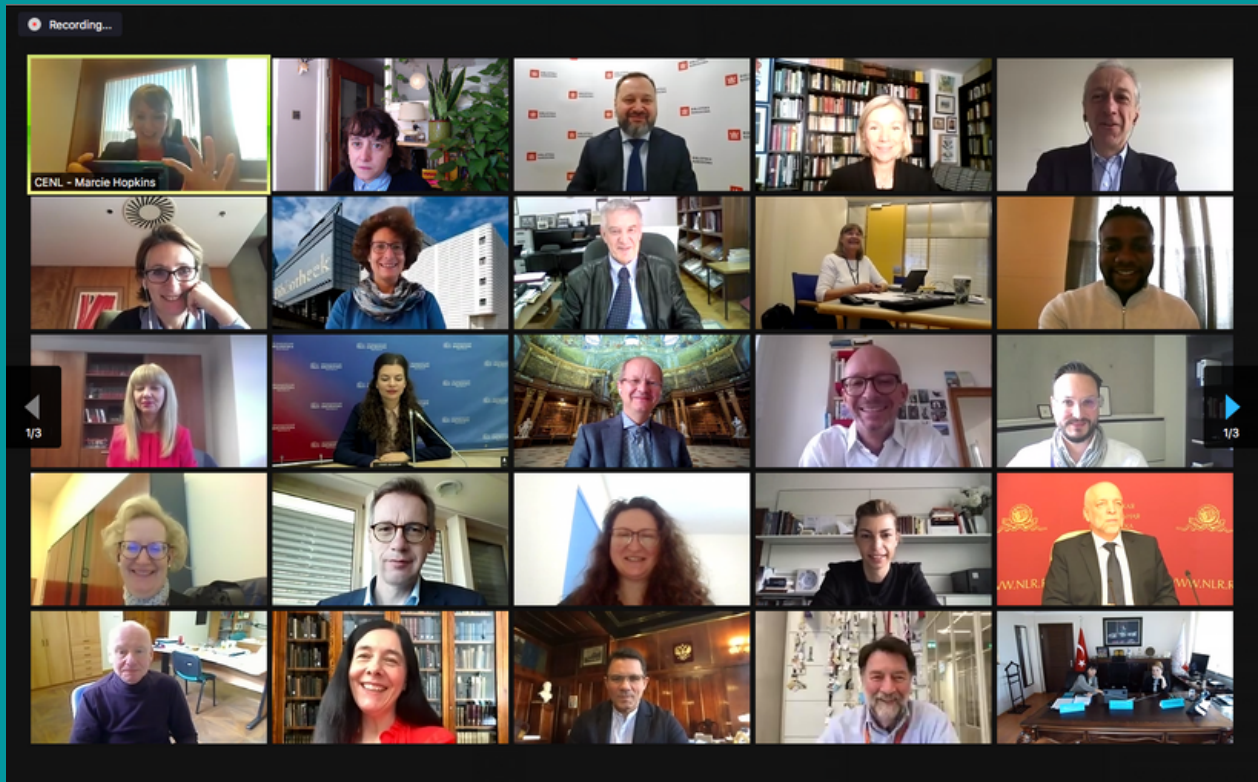
The meetings aimed to further the strategic priorities of CENL. The meetings covered a number of topics including CENL's focus on supporting its members during the Covid-19 pandemic.



2.3 CENL AGM

Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, it became impossible to host the AGM in person in Brussels, so the AGM moved to an online format for the first time. The event was held over one day and attended by 66 CENL members on the 19th October. In addition to the usual business sections, the AGM included an interactive session on impact, opportunities and challenges for inclusive national libraries in the context of Covid-19 and a presentation by Elisabeth Niggemann on Europeana.

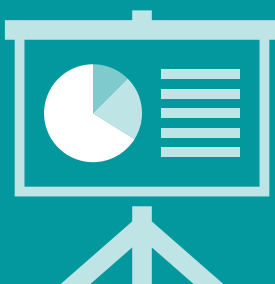
2020 ONLINE AGM



66 participants



0 'you're on mute'



147 pages of powerpoint presentations

2.4 Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant

In January 2017, CENL introduced a grant to celebrate the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen 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 to library projects which promote international collaboration and strengthens bonds between CENL libraries. The scheme will run for 5 years initially.

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



Over the past five years, 2017-2021, the CENL Secretariat published an annual call for applications. Written proposals were reviewed by the Executive Committee and successful applicants were announced at the Annual General Meetings. The successful applicants whose projects have now been completed have provided reports to CENL Secretariat and these have been uploaded on the CENL website.

2017 Grants



Moldova – the National Library of the Republic of Moldova hosted an international conference with five national libraries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Ukraine) in order to share best practice enabling Moldova to integrate with the European library community. The conference, titled 'The development of collaboration of the European libraries in virtual space', was held in Chisinau, Moldova on 1-2 November 2017. Access the full report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/moldovas-successful-grant-application-2017/>



Latvia – On 10-11 May 2018, the National Library of Latvia in Riga hosted an international seminar titled 'Book Exhibitions and their Audiences'. Representatives from 13 libraries and three museums, as well as museology theoreticians and artists, came together to share and discuss their experiences of creating and managing visitor-centered book exhibitions, particularly focusing on the challenges they have faced and solutions with which they have experimented. Access the full report on the CENL website: <https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/latvias-successful-grant-application-2017/>

2018 Grants



Estonia – An international conference, titled 'Imagine a National Library,' took place at the National Library of Estonia on 25-26 October 2018 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the library.

The conference presented an opportunity to discuss the meaning and functions of national libraries in our society today. The presentations outlined trends in the directions that libraries, and national libraries in particular, are heading. Particular attention was given to services offered and physical spaces as well as the sustainability of national libraries. Collaborators included: the Netherlands, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, and Norway. Representatives of the national libraries of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina were also in attendance. The full report can be found on the CENL website: <https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/2018/>



Serbia – On 4-5 October 2018, the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade hosted an international workshop on digitisation, digital collection management and digital preservation as part

of the South-East European National Librarians Conference (SEENL). Representatives from nine national libraries – Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia – participated in the two-day workshop. They had the opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and practices in the areas of digitisation. Current, ongoing digitisation projects were presented, including the common ones, stressing the significance of networking, resource exchange and the strategic improvement of digitisation through continual cooperation in future projects.

See the full report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/serbias-successful-grant-application-2018/>

2019 Grants

CENL received a large number of excellent EKN Grant applications in 2019 and it was decided that, exceptionally, three grants would be awarded for this year.



Lithuania – On 15 November 2019, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania hosted an International conference, ‘21st Century Libraries: Traditions & Innovations’, as part of the ‘

Live Libraries’ celebration happening across the Baltic region to mark the 100 year anniversaries of all Baltic National Libraries (2018-2019). Speakers highlighted some common problems ailing libraries in the present era. Participants and guests were encouraged to share their visions of the role and impact of libraries on 21st century society in their many guises – as disseminators of information and applied research institutions – exploiting inter-institutional and international opportunities for collaboration. Access the full report on the CENL website: <https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/tnational-library-of-lithuania-conference-on-21st-century-libraries-traditions-and-innovations/>



Russia – An EKN Grant was awarded to The National Library of Russia to host an international conference in St Petersburg in May 2020. The theme of the conference was to have been international cooperation between European national libraries, dedicated to the 225 year anniversary of the National Library of Russia.

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, the conference was not able to take place.



Austria – The Austrian National Library received an Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant for a project dedicated to Danube collections in CENL libraries. Due to the Covid pandemic the format was changed to online webinars and to the creation of a virtual

exhibition in collaboration with the Europeana Foundation. Two webinars were held in October and November 2020, and CENL members from Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine shared knowledge on their Danube Collections and collaborated in the creation of the Europeana exhibition ‘The Danube: connecting Europe’ (<https://www.europeana.eu/de/exhibitions/the-danube-connecting-europe>). The exhibition launched in spring 2021 and attracts visitors across Europe and worldwide. See the report on the CENL website:

<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/ekn-grant-austria-2019-danube-collections-in-cenl-libraries/>



'21st Century Libraries: Traditions & Innovations' conference at the National Library of Lithuania, 15 November 2019



View of Budapest (Ofen and Pesth), ca 1825
Austrian National Library

2020 Grant



The United Kingdom – In 2020, The British Library was awarded the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant for a conference titled 'National Libraries Now: International Perspectives on Library Curation'.

The conference was a collaboration between the British Library, Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België/ Bibliothèque royale de Belgique and National Library of Jamaica. The conference was held online on 16-17 September 2021. The aim of the conference was to bring together library professionals working directly with collections in national libraries to share current practice and new approaches to curatorship. A primary goal of the conference was to establish a long-lasting network that will lead to international collaboration. The conference website is: <https://nlN2021conference.wordpress.com/>



2021 Grants



Estonia – The National Library of Estonia hosted an international seminar titled 'Tomorrow is T-Shaped' focusing on how changes in the labour market might affect libraries and librarians in the

coming years. The organisers considered it an important moment to address the competencies that are expected from library staff in the near and more distant future. Libraries are recruiting and training future staff today, thus they need to be able to anticipate the skills and competencies required by libraries as well as to identify the changes in the labour market on a larger scale in order to be competitive in recruitment. The seminar took place on 27 May 2021 hybrid format (in-person and streamed online), and was attended by 338 registered participants from 20 countries. A final report on the event has been received and uploaded on the CENL website:

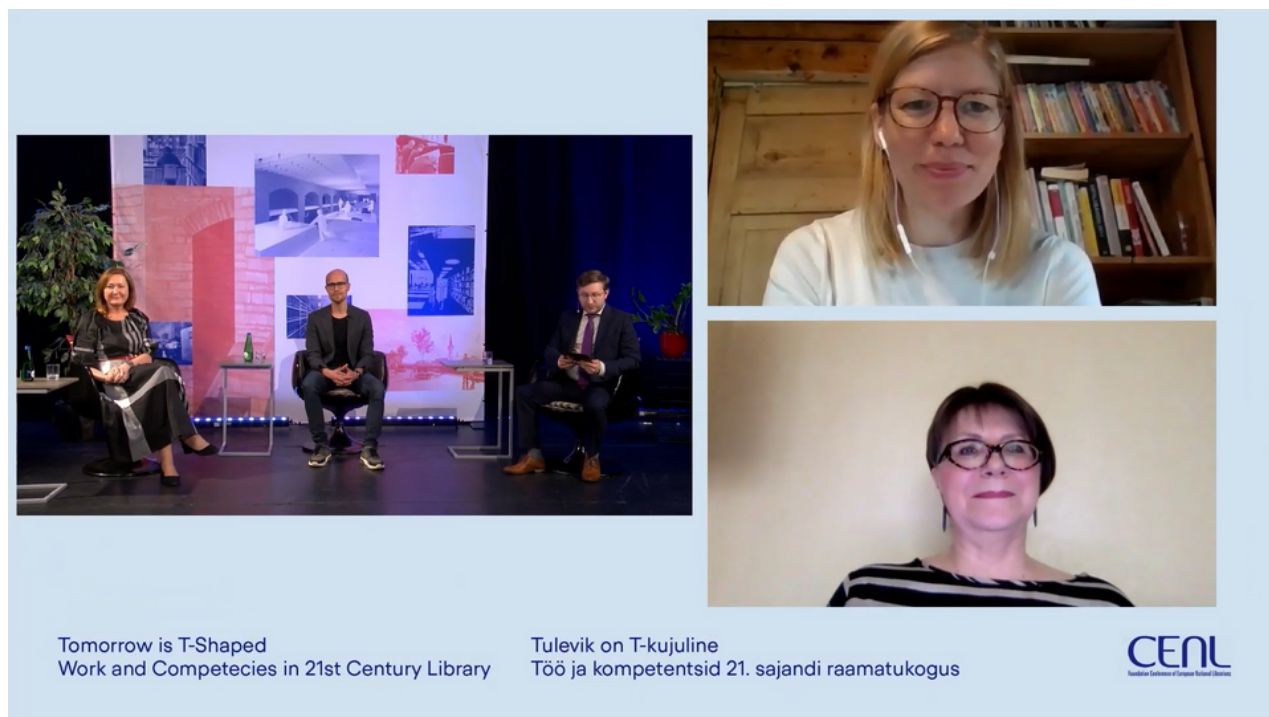
<https://www.cenl.org/grantrecipient/international-seminar-tomorrow-is-t-shaped-work-and-competencies-in-21st-century-library/>



Bosnia and Herzegovina – The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina was awarded a grant for the digitisation, preservation, protection and presentation of documents from the

archives of 'The Republic of Poljika' written in Bosančica. The project is a collaboration between The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the National and University Library of Croatia (NSK), which holds similar materials, and whose staff have already worked on the protection and presentation of these materials. NSK employees will come to NULB&H to

hold workshops and presentations on how to store, protect and present materials. This will lay the foundations for cooperation with other national libraries in the former Yugoslavia region. The project will also include educational outputs for use by other CENL members.



Hybrid format discussion panel at 'Tomorrow is T-Shaped', hosted by the National Library of Estonia

2.5 Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries

CENL's Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary programme was launched for members in 2017. The annual budget is €20,000 for as many as 20 individual bursaries up to the value of €1,000 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
- Preparing a webinar or online event for members.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on applications for the Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary Scheme, as this scheme is mostly used for in-person exchanges and visits. No bursary applications were received in 2020 and 2021. In 2020, the CENL Executive Committee discussed options to use the funds in other ways, and decided to offer two new grant schemes using the underspent bursaries budget: the Covid-19 Support Fund and the Hidden Stories Fund.

2.6 New grants: Covid-19 Support and Hidden Stories Funds

In the spring and summer of 2020, national libraries partially re-opened their doors to a different world. Covid-19 and lockdowns have had a huge impact on the financial stability of many national libraries and created many new challenges in how they welcome their readers and make collections available digitally. In addition, the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement have challenged the ways in which our institutions have been collecting, researching and telling stories.

To support its members in their responses to this new landscape, the CENL Executive Committee launched two new funds in summer 2020: the Covid-19 Support Fund and the Hidden Stories Fund.



- The **Covid-19 Support Fund** is a new fund providing funding to help CENL members respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of working together for the longer-term future. CENL members may apply for grants of up to €2,500 for additional costs associated with Covid-19, and for creative projects.

- In 2020, CENL supported IFLA's dedication to inclusion and to actively work against racial discrimination of all kinds. National libraries need to ensure that collections, events and exhibitions are genuinely inclusive and representative of and for all communities. The **Hidden Stories Fund**, with grants of a value of up to €2,500, aims to support projects designed to collect, preserve, research and highlight stories by, and related to, communities underrepresented in our national collections, ensuring that their stories are preserved for future generations.



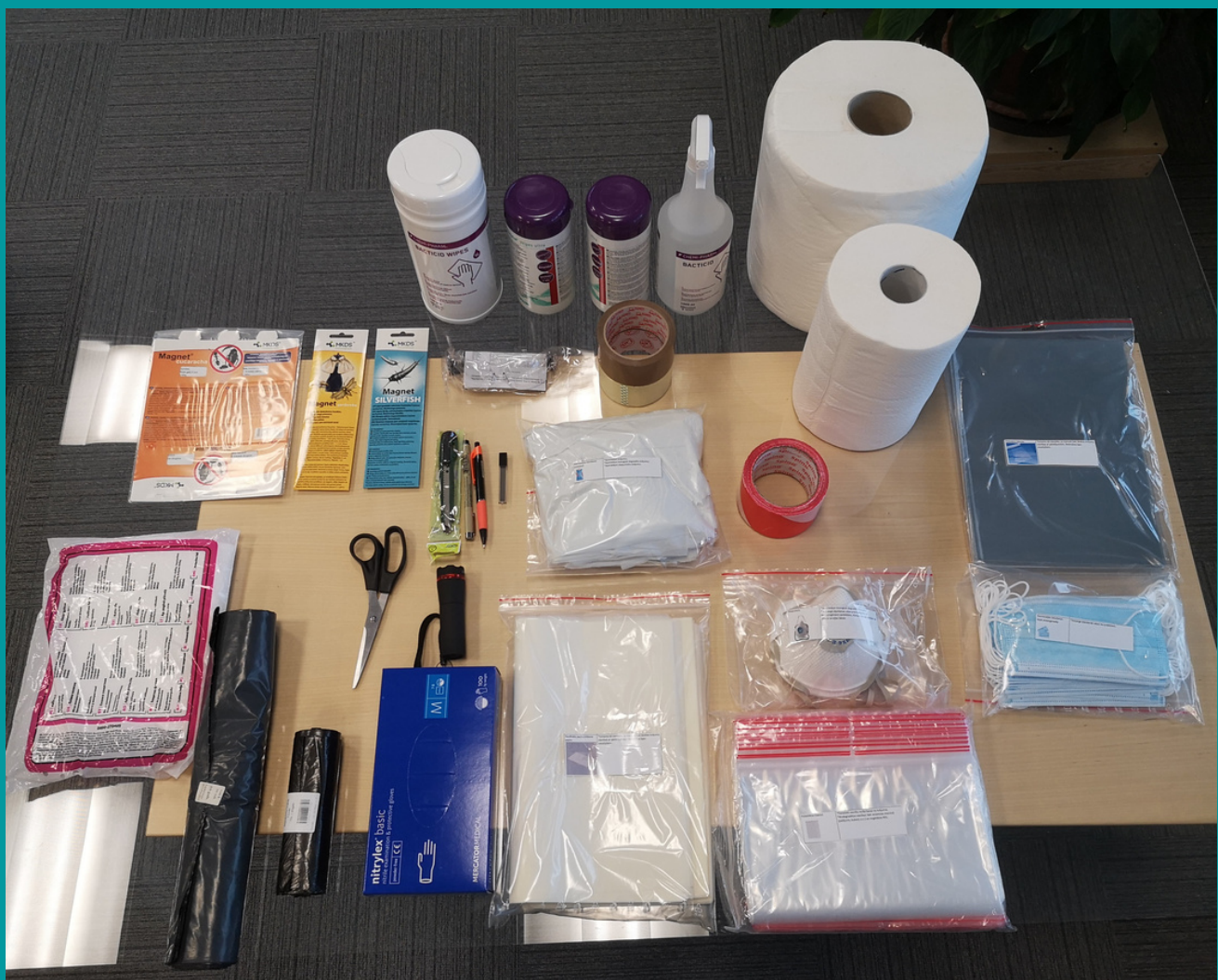
Five national libraries received Covid-19 grants to help them cover some of their additional costs caused by the pandemic. Covid-19 Support project examples include the National Library of Latvia purchasing 37 emergency preparedness kits for its stacks, reading rooms, and exhibition areas and the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina purchasing the necessary devices



New quarantine room at the National Library of Romania



New informative screen at the National Library of Croatia



New emergency kit at the National Library of Latvia

for sterilisation, digitisation, and enhancing access to digitised material and online educational resources.

The National Library of Croatia also received a Hidden Story grant to create a virtual multilingual exhibition that will take visitors on a journey through the history of the Roma minority, their culture and tradition, and focus on minority issues and the position of the Roma in the Republic of Croatia.

Covid-19 Support Fund successful applicants:

- **National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina:** the creation of a 'Corona free' corner in the National and University Libraries – purchasing equipment for sterilisation, digitisation, access to digitised material and education.
- **National and University Library in Zagreb:** installation of two screens at the Library entrance to improve the quality and streamlining of information users most often request (safety measures, number of free seats, working hours).
- **National Library of Latvia:** purchase of emergency safety equipment and PPE, as part of wider 'Emergency preparedness and response' measures.
- **National Library of Republic of Moldova:** purchase of digital equipment needed to produce and broadcast online events and conferences, in order to improve community engagement.
- **National Library of Romania:** Purchase of book sterilisation equipment to disinfect library materials and reduce quarantine time between users.

Hidden Stories Fund successful applicant:

- **National and University Library in Zagreb:** to create a virtual multilingual exhibition that will take visitors on a journey through the history of the Roma minority, their culture and tradition, and also focus on minority issues and the position of the Roma in the Republic of Croatia.

2.7 Webinars

In 2020, CENL launched its first webinar series, with webinars taking place exclusively for CENL members. These webinars provide an opportunity to hear directly from CENL members and learn about the challenges they are facing and how they are addressing them, as well as from external speakers who bring new ideas and experiences.



Cecile Communal and Bonnie Greer recording the webinar on 'diversity and inclusion in national libraries' on 14 December 2020 at the British Library



Stuart Hamilton introducing the webinar on 'the role of libraries in engaging users of regional and minority languages' on 19 February 2021

The first webinar took place on the 14 December 2020 and focused on '**diversity and inclusion in national libraries**'. National libraries want to ensure that collections, events and exhibitions are inclusive and representative of and for all communities but this can be complex work with multiple layers and sensitivities. To explore these challenges, playwright and author Bonnie Greer gave a keynote talk exploring the very nature and meaning of diversity itself. Bonnie discussed national libraries and their discontents, and libraries as creators of a 'unified theory'. She spoke from personal experience and her 'Era of Reclamation work' with the British Museum in the UK. Her keynote was followed by a panel discussion focusing on examples of how national libraries are engaging with LGBTQ+ communities, minority languages and developing an inclusive culture. The panel was chaired by Dr Sandra Collins, Director of the National Library of Ireland with guest panellists Karin Grönvall, Director of the National Library of Sweden and Cecile Communal, Co-Chair of the British Library LGBTQ+ Network.

The recording of the webinar, which has already been viewed over 340 times, can be watched on the [CENL YouTube page](#).

"Diversity is listening with intent. It's power listening in order to do something. And that 'to do something' is to share power. That's one of the things that needs to happen if we are going to have diversity." - Bonnie Greer

The second CENL webinar took place on 19 February 2021. 'The Role of Libraries in Engaging Users of Regional and Minority Languages' was hosted in collaboration with NAPLE's Minority Languages Working Group. The webinar was chaired by Stuart Hamilton, Head of Libraries Development for the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in Ireland, and NAPLE President. Audiences heard from three panellists, who discussed the topic of regional and minority languages in their own libraries' contexts:

- Aleksandro Burra, Librarian, Central Library Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia, presented 'The role of public libraries in helping children improve minority language: the case of Slovene Istria'
- Kristel Palk, Head of the Department of Literature in Foreign Languages, Tallinn Central Library, Estonia, presented 'No language is an island entire of itself: Supporting language learning in a public library'
- Elisabet Rundqvist, Executive Officer, National Library of Sweden presented 'Bridging past to future. Why national libraries matters for the survival of small languages'.

A recording of this webinar is now available on the [CENL YouTube page](#).



3. CENL Network Groups update

Despite the challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, the three CENL network groups have continued to meet virtually and make progress on the activities they had planned for the year.

3.1 Books and Audiences Network Group

Chair: Inga Surgunte, National Library of Latvia

Treasurer & Secretary: Vanessa Braekeveld, KBR

Members: National Library of Latvia, Royal Library of Belgium, British Library, Royal Library of the Netherlands, National Library of Estonia, German National Library, German Museum of Books and Writing, University of Leicester, Marsh's Library, and Lodret Vandret (independent publisher).

a. Introduction and goals of the network group

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



Values:

- Innovation
- Curiosity
- Openness
- Inclusivity
- Generosity
- Diversity

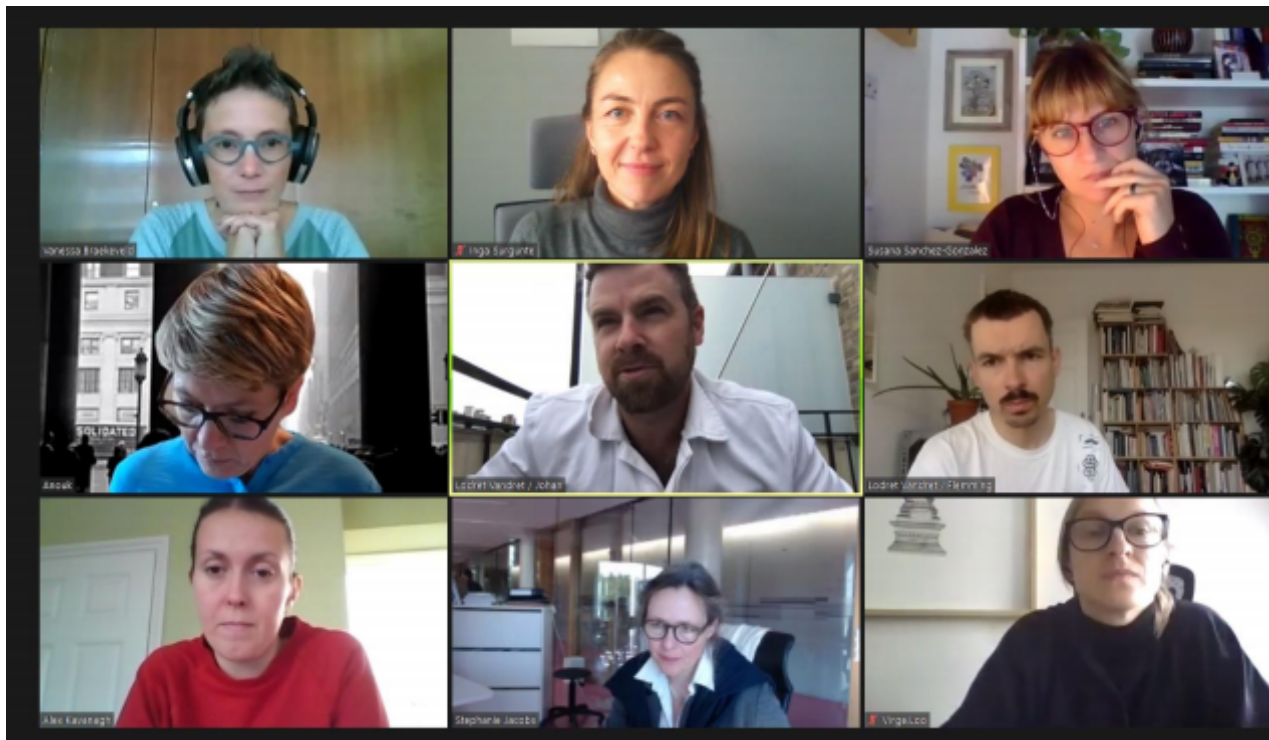
Vision:

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

Aims of the Books & Audiences network group:

- Create a thriving network of expertise in the field of 'book exhibitions and their audiences'
- Share knowledge and experiences, and create opportunities to learn
- Organise seminars and create a shared online platform.

b. 2020 – 2021 activities



Webinars

On 22 and 29 October the CENL Network Group, Books and Audiences, organised two webinars for professionals working with book and literature exhibitions and collections. The webinars gathered together 125 participants from 15 countries, keen to discover the brightest examples of recent book exhibitions and projects, and to share and discuss the challenges in the sector caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

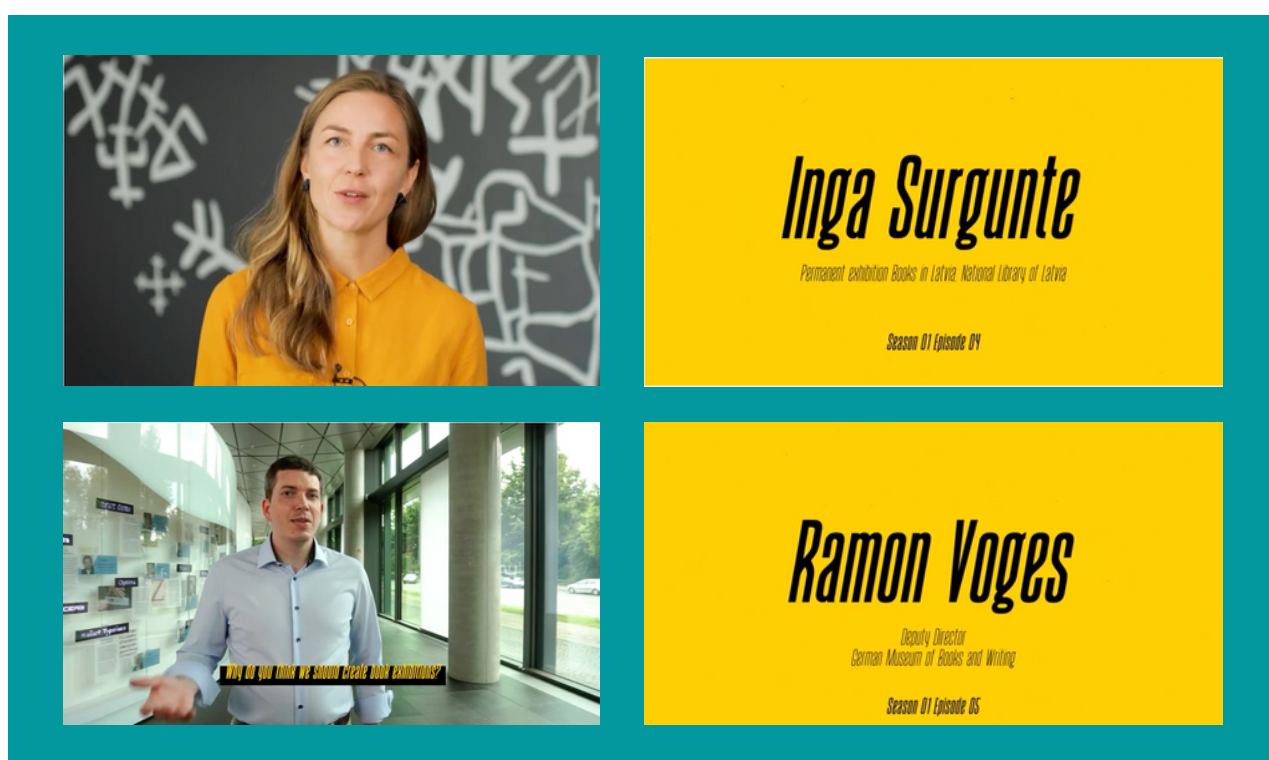
- Webinar: What to tell and how to tell it in a contemporary book exhibition? (22/10/20)
Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZscwQN90A9M>
- Webinar: The future for book exhibitions and their audiences (29/10/20)
Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zw6wq7wD1Qk>

On 28 October BANG! is planning the webinar 'Unbound: exploring accessibility in book exhibitions'. During the keynote dialogue, case studies presentations, discussions and workshops in this webinar, we will consider different dimensions of accessibility in book exhibitions, exploring what social, emotional, cognitive and physical accessibility means and what aspects should be taken into account in the context of this very specific genre of exhibition. Professionals from the libraries and museums sectors, as well as independent designers and accessibility experts will share their experiences and challenge the existing traditions of creating book exhibitions.

Video series BANG! Talking heads

In September 2021 a video series, 'BANG! Talking heads', will be launched on the network's YouTube channel. Short videos of 3 minutes will allow the network to share ideas and thoughts on three crucial questions for those involved in creating book exhibitions: Why do we think we should create book exhibitions? What have we found to be the greatest challenge in displaying a book? What does the concept of bringing together books and people mean to us?

With the video series we aim to grow the professional community of book exhibition professionals and make the network's communication more dynamic, engaging and appealing.



Sharing resources

BANG! invites its members and any other interested professionals to share research resources relevant to book exhibitions in various aspects – publications on the perception of literary exhibitions, audience development strategies in library exhibitions, etc. Resources lists will be published on the CENL pages of the network.

Lists of resources, provided first of all by the researchers of the network, will provide an academic and practice based foundation for the case studies and approaches to book exhibitions discussed during the webinars. Hopefully, it will also support the community of researchers and practitioners working with book exhibitions.

3.2 Artificial Intelligence Application Network Group

Chair: Jean-Philippe Moreux, BnF

Treasurer & Secretary: Svein Arne Brygfeldt, National Library of Norway

Members: Bibliotheque nationale de France, National Library of Norway, National Library of Austria, National Library of Czech Republic, British Library, National Library of Estonia, National Library of Sweden, National Library of Luxembourg and National Library of Switzerland

a. 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.

Practitioners of AI in libraries need to get together and share experience and knowledge. This group will establish arenas for sharing and collaboration. Such arenas include web sites, GitHub repositories, seminars, meetings and more. The group will establish a network of national libraries already involved in this transition, or wishing to be, and thus create a dynamic of exchange and sharing which will be beneficial and speed up the deployment of new technologies, including AI, in libraries.

b. 2020 - 2021 activities

In order to promote the use of AI in libraries through better understanding and use, the group has set up a GitHub repository of resources (2020), in particular a AI Cookbook for Libraries with documented and reproducible software solutions. AI core technologies are targeted: natural language processing, computer vision, document analysis, and OCR. Each recipe is first presented during a group meeting.

To identify areas of particular significance for libraries, the group is launching an AI survey (mid 2021), to be sent to the CENL Network, about AI projects, initiatives, and roadmaps that are already active. This action will also contribute to identify AI practitioners within libraries.

The group is also working on a panel of library presidents or top managers on AI strategy and implementation in the framework of the 'Fantastic Futures 2021' conference (December 2021, BnF) organized by the international initiative ai4lam.org.

3.3 Copyright Network Group

Chair: Maja Bogataj Jančič, Intellectual Property Institute, Slovenia

Treasurer: Frederic Lemmers, KBR

Secretary: Matthew Lambert, British Library

Members: National Library of Serbia, National Library of Czech Republic, National Library of Switzerland, Bibliotheque nationale de France, Royal Library of Belgium, Royal Library of the Netherlands, National Library of Slovenia, National Library of Finland, National Library of Germany, National Library of Slovakia, National Library of Romania, National Library of Estonia, National Library of Sweden, British Library, National Library of Austria, National Library of Denmark, National Library of Norway, and National Library of Bulgaria

a. Introduction and goals of the network group



The CENL Copyright network group (hereinafter CR NG) was (re)formed in February 2020. The CR NG aims to consider information law, as it affects libraries, and to work to ensure changes in legislation, interpretation and best practices reflect the changing needs of libraries and their users. In spite of the Covid-19 situation, the CR NG was able to complete the following actions in the first half of 2020: the CR NG members have agreed on the

standardized form of the country reports and started to collect the samples, the CR NG members have agreed on the structure of the webpage that is dedicated for the CR NG on the CENL website, the CR NG have started to collect info on the DSM Directive implementation and CR NG have started to compile info on Covid 19 measures implemented by national libraries.

b. 2020 – 2021 activities

The CR NG met online on 19 October 2020, where copyright basics were presented. In addition, information about general activities in the area of copyright and data protection and also specific information about Covid measures and the DSM implementation were exchanged. The meeting on 25 of November 2020, focused on the short report from the AGM, brief presentations and discussion about the national reports with the focus on the implementation of the DSM Directive, developments at the EU level regarding personal data protection, discussion about the potential common statement on the implementation of the Orphan work Directive, copyright-related Covid 19 activities, measures, needs of national libraries, and a discussion about the website and tools.



The CR NG met again online on 9 of March 2021. This time, the CR NG focused on the presentation of a draft statement on the Orphan Work Directive and implementation processes of the DSM Directive in member states (special consideration was given to the German implementation of the OCW provision, and to the so-called cut-off date). The CR NG also discussed potential subsection of the group, which would include privacy and protection of personal data. After this meeting the Digital Single Act was discussed, and all members were invited to register and start using the closed part of the website, where the national reports were already uploaded. The next meeting of the CR WG was scheduled for the summer, but was not held. The next meeting will be held in September/October 2021.

Censorship

Censorship is the regulation... whereby books were examined for the purpose of ascertaining whether they contained heretical or other objectionable passages.

Jewish Encyclopedia, 1906



A persecuted community

This is the only account of the persecution against Jews that occurred in 1546 in the Maghribi North Africa. It took place in the Ottoman Empire. A Turkish sultan had ordered the killing of the Jews. During the rule of the Ottoman Empire, the Jews were persecuted and killed. He was eventually converted by the Ottoman Empire to Islam.

Manuscript of the story of the persecution of the Jews in North Africa. The manuscript is written in Hebrew and Arabic.

Questioned by the Inquisition

Books were sometimes found by the Inquisition. In 1546, a book was found in the possession of a Jew. The book was written in Hebrew and Arabic. The Inquisition was a religious institution that was established in 1478 in Spain. It was responsible for the persecution of Jews and Muslims in Spain and Portugal.

Censored by the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church was responsible for the censorship of books. In 1546, a book was found in the possession of a Jew. The book was written in Hebrew and Arabic. The Catholic Church was responsible for the persecution of Jews and Muslims in Spain and Portugal.

I know that God has helped me with his good hands to abolish the kingdom of the Turks. Thus, from today onwards do not remember the name of Israel any more. And if you want, I will do it to you what I did do to the Turks.

Yehuda ben-Yehuda addressing the Jews of Morocco.

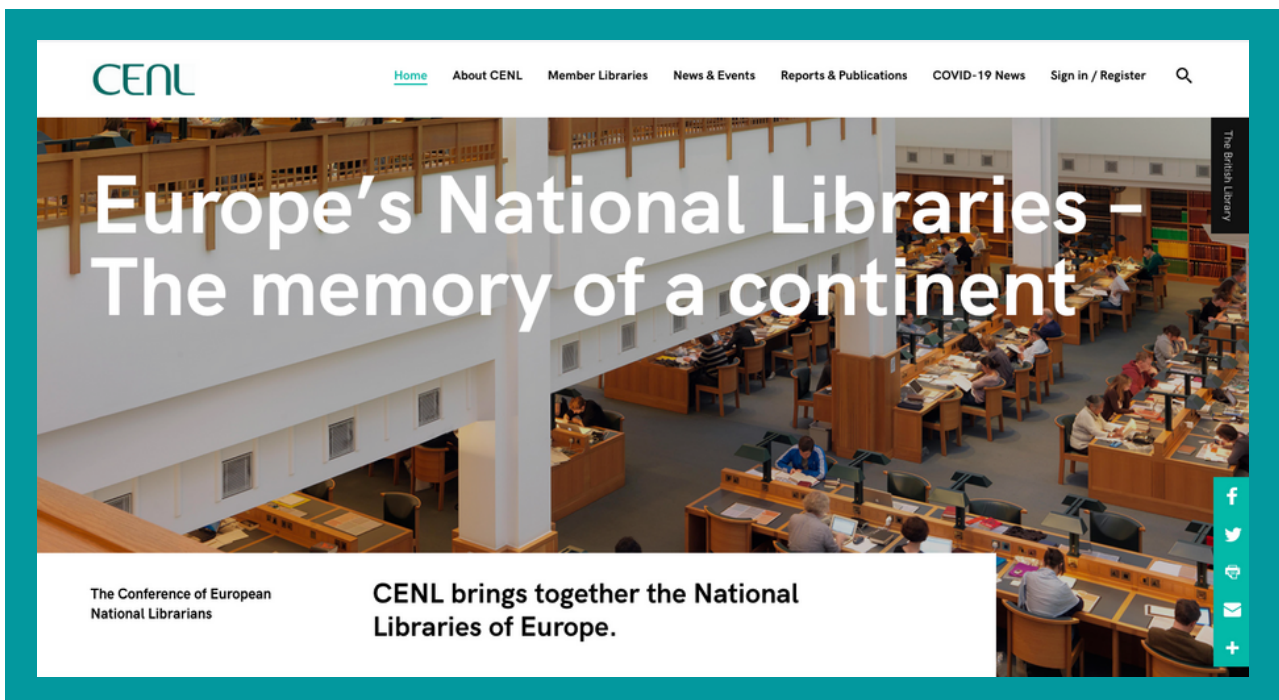


4. CENL communication update

4.1 CENL website

Throughout the year, the CENL Secretariat proceeded with the delivery of the CENL Communications and Strategy Plan for 2020-21. A major component was to further connect the CENL website (www.cenl.org), which launched in November 2019, to its members. The website was built by the British company Brother, which is also providing technical support until November 2021.

The website is primarily aimed at the public and library professionals, promoting the activities of CENL and CENL member libraries, as well as giving a better understanding of the role that CENL libraries play in collecting and preserving the written, published and recorded output of their nations. The website is also aimed at CENL members and provides a space for them to network with each other via a members' area, accessible only to CENL members.



The public sections of the website include:

- 'About CENL': providing information about the organisation – its history, mission, 2018-2022 strategic plan and an interactive map of its member libraries.
- 'Members Libraries': a directory of the 48 CENL member libraries with pictures, information and contact details for each library.
- 'News & Events': listing events, exhibitions, and conferences organised by CENL members, and any news regarding their institutions.

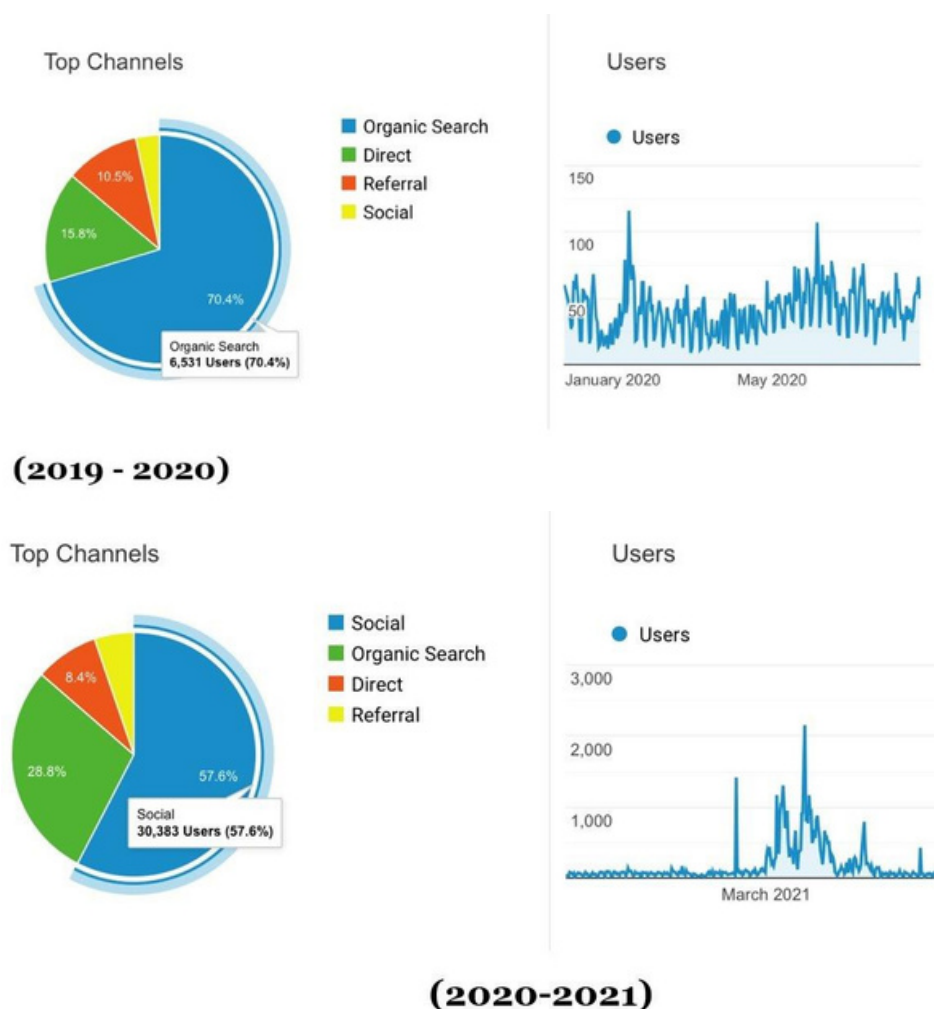
- ‘Reports & Publications’: providing access to over 500 annual reports, dating back to 1993, for all the CENL member libraries and over 30 surveys run by the CENL Secretariat. The previous CENL working groups all have a section on this page with information and documents available to download on their work. And similarly, the new CENL network groups all have a dedicated section on this page with information on the work and membership of each group.
- Covid-19 related news and reports from CENL members.

The members’ area includes:

- Information on the upcoming AGM (hotel information, programme, registration).
- Information on the bursary scheme, the EKN Grant scheme, the Covid-19 Support and Hidden Stories grants including the application forms.
- Forum to discuss themes and topics shared by the CENL community.
- Access to CENL document archive.

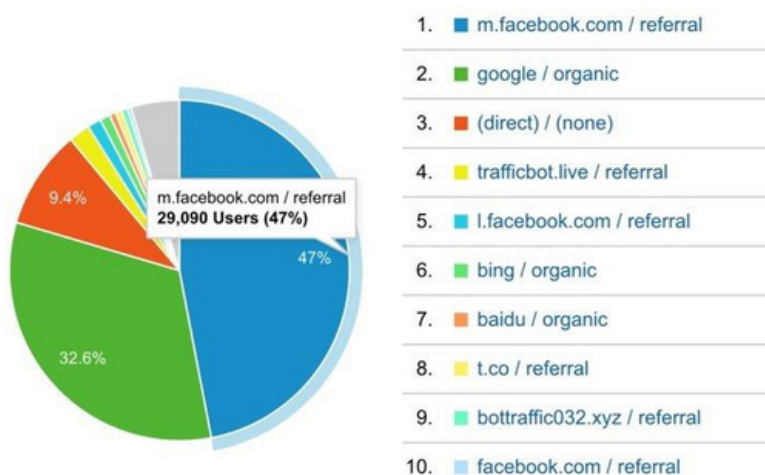
CENL is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility regulations 2018.

Users reach to the CENL website:



The top channels by which users come to the CENL website are both organic and social, a large percentage coming via social channels such as Twitter and Mailchimp over the last year. In the year before, however, organic and direct searches brought visitors to the site. This is due to CENL forming a social community of users, both online and offline, who are more aware of the content on the CENL website and are encouraged to stay on the site and consume a larger amount of content.

The data shows a comparison between 2019 and 2020, and 2020 and 2021. Between November 2019 and August 2020, organic searches totalled 6,531 unique searches, whereas the following year organic searches rose to 15,176. The greatest comparison thus far falls within the social channel. Due to Covid-19, we have seen a higher engagement on social media. This is an indication that brings insight when comparing 2020 to 2021.



The above chart illustrates the top 10 social channels bringing visitors to the CENL website. 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. Within the last 12 months, 29,090 referrals were generated through Facebook. Following close in second place is Google with 32.8%.

CENL	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
Members	128	143	157	173	181	193	218	221	245	260	273	284	295
Website traffic	1863	1891	1796	1924	2091	1988	1875	2631	2787	2954	2879	2931	2984
Page views	7249	7648	7841	7978	6881	7129	6344	7735	7891	8172	8221	7933	8104
Bounce rate	49.84%	49.35%	48.82%	47.26%	51.53%	49.67%	61.80%	59.81%	55.17%	51.02%	52.76%	51.82%	51.42%



Overall, the website has shown steady traffic from 2020 through to 2021. There are noticeable improvements in numbers concerning members, website traffic and page views, including a decrease in bounce rate, which demonstrates that users are spending more time on the CENL website. Since its launch, the CENL website has received over 174,988 total page views, 136,104 of those views were in 2020 and 2021. In terms of website traffic, organic methods have been actioned which project a promising forecast. CENL currently has 295 registered members with over 89% subscribed to the monthly newsletter.



The map above is a geographical analysis of CENL's twitter followers, showing how far our message regarding community and national library awareness travels. The majority of CENL followers are within Europe. However, we are connected to many throughout the Americas as well as the Middle East.

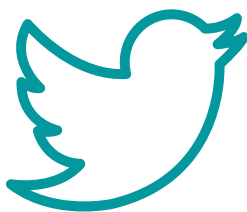
4.2 CENL newsletter

The first CENL newsletter was published on January 2020, and 20 editions have since been sent. The newsletter continues to improve the referral rate from outsourced applications directly to the website. Mailchimp, amongst others, aided in generating an organic flow of referrals, which directly increased user sessions and duration of visits. As it stands today, the CENL Mailchimp audience consists of 295 contacts, 269 of whom have subscribed to the monthly CENL newsletter.



4.3 CENL Twitter account

In July 2019, we launched a new CENL Twitter account (@CENL_EUROPE) to promote CENL's image as an inclusive and international body that builds community for its members, embraces innovative technologies and values user engagement.



- 271 followers
- 357 tweets
- CENL video: 17,084 total impressions, 2,444 media views, 287 total engagements, 27 likes, 19 retweets.

The CENL Twitter account generated 104,100 impressions between August 2020 and August 2021, with an average of 285.2 impressions per day. Below are some of the top tweets from the annual period.

 **CENL_EUROPE** @CENL_EUROPE · Apr 5

3,33245

The @NLIreland has announced a brilliant year-long programme of LGBTI+ events. The programme will be a blend of physical and online exhibitions, as well as include the Photographic Collection of activist, Christopher Robson.

t.ly/XcMk

View Tweet activity

 **CENL_EUROPE** @CENL_EUROPE · Sep 18

6,459104

CENL is thrilled to announce a new member to its family: Dr John Scally, National Librarian and Chief Executive of the @natlibscot is joining our European national library community. Congratulations and welcome! For more information visit: t.ly/YOju pic.twitter.com/vZQDe0HYfk

View Tweet activity

5. Welcome to our new members

CENL extends a warm welcome to the new directors who have joined us this year:



Mr Vladimir Pištalo, Director of the National Library of Serbia



Mr. Tomáš Foltýn,
Director of the National Library of the Czech Republic



Mrs Jelisaveta Kostadinova, Director of the National and University Library of Republic of North Macedonia



Ms Amina Shah, Director of the National Library of Scotland



Mr. Vladimir Gronsii, Director of the National Library of Russia



Ms Anna Chulyan, Director of the National Library of Armenia



Mr Dávid Rózsa, Director of the National Library of Hungary



Mr Dragica Lompar, Director of the National Library of Montenegro



OUTDOOR 4%
OUTDOOR 4%
TEMPERATURE 15.2

BOOKS 8,100,000
REQUESTS 710
NEW ACQUISITIONS 240



6 years of CENL Secretariat



Roly Keating



Marcie Hopkins



Eleanor Cooper



Cecile Communal



Giuliano Levato



Shezza Rashwan

Supporting CENL members

3

new grants
created

- Erland Kolding Nielsen grant
- Hidden Stories grant
- Covid-19 Support grant



€ 17,793

distributed in bursaries to
CENL members for skills &
knowledge exchanges

Member changes



1 new
member

National Library
of Scotland

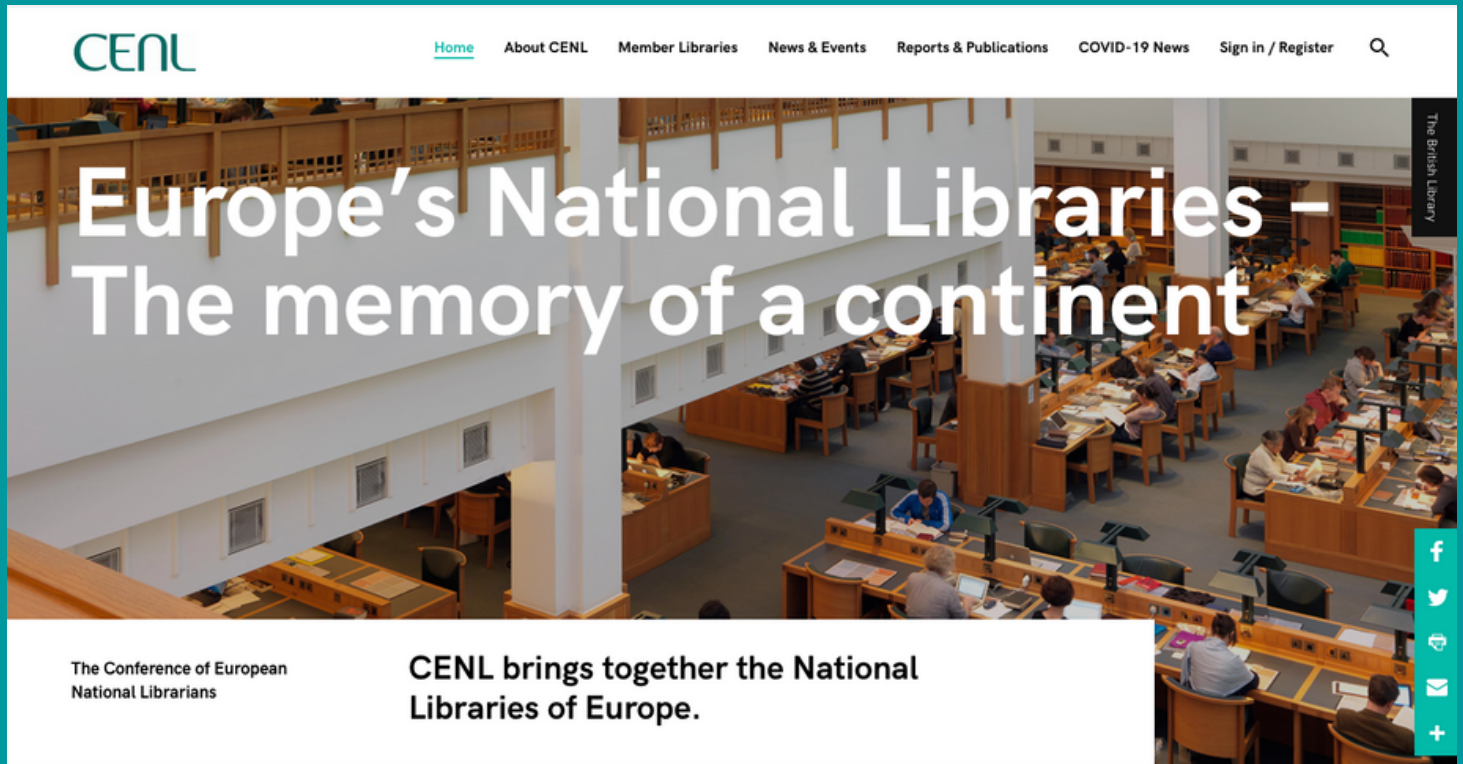
3

new network
groups



- Books and Audiences Network Group
- Artificial Intelligence Network Group
- Copyright Network Group

A new website



The new CENL website was launched in November 2019.



60,446 users visited the website



173,752 page views



211 news items published



351 tweets

The Executive Committee

24

Executive Committee
meetings



11

Countries
visited

1

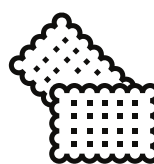


Cat crashing
a meeting

1



Fire alarm crashing
a meeting



A undisclosed amount
of biscuits eaten

Annual General Meetings



2016 - Vienna

5

AGMs

57

AGM papers

129

pages of minutes



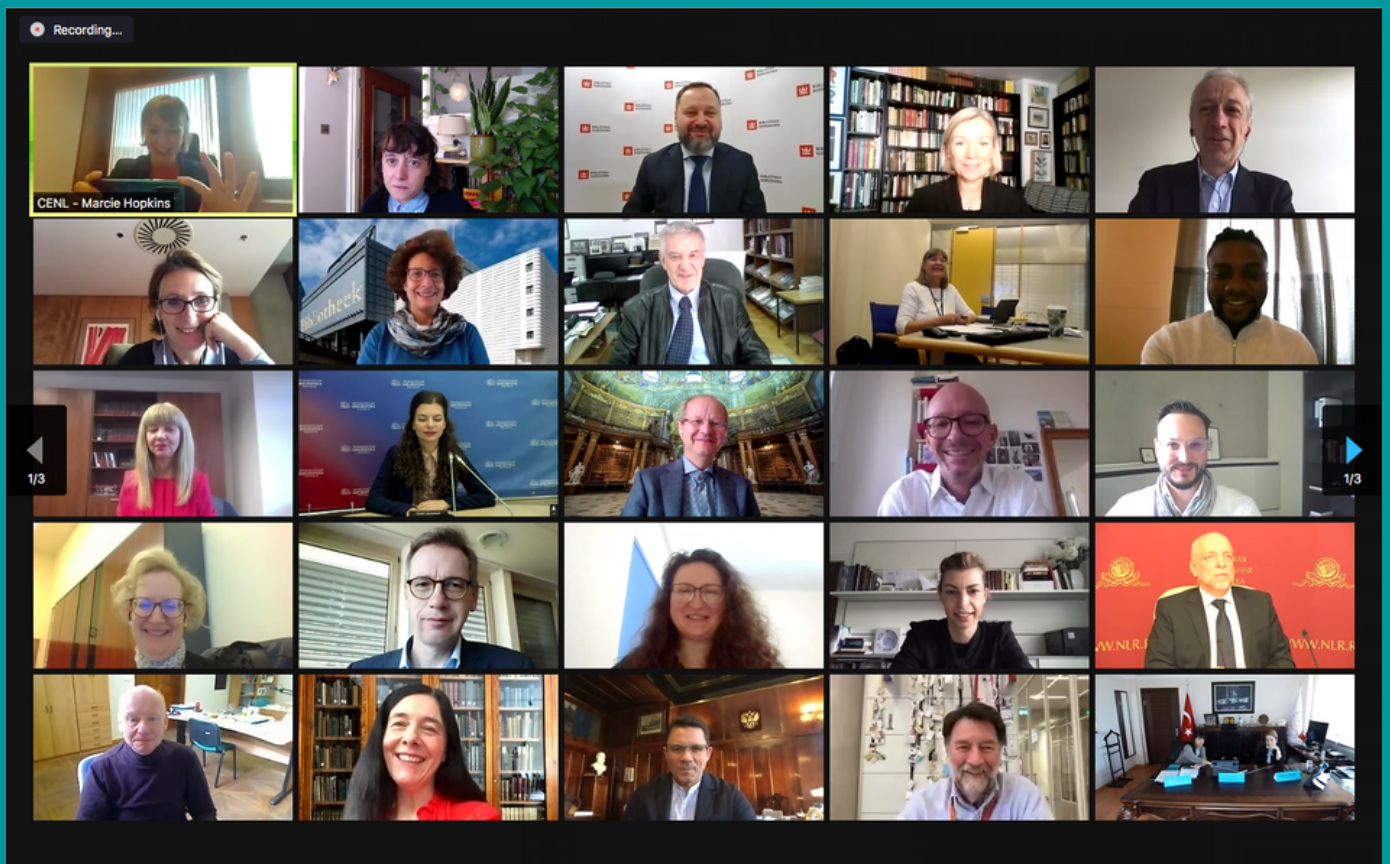
2017 - London



2018 - Reykjavik



2019 - Mo I Rana



2020 - Online



8
puffins spotted

3
geysers visited

