Printers' Devices
Many printer records contain a description of their devices and marks. In cooperation with the Royal Library in Copenhagen and the State Library in Berlin, CERL has undertaken the digitisation of important reference works on printers’ devices. To date, the CERL Thesaurus links to digital reproductions of the works of McKerrow, Renouard and Vindel, and to images of printers’ devices made available by the Italian Institute for the Union Catalogue (ICCU).

Other CERL initiatives
The Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB)
The HPB Database offers scholars in all disciplines convenient and reliable access to over 3 million records of the European printed heritage from c. 1455 to around 1830.

The CERL Portal (CP)
The CP enables scholars to search across the contents of online manuscripts databases, in combination with selected large databases of printed materials, thereby overcoming the historical differentiation of printed books and manuscripts in libraries.

Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI)
MEI is a database for recording and searching the material evidence of 15th century printed books: ownership, decoration, binding, manuscript annotations, stamps, prices, etc.

Can you help? Identifying Provenance Evidence
A resource for public discussion and identification of provenance queries. It allows you to share your queries with an extensive network of specialists, and to contribute your own expertise.

Index Possessorum Incunabulorum (IPI)
CERL offers access to Paul Needham’s list of 32,000 entries of personal and institutional names, monograms, and arms evidencing ownership of incunabula. CERL is working towards the full integration of these Provenance data into the CERL Thesaurus.

Other CERL Thesaurus features
– Comment on records and share your knowledge with other CERL Thesaurus users.
– Use data from the CERL Thesaurus within your own application via the SRU Interface.
– Find digital content on your topic in Europeana directly from the CERL Thesaurus.
– Combine the information of the CERL Thesaurus with the search facilities of the Heritage of the Printed Book Database and the CERL Portal – the unique access point for manuscripts and printed books http://cerl.epc.ub.uu.se/sportal/.
The CERL Thesaurus

The CERL Thesaurus contains forms of imprint places, imprint names, personal names and names of institutions as found in material printed before the middle of the nineteenth century – including variant spellings, forms in Latin and other languages, and fictitious names. As such, it is an essential research tool for scholars and researchers of the period.

So far, more than 70 authority files from CERL member libraries and other projects concentrating on the history of the book have been brought together and made searchable in one single system.

Names of Persons and Institutions

The largest section of the CERL Thesaurus relates to records describing persons that have been involved in the intellectual production of books. This gives you access to 700,000 authors, translators, editors, artists, etc. identified through more than 2,000,000 different name forms and c. 10,000 institutions with 26,000 different name forms.

Wherever possible, persons and institutions are linked to their relatives, predecessors, successors, members and co-workers. Many records contain short summaries on the person’s biography, their occupation and work. A growing number of records link to external resources, such as biographies.

Printers

The CERL Thesaurus contains more than 38,000 names of printers and other persons or institutions involved in the physical production and distribution of books (e.g. publishers, booksellers, etc.), with more than 97,000 variant name forms. Wherever possible, printers are linked to their predecessors and successors, and addresses of their workshops are given.

Printing Places

The CERL Thesaurus records include more than 6,000 printing places with more than 33,000 name forms (variant spellings, vernacular forms, etc.). Many of these places are also georeferenced and link to records for printers who were active there.

Provenance Information

More than 15,000 records of persons and institutions already link out to library catalogues where books are recorded that once belonged to them. This number of records increases as provenance indexes and authority files are integrated into the CERL Thesaurus. Thus, it will become increasingly less difficult to reconstruct the library of a historic person or institution. Currently the CERL Thesaurus links to more than 20 external bibliographic resources.

Writers, Printers, Publishers and Owners of books at your fingertips

The CERL Thesaurus is freely available

http://thesaurus.cerl.org