

WHO OWNED THIS BOOK? PROVENANCE STUDIES IN THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION

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ABSTRACT

Copy-in-hand cataloguing emphasises the uniqueness of each copy of an early printed book in terms of its manufacture and subsequent history. This has stimulated the development of provenance studies. It is now possible to research the dispersed libraries not only of famous people but also of other classes of people and institutions which had not previously received attention. Books from dispersed libraries and personal collections are often to be found far from their original location: books may cross national frontiers at different stages of their existence. Evidence of earlier book-ownership can take the form of name inscriptions, bookplates, binding stamps, shelf marks, etc. The Internet now offers important resources for provenance research, including a recently developed provenance database at the Consortium of European Research Libraries.

KEYWORDS

provenance, book ownership, bookplates, binding stamps, Internet resources, rare-book cataloguing

It is all too easy to assume that printed books are industrial, mass-produced objects and that all copies of the same edition will be identical, with the result that it is unnecessary for a catalogue to record additional copies in any detail.

This statement may be largely true when it concerns modern books for which the design and production of the cover and contents are fully integrated, but it is definitely not true for the pre-modern books which are recorded the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB) run by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL).¹ In the period

1 Information on the HPB Database can be found on the CERL web site at www.cerl.org. Access to this database is only available through libraries which are members of the Consortium of European Research Libraries.

of the hand press (before the middle of the nineteenth century) the manual printing process permitted the possibilities of variants within the printed text due to stop-press corrections, when the pressman halted his work to allow the compositor to make a modification to the text of the sheet being printed. When the sheets are gathered from the warehouse for binding, the combinations of corrected and uncorrected sheets can potentially be very complicated; and so every copy which was put on sale might theoretically be slightly different from every other.

This idea of the uniqueness of every copy of an edition is much easier to understand as soon as we remember that, in the period before the industrial revolution, bindings were not designed and produced by the publisher, as happens today, but were created at the point of sale to the requirements of each individual purchaser. Recording the details of historic bindings in a catalogue requires specialist knowledge but it is easy to understand that each copy which retains its original binding is worthy of a detailed record in a modern catalogue. The evidence of bindings tells us about the social and economic condition of their owners and offers evidence of the changes in decorative taste during the early-modern period.

Interest in provenance studies is clearly increasing. It is no longer a question of ‘bibliophilic’ interest or the curiosity value of a book which had once belonged to a famous person. Modern provenance research can help to answer wider questions of readership, such as the penetration of book-ownership through the social classes, the ownership of books by women in the early period, the presence of unorthodox reading matter in ecclesiastical collections, the leisure reading of politicians, or books which might have influenced the output of literary figures.

The ‘raw material’ of provenance research consists of the evidence left in books by their previous owners (which means that it is impossible to investigate the ownership of those who did not mark their books). This includes some of the following categories:

- *Owners’ inscriptions*: signatures, initials, mottoes and other handwritten signs. These can be difficult to interpret because of the handwriting or because of the language used (Latin, or Greek, or just a foreign language with an unfamiliar script), and often because the inscriptions are too short to permit extensive palaeographical analysis. Mottoes of course might be used by more than one person and so not give a definite identification, and frequently use of a motto will not be traceable at all.

- *Bookplates*: Some book plates are easy to interpret: they might give the owner's name in full, with his place of residence and a date. At the other extreme, a bookplate might have a design with no immediate identifying evidence at all. Designs which have a shield with a coat of arms and a Latin motto in theory identify an owner very precisely, if only the coat of arms can be interpreted and assigned to the appropriate member of a royal, noble or otherwise 'armigerous' family. In fact, coats of arms are often very difficult to identify, in spite of an extensive specialist literature for many of the countries of Europe.
- *Book stamps*: ink stamps often present little difficulty to read (so long as they have been carefully applied and are not faint or smudged), as they were designed to tell who owned the book and can be much more legible than a handwritten signature.
- *Armorial bindings*: these present the same difficulties as armorial book plates, with the added problem that they typically offer less detail than an engraved printed book plate and can be difficult to interpret (and to photograph) if the binding is rubbed and worn.
- *Library stamps and shelf marks*: these too can be easy to read and interpret, or else very difficult. If there is no stamp or inscription with the name of the library, the researcher might be able to show that the style of binding or the types of shelf marks written on the end leaves indicate the library in question or perhaps a particular religious order, but this type of research requires a great amount of very detailed knowledge of the characteristics of the libraries under investigation.

Our goal is to make the names of former owners of books from our collections available through the library's online catalogue database. In today's context this means shaping the data into a format suitable to be entered into a computer-based record probably using one of the MARC formats. One of the problems with recording provenances, once the name of a previous owner has been read or otherwise deduced, is to determine exactly who the person is and whether there is an entry in an appropriate authority file which can be used in a catalogue entry. A previous owner who was an author should be relatively easy to find in an appropriate authority source; similarly with major political figures or members of noble families. However, this is not the case for ordinary book owners whose names are unlikely to appear in current authority databases.

But who were these owners? Sometimes this is easy to tell: a signature on the title page, a bookplate on the inside of the cover, a binding stamp on the outer cover, all of these can potentially tell us the name of the owner of the book at an earlier time. Many owners may be famous: aristocrats, politicians, writers, scientists, and churchmen. Many will be difficult to identify: this is what I call in English the problem of 'John Smith', an unknown person with a very common name who cannot be identified with any certainty. But information about the sorts of books which were owned by people like John Smith can be as important for the social historian as knowing the contents of the large library of an aristocratic statesman.

The CERL web site has a group of pages devoted to provenance information.² Here you can find lists of publications on provenance questions, lists of links to Internet resources in this field, as well as further information about the data recorded in other CERL electronic resources. Publications include David Pearson's **Provenance Research in Book History: A Handbook**, published by the British Library in 1998 which has become the standard reference work in English,³ the recently announced Italian manual *Provenienze. Metodologia di rilevamento, descrizione e indicizzazione per il materiale bibliografico*,⁴ publications of conference proceedings such as CERL's 2004 Edinburgh Seminar *Books and their owners*,⁵ and a recent collection of essays published by the National Library of Estonia.⁶ The Consortium welcomes information about new resources to add to these pages.

- 2 Consortium of European Research Libraries. Provenance Information [cited 2010-02-17]. Available at: <http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/main>
- 3 Pearson, David. *Provenance research in book history: a handbook*. London : British Library Publishing, 1998. (The British Library Studies in the History of the Book) (reprinted with addenda, original edition 1994).
- 4 *Provenienze. Metodologia di rilevamento, descrizione e indicizzazione per il materiale bibliografico*. Provincia Autonoma di Trento - Regione Toscana, June 2009.
- 5 *Books and their owners : provenance information and the European cultural heritage : papers presented on 13 November 2004 at the CERL conference hosted by the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh* / edited by David Shaw. London : Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2005. (CERL Papers ; V)
- 6 *Omanikumärgid vanaraamatus : artiklite kogumik = Ownership marks in old books : collection of articles = Владельческий знак на старинной книге : сборник статей* / Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu ; koostaja ja toimetaja Larissa Petina ; tõlkijad Ruth Hiie, Inna Saaret, Sirje Lusmägi ; kujundaja Margit Plink ; kaane kujundaja Andrus Igalaan. Tallinn : National Library of Estonia, 2008. Articles in Estonian, English and Russian, with summaries.

Books beyond frontiers

Books travelled all over Europe in the historical period as their producers and distributors sought to sell them to a wider market and their owners took them from country to country on their travels. Existing collections could be dispersed as a result of the death of their owner, or by the outcome of wars, or the secularisation of monasteries and other religious establishments, or for any number of other reasons. Consequently, copies of a book printed in one country can be found in libraries all over Europe and in the Americas.⁷ The cultural heritage of the individual European nations has travelled over frontiers historically and continues to do so today. A resource like the HPB Database can help locate the printed material of each national cultural heritage, even when it has wandered beyond its national borders. For book ownership, the situation is even more difficult because of the highly dispersed nature of the basic information about provenance in online library catalogues and web sites, in bibliographical databases, in card catalogues in special collections rooms, in booksellers' catalogues and in printed catalogues of special collections, as well as in many, many articles in journals. It follows that research on book ownership must be conducted at the international level. The Consortium has tried to find ways in which the Internet can become a significant resource for provenance research.

As an example, we can look at the provenance records for the Cathedral Library in Canterbury. The Cathedral's own web site does not have provision for displaying something as specific as lists of the Library's former owners, so CERL has provided pages for two sets of provenance lists from Canterbury. The first set of pages records the names of 3152 former owners for the Cathedral's books printed before 1801 (see figure 1). The second set gives 1,148 owners of books from the library of the Revd Joseph Mendham, which is on deposit at the Cathedral Library.⁸ In both cases, the former owners include many

7 Books beyond frontiers : the need for international collaboration in national retrospective bibliography : papers presented on 8 November 2002 at the Bibliopolis Conference on 'The future history of the book' hosted by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague / edited by David Shaw. London : Consortium of European Research Libraries, 2003. (CERL Papers ; III)

8 The catalogue of the pre-1801 books was published by David Shaw and Sheila Hingley (and others): Canterbury Cathedral Library : catalogue of pre-1801 printed books. Marlborough : Adam Matthew Publications, 1998. The MARC records for the catalogue are also on the OPAC of the University of Kent (<http://opac.kent.ac.uk/>). For the Mendham Collection, see: Catalogue of the Law Society's Mendham Collection, lent to the University of Kent at Canterbury and housed in Canterbury Cathedral Library / completed and edited by Sheila

Canterbury Cathedral Library

Provenance names

Books printed before 1801

The names of 3152 former owners of books printed before 1801 in [Canterbury Cathedral Library](#).

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The numbers identifying each book correspond to the entry in the microfiche catalogue published by [Adam Matthew Publications](#) in 1998 (David Shaw and Sheila Hingley (and others), *Canterbury Cathedral Library: Catalogue of pre-1801 printed books*. Adam Matthew Publications, Marlborough, 1998. 24 pp + 17 microfiches).

The names in this list can be searched for on the online catalogue of the University of Kent at <http://opac.kent.ac.uk/>. You are recommended to use the "Simple Limits" drop-down menu and select "Cathedral Library".

Questions about access to the books should be sent to librarian@canterbury-cathedral.org.

Corrections and other questions about this list should be sent to david@djshaw.co.uk.

Mendham Collection

[Names of former owners](#)

The Mendham Collection, on deposit by the Law Society at Canterbury Cathedral Library, comprises Catholic and anti-Catholic literature including manuscripts and printed books

FIGURE 1.
Former owners of books printed before 1801 in Canterbury Cathedral Library

foreign names, both personal and institutional, from collections which had been dispersed around 1800 and sold through the book trade in London, subsequently finding their way into the collections of Joseph Mendham in Sutton Coldfield or of Canon Benjamin Harrison in Canterbury and being given to an institutional library: the Law Society of London in the Mendham's case, and the library of Christ Church, Canterbury, for Harrison's books.

Examples of books in the Mendham Collection which had travelled to England from their countries of origin include:

Hingley and David Shaw from the catalogue of Helen Carron and others. London : The Law Society, 1994, and Shaw, David J. Pastor Joseph Mendhams bibliotek [The Library of the Reverend Joseph Mendham]. // *Biblis* 44(Vintern 2008/09), 45–55 (original English text available at: <http://www.djshaw.co.uk/Mendham.pdf> [cited 2010-02-17]).

- Three books with the armorial binding of the De Thou family, two of which had probably belonged to Jacques-Auguste de Thou (1553–1617), a Catholic opponent of the Council of Trent and librarian to the French King Henri IV.⁹
- Over fifty items from the library of Jan Frans Van de Velde (1743–1823), professor of theology and librarian of the University of Louvain. Van de Velde’s library, which was sold in 1833, had many provenances from religious houses in the Low Countries.¹⁰
- There are books from the libraries of twelve Jesuit colleges, in the following towns: Antwerp, Augsburg, Baeza (Andalusia), Brussels, Caen, Ingolstadt, Louvain, Mons, Paris, Siena, Tournai, and Utrecht. There are additionally books from Jesuit houses in Ghent, Halle, Luxemburg, Mechelen, and Traunkirch.
- A copy of Joannes de Burgo, *Pupilla oculi* ([Strassburg], 1516/1517. 4°. Mendham, B481) with the inscription ‘In vsum Fratrum Stain-gadensium’ (the Premonstratensian Kloster Steingaden, Bavaria) dated 1649; the book later passed into the Royal Library in Munich from which it was discarded as a duplicate: ‘Duplum Bibliothecae regiae Monac.’
- There are books from a number of German universities: Freiburg, Göttingen, Helmstedt, Ingolstadt, Landshut, and Würzburg. It is not clear whether these represent duplicates, or thefts, or the result of wars and other disruptions.

The provenance data from the Mendham Collection are now also available through the CERL Thesaurus (see below); the MARC records for Mendham will be loaded on to the Heritage of the Printed Book Database in 2010.

Using the Internet for provenance researches

The Internet already provides several rare-books and special-collections discussion lists, such as ExLibris and SHARP, which frequently carry messages requesting help with bibliographical problems, includ-

9 Thou, Jacques-Auguste de. *La Vie de Jacques-Auguste de Thou (I. Aug. Thuani vita)* / introduction, établissement du texte, traduction et notes par Anne Teissier-Ensminger. Paris : Champion, 2007.

10 Roegiers, Jan. *Jan Frans Van de Velde (1743–1823). // Les seigneurs du livre : les grands collectionneurs du XIX^{ème} siècle à la Bibliothèque royale de Belgique / catalogue rédigé par Marcus de Schepper, Ann Kelders, Jan Pauwels. Bruxelles : Bibliothèque royale de Belgique, 2008. Pp. 46–56.*

ing provenance identification. The Consortium of European Research Libraries has tried to help to provide resources and opportunities on the Internet to disseminate information about book owners, in addition to more general information about authors, printers, publishers and book sellers and the books they produced.

The first of these initiatives was the CERL Thesaurus, which records names (in many languages and variations) for authors, printers, publishers and booksellers in the historic period.¹¹ Originally intended to provide a convergence of relevant name authority files from the different national traditions in Europe and then to use this as a resource to provide assisted searching on the Consortium's main bibliographic database, the Thesaurus has recently started to include data on names of book owners as well as book producers. Some of these data have been collected from records submitted for inclusion in the HPB Database; some have been contributed by libraries which have been keeping files of the former owners of their books. As the amount of this provenance information stored in the CERL Thesaurus increases, we hope that it will become an important tool help with the identification of book owners and provide links to the libraries which hold copies of the books which they once owned. We invite researchers to make use of this material which is freely available from the CERL Thesaurus, and we encourage libraries to submit data for owners of books in their collections to add to the Thesaurus.

By late 2009, the CERL Thesaurus had received files of provenance data from the following libraries or projects:

Basel (CH): Basel University Library
 Berlin (DE): Berlin State Library
 Canterbury (UK): Cathedral Library (Mendham Collection)
 EBOB: Early Book Owners in Britain¹²
 Göttingen (DE): State and University Library
 Halle/Saale (DE): Library of the Francke Foundations
 Hamburg (DE): State- and University Library
 Hannover (DE): Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Library

- 11 Further information about the CERL Thesaurus can be found in the paper by Dr Claudia Fabian *New conceptual models for information organization: Authority data in a European context*.
- 12 Provenance names from the EBOB database recording private ownership of printed books in Britain in the late 15th and early 16th century, created by Dr Margaret Lane Ford for her chapter 'Private ownership of printed books', in: *The Cambridge history of the book in Britain*. Vol. 3: 1400-1557 / edited by Lotte Hellinga and J.B. Trapp. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1999. Pp. 205-228. See: EBOB: Early Book Owners in Britain [cited 2010-02-17]. Available at: <http://www.kallimachos.net/cgi-bin/ebob/spc.pl>

London (UK): Middle Temple Library
 Lyon (FR): Bibliothèque Municipale
 Madrid (ES): Bibl. Hist. Marqués de Valdecilla (Complutense)
 Rostock (DE): University Library
 Salamanca (ES): Biblioteca General Histórica de la Universidad de Salamanca
 Warsaw (PL): Warsaw University Library
 Weimar (DE): Duchess Anna Amalia Library
 Wolfenbüttel (DE): Herzog-August-Bibliothek, *Katalog der Wolfenbütteler Lutherdrucke*

It can be seen that these sixteen projects from six different countries already provide a wide European coverage of sources of provenance data in the Thesaurus. Each file contributed to the Thesaurus will probably contain a majority of names from its own national or cultural territory but typically will also contain examples of names of owners of books which have strayed from their own home.

The provenance index in the CERL Thesaurus not only provides information on owners' names; it also offers links to online resources such as library OPACs where further information on the books owned can be sought. Figure 2 shows part of a record for the nineteenth-century book collector Georg Kloss.¹³ The Thesaurus had records from two

Kloss, Georg Franz Burkhard (1787 - 1854)		Annotations
Record Identifier	cnp01162678	Annotation to record cnp01162678
Headings	Kloss, Georg Franz Burkhard [GyFmDB] [GyGGBV] [UKCyC] [UKMITE]	No annotations found for this record.
Biographical Dates	31.07.1787-10.02.1854 1787-1854	<input type="button" value="Add your own annotation"/>
General Notes	Inkunabelnsammler, Freimaurer, Geschichtsschreiber der Freimaurer Maschinell verknuepft mit DBL-Retro- Titeldaten	Provenance Information
Activity	Arzt Historiker Sammler	Canterbury Cathedral Library, Mendham Collection Provenance Information
Geographical Notes	Deutschland	Middle Temple Library, London Provenance Information
Permanent Link	http://thesaurus.cerl.org/record/cnp01162678 Last Change: 2009-06-10	

FIGURE 2.
 CERL Thesaurus provenance record for books owned by Georg Kloss

13 Figure 2 shows the test version of a new user interface for the CERL Thesaurus. It is hoped that this new version will be complete and in use by the time of publication of this paper. The new interface can be accessed from <http://thesaurus.cerl.org/> or from the links on the main CERL web site www.cerl.org.

libraries which had books from Kloss's collection. Clicking on the link for each of these libraries opens a window showing relevant records in the catalogue of that library. Libraries and projects which record provenance data are invited to consider making a file available to enhance the Thesaurus, especially if the names have supplementary identification information (dates of birth and death, occupation, etc.).

Another recent new provenance resource offered by CERL is a database called 'Can You Help?' where librarians and researchers can submit queries for identification, preferably with a photograph. Originally, this was a simple web page where I was able to post the queries submitted by email. At the beginning of 2010 our implementation team in the Data Conversion Group at Göttingen University Library had developed this into an interactive database which invites researchers to log on and to post and discuss provenance queries.¹⁴ This is a much more effective resource, as it does not require an editor to intervene to upload queries. Figure 3 shows the home page for this database on the web, with some of the queries which have been posted.

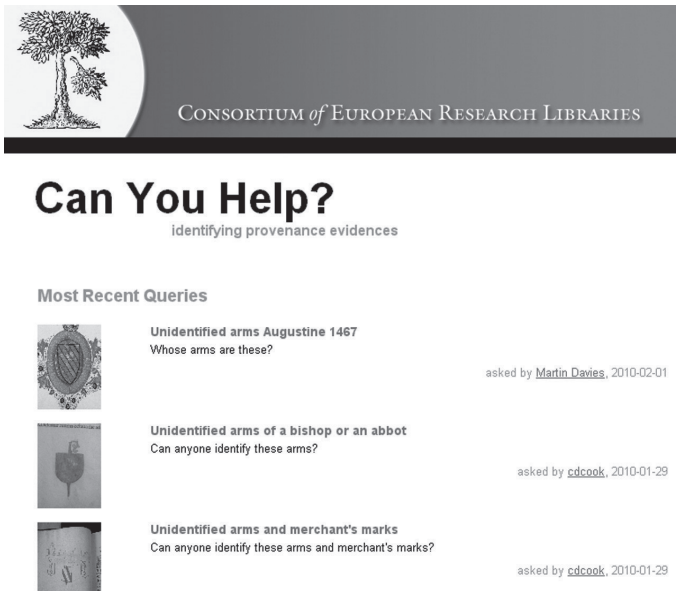


FIGURE 3.
Provenance queries posted on CERL's 'Can You Help?' Database

14 Consortium of European Research Libraries. Can you help? [cited 2010-02-17]. Available at: http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/can_you_help

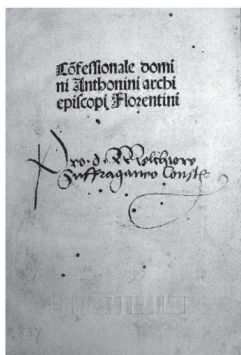
In the short period since its inception a number of queries have been successfully resolved by participants from Germany, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and Great Britain. Queries are periodically publicised on specialist email discussion lists such as ExLibris and also the Provenienz email discussion list, another specialist resource for provenance discussion which is administered by HeBIS (Hessischen BibliotheksInformationsSystem).¹⁵

Figure 4 shows the successful identification of an early owner of a Strasburg incunable (Antoninus Florentinus, *Confessionale: Defecerunt*, Strassburg: Martin Flach, 1488; Goff A-822). The inscription on the first leaf of the book reads 'Pro. d. Melchiore Suffraganeo Const[antiensi]', who was identified as Melchior Fattlin (or Vattlin), auxiliary Bishop of Constance, 1518–1548. Contributors also listed several other books with Fattlin's bookplate or ownership inscription, together with an encyclopaedia entry for him and a record in the CERL Thesaurus. This example shows the power of a tool with Web 2.0 interactive functionality of this sort to facilitate discussion by specialists in a field where collaboration is often needed to solve problems.

Can You Help?

identifying provenance evidences

Inscription on 1488 Antoninus Florentinus



Query:
Is the reading "Melchiore" possible? Does "Suffraganeo Conste" refer to a location?

Created:
2010-01-31 (last changed: 2010-02-01) by [John Lancaster](#)

Description:
There is no other relevant information in the volume, which has been rebound in full red morocco, all edges gilt (late 19th/early 20th century).

Bibliographic Details:
On #1 of Antoninus Florentinus, "Confessionale: Defecerunt", Strassburg: Martin Flach, 1488 (Goff A-822)

Holding Institution:
Mortimer Rare Book Room, Smith College Library, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Identified as:
Melchior Fattlin, suffragan bishop of Constance (Ceri Thesaurus Id: [cnp01120505](#))

Identified by: [See discussion.](#)

Search

Fulltext search:

Special Searches:

- [Recent Queries](#)
- [Solved Queries](#)
- [Queries still unsolved](#)

Recently Discussed



- 
[Inscription on 1488...](#)
 Many thanks to all who have confirmed this provenance. Amh...
 posted by John Lancaster
- 
[17th century Franc...](#)
 There are the arms of Thomas de Moirand du Mont-Camier (165...
 posted by jphalmes
- 
[Inscription on 148...](#)
 Melchior Fattlin suffraganeus constantensis (not-inens) h...
 posted by Martin Davies
- 
[Inscription on 148...](#)
 I agree with David Sharr's reading "Suffraganeo", well atteste...
 posted by John Lancaster

FIGURE 4.

Inscription of Melchior Fattlin, auxiliary Bishop of Constance

15 HeBIS-Ad-hoc-Arbeitsgruppe zur Provenienzerschließung [cited 2010-02-17]. Available at: <https://dlist.server.uni-frankfurt.de/mailman/listinfo/provenienz>

Future plans for recording provenance data

Many libraries do not (yet) have provenance data in their catalogue records. This is typically the case with the very large national collections. Libraries with smaller collections which have recently prepared new online catalogues have often added value to their catalogue records by following modern recommendations for the inclusion of copy-specific data such as previous owners. It is understandable that the larger libraries which have developed traditional bibliographic catalogues of a good standard over many decades now find themselves faced with a daunting task to re-examine their entire early collections to prepare additional copy-specific information to enhance their records. The cost of such a significant re-cataloguing of major collections is unlikely to be a high priority in the face of pressures to digitise these same collections, unless external research funding can be found. But if we are to make significant progress with the documentation of European provenance evidence, these are precisely the collections which need to be recorded.

Even with adequate funding for such projects, there are still difficulties in this type of work. As has been discussed earlier, ownership inscriptions can be particularly difficult to interpret; they are typically too short to allow much palaeographical comparisons to help in reading them. Armorial binding stamps and bookplates require specialist reference works to identify the arms and mottos of their owners. Identification of library stamps, shelf marks and similar physical evidence also require specialist knowledge in an area where there are few relevant repertories to help.

A further problem lies in the continuing inadequacy of schemes for recording provenance data in MARC catalogue records. There is no consistent, complete set of rules for encoding provenance data, although useful steps have been taken in recent years by several groups, including the Rare Books and Special Collections Group of CILIP in the UK,¹⁶ Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)¹⁷ in North America, and other national sets of rules and conventions. European colleagues who use UNIMARC seem to find that its provisions for recording complex provenances are superior

16 The 2007 revision of the Guidelines for the cataloguing of rare books is available online. Available at: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/rare-books/bibliographic-standards/guidlines-for-cataloguing-rare-books/Pages/index.aspx> [cited 2010-02-17]. It has an illustrated section on recording provenance data.

17 DCRM(B): Descriptive cataloging of rare materials (books). 2007 ed. Washington, DC.: Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service, 2007.

to those of MARC21 in areas such as geography and dates. These differences in coding schemes are not particularly significant within the context of one library's online catalogue database, but they mean that collaborative work is made unnecessarily complicated in such areas as the design of a distributed research portal for provenance data. A final difficulty is that many library OPAC systems fail to search or display provenance data adequately or at all, even though they are present in the records. No doubt this latter difficulty will disappear with the passage of time and the improvement of OPAC technologies.

The Internet will surely provide a solution to some of these problems. The creation of a portal through which the provenance data in many library catalogues could be searched is clearly a possible development. The CERL Thesaurus has already started to provide a resource of this sort. It might be possible to design such a portal so that the scholarly public could contribute information about previous owners which they find in their researches or to provide identification or additional information about provenance problems. CERL's Can You Help? Database is already fulfilling this function in a small way and the User Annotation facility in the CERL Thesaurus offers another example. The Internet also offers the possibility of increasing numbers of digitised copies of reference works which are not available outside the specialist libraries.

We hope that colleagues in many countries will find these initiatives of interest and will be able to contribute to projects such as the CERL Thesaurus. We need an international collaborative effort to use modern technology to bring these dispersed materials together again so that our common cultural heritage and that of each individual country can be fully explored.

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Biographical Sketch

David Shaw was Secretary of the Consortium of European Research Libraries from 2002 to 2009. Previously Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Kent (Canterbury, England), he specialises in the history of the book, particularly in 15th- and 16th-century France, and in provenance studies. He is a Past President of the Bibliographical Society (London) and was Editor in Chief of its Cathedral Libraries Catalogue project.

TKO JE BIO VLASNIK OVE KNJIGE? PROUČAVANJE PORIJEKLA KNJIGA U EUROPSKIM RAZMJERIMA

Sažetak

Izvorna katalogizacija izravno naglašava jedinstvenost svakog primjerka tiskane knjige u odnosu na njenu proizvodnju i daljnju povijest. Taj je postupak potaknuo razvoj područja proučavanja porijekla knjige. Danas je moguće proučavati raspršene knjižnice ne samo poznatih pojedinaca, nego i drugih pojedinaca i ustanova kojima se u prethodnim razdobljima nije bavilo. Knjige iz raspršenih knjižnica i privatnih zbirki često se pronalaze daleko od svoga izvornog smještaja: knjige mogu prelaziti nacionalne granice u različitim razdobljima svoga postojanja. Dokazi o prijašnjim vlasnicima knjiga nalaze se u obliku rukom pisanih imena, ekslibrisa, pečata na uvezu, mjesnih signatura itd. Internet danas nudi važne izvore za istraživanje porijekla knjiga, uključujući i novorazvijenu bazu podataka o porijeklu knjiga Konzorcija europskih znanstvenih knjižnica (Consortium of European Research Libraries).

Ključne riječi: porijeklo knjiga, vlasništvo knjiga, ekslibrisi, pečati na uvezu, internetski izvori, katalogizacija starih knjiga