

## 38<sup>th</sup> CENL Annual General Meeting 17-18 June 2024 – Warsaw, Poland Minutes

### Executive Committee Present:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1) Frank Scholze        | Chair (Germany)  |
| 2) Karin Grönvall       | Treasurer (Sweden)   |
| 3) Sara Lammens         | Executive Committee Member (Belgium)   |
| 4) Hans Petschar        | Executive Committee Member (Austria) –<br>(Proxy for Johanna Rachinger;<br>in attendance on June 17 until 12 a.m.) |
| 5) Ivanka Stričević     | Executive Committee Member (Croatia)   |
| 6) Susanne Oehlschläger | CENL Secretary (Germany)   |

### Members Present:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 7) Piro Misha              | Albania  |
| 8) Anna Chulyan            | Armenia  |
| 9) Karim Tahirov           | Azerbaijan   |
| 10) Ismet Ovčina           | Bosnia and Herzegovina                             |
| 11) Krasimira Aleksandrova | Bulgaria   |
| 12) Tomáš Foltýn           | Czech Republic                                     |
| 13) Tonny Skovgård Jensen  | Denmark (Proxy for Svend Larsen)                   |
| 14) Martin Öövel           | Estonia  |
| 15) Kimmo Tuominen         | Finland  |
| 16) Ophélie Ramonatxo      | France (Proxy for Gilles Pécout)                   |
| 17) Lola Sanaia            | Georgia (Proxy for Konstantine Gamsakhurdia)       |
| 18) Dávid Rózsa            | Hungary  |
| 19) Dagnija Baltiņa        | Latvia (Proxy for Andris Vilks)                    |
| 20) Aušrinė Žilinskienė    | Lithuania  |
| 21) Claude D. Conter       | Luxembourg   |
| 22) Elena Pintelei         | Moldova  |
| 23) Dragica Lompar         | Montenegro   |
| 24) Lily Knibbeler         | Netherlands  |
| 25) Rahmetula Kuqi         | North Macedonia                                    |
| 26) Trond Myklebust        | Norway (Proxy for Aslak Sira Myhre)                |
| 27) Tomasz Makowski        | Poland   |
| 28) Adrian Mihai Cioroianu | Romania  |
| 29) Tamara Butigan-Vucaj   | Serbia (Proxy for Vladimir Pištalo)                |
| 30) Óscar Arroyo Ortega    | Spain  |
| 31) Damian Elsig           | Switzerland  |
| 32) Taner Beyoğlu          | Türkiye  |
| 33) Roly Keating           | UK/England (in attendance on 18 June)              |
| 34) Jackie Cromarty        | UK/Scotland (Proxy for Amina Shah)                 |
| 35) Timothy James Janz     | Vatican City State (Proxy for Don Mauro Mantovani) |

### Proxy Voting Forms Received in Absentia:

- 36) Cyprus
- 37) Iceland

- 38) Liechtenstein
- 39) Portugal
- 40) Ukraine

#### In attendance:

Michaela Mayr  
Fidan Bayramova  
Frédéric Lemmers  
Yoanna Markova  
Tsetska Yanakieva-Ivanova  
Jagoda Ille  
Zuzana Bolerazka  
Kristel Veimann  
Hélène Bergès  
Judit Gerencsér  
Carlo Blum  
Kim Krier  
Sladjana Sjekloca  
Elsbeth Kwant  
Geertrui Verbraak  
Maja Micevska Rizova  
Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk  
José Luis Bueren Gómez-Acebo  
Linda Lindström  
Orhan Açıköz  
Linda Arnold-Stratford  
Marcie Hopkins  
Liz Jolly  
Susanne Munro

Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
France  
Hungary  
Luxembourg  
Luxembourg  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Netherlands  
North Macedonia  
Poland  
Spain  
Sweden  
Türkiye  
UK/England  
UK/England  
UK/England  
UK/Scotland

#### Apologies:

Johanna Rachinger  
George Hadjigeorgiou  
Svend Larsen  
Gilles Pécout  
Konstantine Gamsakhurdia  
Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir  
Audrey Whitty  
Anna Lucarelli  
Stefano Campagnolo  
Andris Vilks  
Wilfried Oehry  
Cheryl Falzon  
Aslak Myhre  
Diogo Ramada Curto  
Vladimir Pištalo  
Ivana Kostrabová  
Viljem Leban

Austria (Proxy Hans Petschar)  
Cyprus (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Denmark (Proxy Tonny Skovgård Jensen)  
France (Proxy Ophélie Ramonatxo)  
Georgia (Proxy Lola Sanaia)  
Iceland (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Ireland (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Italy, Florence  
Italy, Rome  
Latvia (Proxy Dagnija Baltiņa)  
Liechtenstein (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Malta  
Norway (Proxy Trond Myklebust)  
Portugal (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Serbia (Proxy Tamara Butigan-Vucaj)  
Slovakia (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
Slovenia

Lyubov A. Dubrovina  
Roly Keating  
Amina Shah  
Don Mauro Mantovani

Ukraine (Proxy Frank Scholze)  
UK/England (Proxy Liz Jolly)  
UK/ Scotland (Proxy Jackie Cromarty)  
Vatican City State (Proxy Timothy James Janz)

**CENL Secretariat in attendance:**

Katharina Schöneborn  
Stefanie Schust

CENL Secretariat (minutes)  
CENL Secretariat (minutes)

**Invited external speakers:**

Minna Karvonen

Director, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

DRAFT

## **DAY 1 – MONDAY, 17 June**

---

### **1. Arrival and registration**

All CENL members arrived at the National Library of Poland. The business meeting started at 09:15 CEST.

### **2. Words of welcome from Chair and Host**

With Frank Scholze & Tomasz Makowski

CENL Chair Frank Scholze welcomed the participants to the 38th Annual General Meeting at the National Library of Poland in Warsaw and explained that is the second AGM to be held in National Library of Poland after the 11th AGM 27 years ago. He pointed out that EC member Hans Petschar had been in attendance since then and that the 2024 AGM will be his last before retirement. Frank Scholze went on to highlight the opportunity provided by CENL for professional networking and exchange. He then went on to thank the colleagues at the National Library of Poland for their kind invitation and effort in organising the AGM 2024. It was also pointed out that the minutes of the 1997 meeting report stated under “Any other business” that the Chair Klaus-Dieter Lehmann said in a press-conference afterwards that the Warsaw conference has been one of the most successful CENL meetings. This was to be a good omen for this year's meeting.

Tomasz Makowski welcomed all delegates to the National Library of Poland and took the opportunity to call for openness in the exchange of experiences, mistakes and best practices over the course of the AGM. He pointed out that once again, the colleagues of the Ukrainian National Library were not able to attend due to the continuing Russian aggression and went on to mention that 800 cultural heritage institutions were destroyed or damaged until now.

Tomasz Makowski concluded by wishing all participants a successful and enjoyable AGM.

Frank Scholze went on to explain the focus of the business meeting on e-legal deposit and related strategies as well as threats to library holdings through cyber-attacks and physical destruction.

This was followed by a round of introductions of all participants.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the 37th CENL AGM 2023**

Paper 02

The CENL Secretariat had not received any messages about change requests in advance. Frank Scholze reminded the members that they each have one vote or can make use of a proxy.

The minutes from the previous year were approved by a show of hands.

### **4. Matters arising from Minutes**

There were no further comments resulting from last year's minutes.

The Chair pointed out that the publication "All Roads lead to Rome or: National Libraries on their ways to sustainability", containing the contributions from last year's AGM, had been published.

## 5. CENL Annual Report 2023-2024

### Paper 03

Frank Scholze began the report by introducing the current Executive Committee (EC). There have been two changes: Janne Andresoo and Laurence Engel have completed their term of office as Directors General and are therefore, according to the statutes, no longer members of CENL nor the EC. The Chair thanked them for their constant and productive work within the EC.

The EC members met three times: Two were virtual meetings and one was a face-to-face meeting in Stockholm at the National Library of Sweden.

Next, the Chair introduced the CENL Secretariat. Three members were present: Susanne Oehlschläger (CENL Secretary), Katharina Schöneborn and Stefanie Schust (organisation, minute takers). Other members include Michael Duchardt (finances), Sabine Schrimpf (funds and grants), Svenia Pohlkamp (organisation) and the social media team with Angelika Cremer-Reiber, Stephan Jockel and Kerstin Meinel. Frank Scholze expressed his thanks for the work of the CENL Secretariat. The Chair also looked back on the AGM 2023, which took place in Paris at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

All programmes for grants and funds were reviewed: As decided by the EC in 2022, the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant (EKN) will be continued for another five years. The Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursary (SKE) in 2023 was awarded to Romania, Latvia, Serbia and Moldova. In 2024, three applications were received for the SKE, which were reviewed by the CENL Secretariat and awarded to the national libraries of Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Latvia. The Hidden Stories Fund (HSF) was granted to Greece, Romania and Croatia in 2023. The EC had decided to close this fund by the end of 2023. Within the EC, it was discussed whether a possible Emergency Planning Fund should be set up instead. As information was still needed for this, it was decided that the CENL Secretariat will first launch a survey to better evaluate the status quo and the needs of the national libraries. The new EC will then decide how CENL can possibly support its members in disaster planning.

There are three Network Groups for the period 2023-2025: The Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG) and the Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group (AING) can continue their work from the last term. The Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Group (EDI) has been added as a new group. While the Network Groups consist mainly of staff of CENL member libraries, the CENL Dialogue Forums are communication forums with other interest groups. Currently these are: the FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum and the CENL Dialogue Forum "National Libraries as Data infrastructures".

The Secretariat was pleased to receive updates and news from all CENL member libraries. Overall, there have been some changes, so the Chair warmly welcomed all new CENL members, even if not all of them could be present at the AGM 2024. These changes show that CENL is a dynamic organisation, Frank Scholze noted. The professional friendship of members is essential for CENL to be successful and must be maintained by building trust and remaining open, he said. This has worked very well this year, and he hoped that it will continue.

## 6. Treasurer's Report 2024

### Paper 04

Karin Grönvall began her presentation with a review of the 2023 budget. As announced already during the last AGM, a reduction in cash reserves is planned. The moderate reduction in assets was also considered appropriate by the auditors and should be continued. This is also reflected in the CENL budget for 2024 and the planning for 2025. The financial situation in 2023 looked very good. Assets have been built up so that funds are available that can be used for future programmes. Karin Grönvall explained that the income comes mainly from CENL membership fees.

### 2023 Budget (Income)

CENL budget 2023	Budget 2023 agreed AGM 2022	Actual Income	Balance remaining as of 31.12.2023
Membership fees *)	€ 114,450	€ 109,710.00	- € 4,740.00
Additional Income	€ 0	€ 5,125.07	€ 5,125.07
Transfer from reserves	€ 43,050	€ 43,050.00	€ 0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 157,500</b>	<b>€ 157,885.07</b>	<b>€ 385.07</b>

Additional Income: € 3,225.07 British Library return of unspent money EKN 2020 (not budgeted for 2023) / prepaid Membership fee 2024 (Hungary € 1,900)

\*) includes € 10 Overpayment Membership fee Georgia

In terms of expenditure, a little more was spent than planned. Expenditure consists primarily of financial support for certain members to participate in the CENL AGM, as well as the EKN grants, the CENL Network Groups, the Hidden Stories Fund and the Skills & Knowledge Exchange Bursary. The Covid-19 support fund was terminated at the end of 2022.

### 2023 Budget (Expenses)

CENL budget 2023	Budget agreed AGM 2022	Actual Expenses at 31.12.2023	Balance at 31.12.2023
Financial support AGM	€ 13,000	€ 10,959.71	€ 2,040.29
Travel costs speakers	€ 4,000	€ 298.37	€ 3,701.63
Skills & knowledge exchange			
• Bursary Programme	€ 10,000	€ 8,670.93	€ 1,329.07
• (Hidden Stories 2022)		€ 2,000.00	- € 2,000.00
• CENL Network Groups 2023 budget	€ 15,000	€ 8,463.78	€ 6,536.22
Erlend Kolding Nielsen Grant 2023	€ 15,000	€ 12,796.50	€ 2,203.50
EKN 2022 Final payment		€ 1,000.00	
EKN 2020 return unspent		- € 3,225.07	€ 2,225.07
CENL website			
• Maintenance costs	€ 8,000	€ 6,683.34	€ 1,316.66
Banking costs	€ 4,000	€ 1,855.22	€ 2,144.78
Audit and legal costs	€ 8,000	€ 8,657.55	- € 657.55
CENL Secretariat	€ 78,000	€ 78,000.00	€ 0
Other office costs	€ 2,500	€ 221.39	€ 2,278.61
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>€ 157,500</b>	<b>€ 136,381.72</b>	<b>€ 21,118.28</b>

A CENL audit was also carried out in early 2024 to ensure that everything was in order. The audit was prepared remotely by the RSM auditors, including the annual financial statements for 2023, who were very satisfied with the financial situation.

The current cash balance (as at 30 April 2024) was € 722,699.58. Membership fees are once again the main source of income, although it should be emphasised that the annual membership fee for Ukraine was suspended by the 2023 AGM due to the current situation, explained Karin Grönvall. As could be seen in the chart, no special expenses are expected in 2024, which is why the plan is being continued.

### 2024 Budget (Expenses)

CENL budget 2024	Budget agreed AGM 2023	Actual Expenses at 30.04.2024	Balance at 30.04.2024
Financial support AGM	€ 13,000	€ 0	€ 13,000.00
Travel costs speakers	€ 4,000	€ 0	€ 4,000.00
Skills & knowledge exchange			
• Bursary Programme	€ 10,000	€ 1,600	€ 8,400.00
• Hidden Stories 2023	€ 0	€ 800	- € 800.00
• CENL Network Groups 2024 budget	€ 15,000	€ 0	€ 15,000.00
2023 (BANG)	€ 0	€ 3,582.08	- € 3,582.08
Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant 2024	€ 15,000	€ 4,015.18	€ 10,984.82
CENL website			
• Maintenance costs	€ 8,000	€ 0	€ 8,000.00
Banking costs	€ 4,000	€ 262.14	€ 3,737.86
Audit and legal costs	€ 12,000	€ 5,130.40	€ 6,869.60
CENL Secretariat	€ 78,000	€ 78,000	€ 0
Other office costs	€ 2,500	€ 0	€ 2,500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>161,500 €</b>	<b>€ 93,389.80</b>	<b>€ 68,110.20</b>

The draft plan for 2025 shows the same situation as last year. A small use of reserves will be needed to offset the increase in expenditure. By accessing the reserves, a new fund could be set up for cultural heritage. This should be seen as a placeholder. Karin Grönvall emphasised once again that the moderate overspend guaranteed a stable financial situation and allows CENL to award funds and grants.

### Proposed 2025 budget

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
CENL membership	€ 114,450	Financial support AGM	€ 13,000
Reserves	€ 52,050	Travel costs speakers	€ 4,000
		Skills & knowledge Exchanges	€ 25,000
		• Bursary programme (€10k)	
		• CENL network groups budget (€5k x 3 groups - €15,000)	
		Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant	€ 15,000
		• 3 x €5k grant	
		Reserve (possible new fund as discussed at EC in Feb2024)	€ 5,000
		CENL website maintenance	€ 8,000
		Banking costs	€ 4,000
		Audit and legal costs	€ 12,000
		CENL Secretariat	€ 78,000
		Other office costs	€ 2,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€ 166,500</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 166,500</b>

The Treasurer asked for a vote by show of hands to approve the proposed 2025 budget. The Board of Directors voted in favour unanimously, confirming the budget for 2025.

## 7. Amendments of CENL Statutes

### Paper 05

Frank Scholze proceeded to the following item on the agenda, being the approval and to the extent necessary ratification of the resolution of the executive committee of the Foundation to amend the Foundation's articles of association in conformity with the draft deed drawn up by NautaDutilh N.V. and bearing the reference 80056330 M 19849702 (unofficial translation bearing the reference 80056330 M 54393685), including the granting of an authorization to each civil law notary, junior civil law notary, notarial assistant and lawyer working at NautaDutilh N.V. to execute the deed amending the articles of association of the Foundation. Originally, but formally incorrectly, this item was voted on at the last AGM. As CENL is a foundation under Dutch law, the original must also be voted on in Dutch. Otherwise it is not legally binding. The Chair assured that the Dutch version does not differ from the English version. Two main things are to be changed: A limit for EC members of 3-7 people is to be introduced. In addition, the statutes should be amended to the effect that not all EC members must always be present in order to be able to act in cases of illness.

After having been put up for voting, it was concluded that the proposed resolution was passed by all CENL members.

## 8. Appointment of CENL Executive Committee 2024-2027

### Paper 06

The Chair moved on to the next item on the agenda, which was the appointment of the members of the Foundation's executive committee. He introduced this point by saying that the applications received by the CENL Secretariat were a good mix of Directors who wished to continue their work in the EC and Directors who wished to take up this position for the first time. Among the new candidates is Gilles Pécout, President of the BnF, who very much regretted not being able to be physically present. He therefore introduced himself to the CENL members in a pre-recorded video message. The other two new candidates, Maja Micevska Rizova (North Macedonia) and Tomáš Foltýn (Czech Republic), were present in Warsaw and also briefly introduced themselves.

As Frank Scholze could not moderate the election himself in his role as Chair, he passed this point on to Claude Conter. The Director of the National Library of Luxembourg thanked all candidates for their motivation and suggested that, due to the statutes and the existing friendship within CENL, the election should not be held by secret ballot but by a show of hands. All CENL members agreed to this procedure by a show of hands.

With effect from 18 June 2024, it has been proposed to change the composition of the Foundation's Executive Committee by appointing the following persons as member of the Foundation's executive committee:

1. Frank Scholze (Chair)
2. Gilles Pécout (Vice Chair)
3. Karin Grönvall (Treasurer)
4. Sara Lammens
5. Ivanka Stričević
6. Tomáš Foltýn
7. Maja Micevska Rizova

After having been put up for voting, it was concluded that the proposed resolution was approved by all CENL members by a show of hands, meaning that all seven applications received for the EC had been successful. Frank Scholze thanked the CENL members for their trust and expressed his pleasure to continue the good cooperation with the newly elected EC.

[For information, on 20 June 2024, member Rahmetulla Kuqi informed the CENL secretary and the Chair that Maja Micevska Rizova was no longer representing the National and University Library St. Clement of Ohrid, Skopje, North Macedonia, in CENL, and thus is no longer a member of the EC.]

## 9. CENL Action Plan and Communications

Susanne Oehlschläger, CENL Secretary

The CENL Secretary began her remarks by referring to the CENL website, which is aimed at both members and anyone else interested in European national libraries. She explained that although the website looks the same on the surface as it did last year, changes are constantly being made in the background. Thanks to the contributions of the members, over 200 items could be published after the AGM 2023 in Paris. The many new members also mean that the libraries' basic information is being updated. Most of it was out of date. The same applies to the annual reports of the individual member libraries, which is why Susanne Oehlschläger encouraged members to send them to the CENL Secretariat.

As last year, she emphasised that not only CENL members themselves, but also all staff members of their national libraries can register on the website to gain access to the members' area. It should be noted that registration must be done via the official e-mail address of their library (e.g. N.N.@dnb.de) so that the system automatically recognises the member libraries. If there are problems with the registration, the CENL Secretariat should be contacted, the staff will be happy to help.

Statistically speaking, there was a remarkable development on the website: at the beginning of December 2023, visitors stayed on the website for an average of 10 minutes. This could be explained by the "Looking back and ahead" section, which will therefore be set up again at the end of 2024.

Another high could be explained by the fact that registration for this year's AGM was announced in February 2024.

The CENL Newsletter reached around 400 subscribers every month, informing about activities and events from other member libraries as well as news from the EC, the Secretariat or the AGM. By using a different newsletter distribution system, the newsletter is now more in line with the CENL website, making it easier to select articles from the news.

The Action Plan for 2024 was presented, which meant a lot of administrative work for the Secretariat: while the financial management of CENL and the grants and bursaries was an ongoing process, this year also included the amendment of the statutes and the nomination of the new EC. In addition, the Secretariat was already working on preparations for the AGM 2025 at the National Library of Scotland.

One innovation is in the pipeline: Instead of the outdated surveys, the Secretariat would like to introduce a fact sheet with basic information from each member library. These forms will be sent out after the AGM and will include figures like number of staff and annual funding. The CENL Secretary explained that this is important in order to be able to calculate membership fees. In addition to many other topics on the agenda, another "Looking back and ahead" and videos with CENL members are also planned.

Frank Scholze added that it had already been decided that the AGM 2026 would take place in Luxembourg. To host the AGM 2027, the Secretariat will launch a call for expression of interest during the course of next year. After that, the venue for the AGM will be decided each year.

## 10. Key Note: Digital cultural heritage – connecting times, ideas and people

Minna Karvonen, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland

After a brief introduction, Minna Karvonen named the five major themes in the big picture of change and challenges that societies are facing: the erosion of nature's carrying capacity, growing well-being challenges, intensification of the battle for democracy, the cracking of economic foundations and the increasing competition for digital power. Drawing on the megatrends analysis by Sitra, that gives a framework in trend analysis which does not exclusively focus on technical change (as is often the case), Minna Karvonen explained that societies come under strain from multiple sides. There are the increasing strain humans are putting on the planet, as well as eroding social balance through over-aging societies and the subsequently increasingly difficult funding of the welfare state. The growing diversification of technology poses a challenge as well as further uncertainties felt by civil society caused by the pandemic and the Russian aggression. It's become apparent that people's resilience and mental health are under increasing strain just as are democracies (sometimes weakened, sometimes strained). The constant evolution of technology in all sectors requires many resources and brings disputes about rules and directions. Economic security that was for a long time relatively constant is becoming more unstable. The current system will not stand for much longer and has to be rethought. It is up to us to face of this reality and construct a future.

Minna Karvonen pointed out that change, and rapid change, is possible. At the heart of it is the recognition of human impact on natural resources and the requirement of a shift to circular economy and sustainable lifestyles that will be the requirement for a future holistic well-being. A restorative and regenerative economy should act as the driving force for change, aiming at its hand-

print becoming bigger than its footprint. Essential will also be the individual empowerment of people through inclusion and a holistic „Bildung“ (education and culture), enabling them to act socially responsible and attain the skills needed in order to play an active role in society as well as move safely in a digital world.

In the second part of her presentation, Minna Karvonen looked at the continuously growing and fragmenting of information and data. She then drew on the example of the Finnish legal deposit system and the role of the National Library of Finland as the key institution for archiving, preserving and providing academic as well as public publications. As in other countries, the amount of printed publications is in constant decline while the number of digital-born materials is on the rise. Minna Karvonen pointed out how legal deposit is at the heart of the question regarding digital availability, preservation and the management of digital data. She illustrated this with statistics showing the development of the Finnish and translated books published 1980 to 2022 as well as digital publications published 2007 to 2022 and stressed that the management of digital publications and data is costly. Minna Karvonen went on to explain how data surrounds us everywhere, with nothing limiting the growth of its amount. According to her, this is also due to people's seemingly endless desire to produce, share, use and own data, and thereby she drew the connection to the challenges of the Finnish web archives. She explained how in Finland only fragments of all available digital publications can be archived with the current funding. The web archive consists of thematic and event-based collections as the scope of web crawls has to be defined and the data managed. Minna Karvonen stated that the time in which libraries were aiming at preserving everything that was published might be coming to an end – and that looking at it from a wider historical perspective, it might only have been a brief period in human history in which this was even attempted. Faced with this new reality, libraries must increasingly rely on support and pan-institutional knowledge transfer.

In the third part of her talk, Minna Karvonen turned to the topic of digital cultural heritage as a bridge between people, explaining how it connects present and future. She stressed how looking after cultural heritage is essential for a society in order to live through and recover from crisis. This is because the destruction of cultural practises, values etc. is extremely harmful to communities, as can be seen in the targeting of cultural heritage sites in Ukraine. How to build this bridge? Minna Karvonen stated that in increasingly diverse, pluralistic societies, attention needs to be paid to all its groups and their interconnection. She also stated how culture is an instigator of change and transition.

In her closing remarks Minna Karvonen made reference to the Finnish resolution on national digital heritage with its vision for 2030: to further participation and ownership responsibility for the benefit of one's own cultural heritage as well as to promote the respect for those of others. Regarding the number of actors in this field it will be essential to facilitate debate and exchange.

## **11. The inspiration of Collecting and Preserving our Nations Written Heritage: Findings of the 2023 UK symposium**

Linda Arnold-Stratford, British Library

Linda Arnold-Stratford's talk focused on the symposium "A Celebration of Legal Deposit: The Inspiration of Collecting and Preserving our Nations' Written Heritage" that took place in Stationer's Hall in 2023. It was hosted by the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries: The British Library, Bodleian

Libraries, Cambridge University Library, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, and Trinity College Dublin.

The year 2023 marked ten years of digital legal deposit in the UK and Ireland, since then 15 mio. items have been deposited. Linda Arnold-Stratford pointed out that the location of Stationer's Hall was at the roots of legal deposit, as the first legal deposit was decided upon in the 1610 agreement between the Bodleian Library and Stationer's Hall. Back then, the enhancement of learning was at the heart of the agreement, showing that even 400 years ago, a long-term perspective was adopted. The symposium provided an opportunity to examine different aspects of legal deposit (print and digital) and also to focus on the necessary collaboration between publishers and libraries to ensure the long-term preservation of cultural heritage. Attendees from 36 different countries took part in the hybrid event which was held in English and also translated into Spanish. Themes explored were the importance of legal deposit for preserving our culture, the legislation of digital legal deposit as well as its challenges and opportunities. One major lesson learned from this event was that there is a great need for exchange, also on the work level and that an international legal deposit forum is needed. Linda Arnold-Stratford said that the British Library wanted to look into this, but the recent cyber-attack slowed the process. The idea behind the legal deposit forum is to share best practices while gaining a better understanding of national peculiarities, to support each other in promoting new legislation as well as collaborate on legal deposit related projects.

## 12. Status of e-legal deposit in CENL member libraries

### 12.1 Digital legal deposit in France

Gilles Pécout, National Library of France

In his video presentation, Gilles Pécout explained that based on the French regulations on legal deposit, the BnF has not only been collecting printed material, but for almost a century also photography and, more recently, voice and music. Now, digital legal deposit challenges paradigms as well as the conception of legal deposit, making international exchange on the topic all the more important.

Gilles Pécout continued to give a timeline of the digital legal deposit in France. Since 2006, the BnF has been fully responsible for web legal deposit, meaning all materials such as sounds, writings, images and messages communicated to the public by electronic means in France. BnF had begun archiving the web long before law, the first collection dating back to 1996. Gilles Pécout stated that even with the coming of the legal deposit of web, many items were not collected due to inaccessibility of many web-areas to automated harvesters, e. g. music scores, digital periodicals, born-digital audio documents, streaming content. In order to accommodate for this fact while waiting for new legal framework, BnF began collaborating with agents of the publishing and distribution sector until acts for French legal deposit were passed in 2021 and 2022. After web-archiving, the digital legal deposit became the second pillar in BnF's mission to collect all digital cultural heritage.

Gilles Pécout went on to talk about the challenges that the BnF is facing. On the legal side, copyright is an issue, on the technical side, enabling the flow of objects and metadata. In the context of digital publications, he said, they have to redefine the concept of geographical and systemic national sovereignty: Because what is important is the fact of the dissemination of these publications in France. And in contrast to printed books, the question of geographical origin is no longer relevant

when archiving the web. The logic of legal deposit is often reversed when it comes to digital legal deposit, leading to the question of exhaustiveness: BnF not only asks suppliers to deliver the publications but also to organise the selection before the legal deposit. Gilles Pécout pointed out, that this constitutes a new regime in the history of legal deposit. As a last point he reminded of the challenges regarding the exploitation of large datasets for research and science which is hardly possible without the integration of artificial intelligence.

## 12.2 Belgian Digital Legal Deposit and implementation in KBR

Frédéric Lemmers, National Library of Belgium

Frédéric Lemmers explained that in 1965 legal deposit was decreed in Belgium, and the KBR was charged with enforcing it. In 2006 the rules of legal deposit were adapted to also include digital objects such as e. g. CD-ROMs, followed by an incomplete law on the collection of digital publications in 2018. A new framework for the collection of digital collections is currently awaiting royal decree. Frédéric Lemmers went on to show that technological changes and the evolving digital practices in the publishing industry have led increasing complexity in collecting process and long-term preservation. He also pointed out the constantly evolving user expectations e. g. regarding the possibilities of data mining, accessibility etc.

So far, the digital legal deposit does not include film or phonographic items. The law of 2018 includes audio books, the Belgian web, social media and electronic literature. A first deposit of e-books was created through public funding and also a voluntary web archive (by public procurement). Currently the KBR is focusing on the legal deposit legislation for online content as well as a new workflow for the deposit of digital born content, i. e. the development of APIs and access platforms for researchers. Regarding the proposed changes to the law and to the royal decree on legal deposit there are plans for a further consultation process with publishers and legal experts in order to set up an intellectual property rights (IPR) management system. In order to finalise this process, a definition of what a digital publication is, must be found.

## 12.3 E-legal deposit in Armenia – Ensuring the preservation of digital publications

Anna Chulyan, National Library of Armenia

In her presentation, Anna Chulyan explained that in 2024, the National Library of Armenia celebrates its 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Along with the foundation of the library in 1919, the relevant rules on legal deposit were established, stating that three copies of each work are to be deposited and obliging the library to ensure their preservation and accessibility. In order to accommodate for digital publications, a new framework for legal deposit was proposed in 2016.

Anna Chulyan went on to explain that the National Library of Armenia is leading the initiative to come to a new legal framework on e-legal deposit and to highlight the advantages of such for all relevant parties, while publishers have strong reservations and would prefer a preservation-only regulation. In her presentation, Anna Chulyan also gave insights into Armenian publishing history and explained that the National Library has been serving as the ISBN agency for Armenia since 2017.

## 12.4 E-legal deposit in Serbia

Tamara Butigan-Vucaj, National Library of Serbia

Tamara Butigan-Vucaj opened her presentation by describing the framework of e-legal deposit in Serbia that was adopted in two laws passed in 2011 with a focus on preservation, protection and accessibility. The law names the National Library of Serbia as well as the Matica Srpska Library as deposit libraries and covers publications released in electronic format as a separate physical unit (e. g. CDs, USB sticks), publications on the internet as well as digital copies of printed publications (“prepress”). The law requires publishers to deposit one digital copy of each printed publication in PDF. For printed publications, six copies have been required since 2016 (five before that).

Tamara Butigan-Vucaj explained that a cataloguing policy for e-publications is yet to be developed and that e-publications deposited are curated in a separate database for bibliographic data as well as for digital rights management. There is currently a total of 380.000 PDFs in the holdings of the National Library of Serbia, the majority accessible only on-site.

Looking at the publishing market in Serbia, Tamara Butigan-Vucaj stated that there is hardly any market for e-books and that publishers are reluctant regarding e-legal deposit. The challenge for the future is to find a balance between the publishers’ concerns over leaks from the e-legal deposit system and the need for a digital preservation of Serbia’s cultural heritage.

## 12.5 Estonian electronic legal deposit

Kristel Veimann, National Library of Estonia

In her presentation, Kristel Veimann first gave an overview of the development of Estonian digital legal deposit, explaining that in 2006 the Legal Deposit Copy Act was adopted that covered the collection of electronic publications. This act was reviewed and updated in 2017 to also cover web archiving. It reduced the number of deposit copies from eight to four items and highlighted the equal importance of digital and printed collections. There are two deposit centres in Estonia, the National Library and the National Archives.

Kristel Veimann pointed out that the e-legal deposit results in an increasingly growing data collection and management. She explained that all deposit services are processed through the same portal with a new portal currently in development for 2025. The technical enhancements are aiming at further automatisation regarding the upload of deposit copies, their metadata and rights management as well as the option of a file retrieval for publishers.

She also explained that further technical developments are underway at the moment, with the long-term preservation system migrating to the Rosetta software in 2025 and the three end user systems (currently there is one for each media type) to be merged merge into a single one. Kristel Veimann stressed the importance of a good connection with publishers as well as the value of good cooperation, trust and communication between all parties involved in legal deposit.

Martin Öövel added that the National Library is facing many challenges, e.g. examining whether AI-generated publications should be considered as a part of the national bibliography, envisioning what future formats beyond traditional digital formats like e-pub and PDF might be, making access more convenient, adding DH tools to work-stations and staying ahead of the ongoing technical developments.

## 12.6 Let the music play – the collection of electronic music files at the German National Library

Cornelia Diebel, German National Library

Cornelia Diebel started by outlining the German National Library's collection mandate. She explained that it encompasses all texts, images and sound recordings published in Germany that have been issued since 1913. The media works covered by the 1913 mandate include all physical publications. In 2006, the mandate was extended to non-physical media works or incorporate so-called online publications. These are non-physical publications made available through the internet, e. g. e-books, e-journals, e-papers, digital audio books, musical performances or websites.

There are many requirements to meet for automated deposit, next to the processes regarding the collection of resources and the processing and creation of metadata, there are also the different standards of multiple media type, such as e.g. ONIX for e-books, JATS or CrossRef for e-journals. A new emerging standard is DDEX for digital music. DDEX enables companies and distributors to send data on music track records to service providers and has prompted the development of a new data model on music as well as a pilot project for the deposit of digital music.

Cornelia Diebel explained that a good contact with the music community was important in the pilot phase that is being conducted with a Berlin music label and aims at the first import of e-music metadata at the end of June 2024.

## 12.7 E-Legal Deposit in Luxembourg

Carlo Blum, National Library of Luxembourg

Carlo Blum began his presentation by explaining that the Luxembourg law is very similar to the French law. Since the amended Grand Ducal Regulation of 2009, the BnL is now obliged to collect digital formats in addition to printed publications. Article 6 would allow security measures to be documented. Nevertheless, some things are still missing, which can be explained by a special situation: audio and video are allocated to a different institution. Accordingly, he spoke out in favour of amending the law. With regard to web archiving, he said that the .lu domain would be collected. In addition, there is a curated list of pages from the .com domain. Web harvesting is carried out as part of a public tendering process in which a service provider is engaged four times a year. These extensive crawls are carried out in collaboration with the Internet Archive. The collection is growing steadily, but when it comes to paywalls, quality is a problem. Everything is collected by the BnL, but collecting and preserving is a business that raises the question of how access can be ensured. An index will be set up for this purpose, which will be available in the reading room. But it is not yet clear whether anyone has already done this and published the contents of the BnL. Carlo Blum went on to say that long-term storage is a challenge, which is why individual files are also saved for better searching.

From a technical point of view, data ownership is also an important factor. The aim is to raise awareness and further explain the alternative way of collecting digital data. Ministries are encouraged to publish their data on a shared platform. Training is also very important: The BnL organises courses twice a year to explain the need for legal deposit. He went on to talk about 'the box', a temporary solution where an account can be created for people who want to copy the data. This is not an automatic transfer to the IT system. This system would also be abolished in the next two years. "Eluxemburgensia" provides a digital service where digital documents can be accessed without a library card.

The e-Deposit provides the BnL with a platform for e-Deposit and legal deposits, which will be available in 2026. If materials are mixed, this would not be possible on the same platform. In terms

of metadata, the department catalogues physical copies, but there is no solution for digital yet. This is where Carlo Blum ended by considering whether AI could be a solution to the problem.

## 12.8 E-Legal Deposit

José Bueren, National Library of Spain

José Bueren gave a brief overview of the situation in Spain. Since 2011, a new legal deposit law has been introduced. This law requires adapting to the changes that have occurred in the publishing world as a result of new technologies and, in particular, publications on the Internet. The Royal decree further develops the law on legal deposit, in which web sites and online publications are considered to be subject to legal deposit for the first time. This means that all media works produced and edited in Spain, regardless of the type of material, are covered by legal deposit. In 2022, the law was amended to make it even more effective for the changing scenario of cultural creation. Until 2014, the Internet Archive was used to collect Spanish websites, but now the National Library of Spain has taken over this task and has a huge collection of web sites ending in .es.

José Bueren reported that the entire e-deposit is also accessible to the regional libraries. He also discussed the selection of criteria for the collection, which is not only based on diversity, but also on the risk of disappearance. The problem with born digital publications is that it is almost impossible to reach every single publisher. A distribution list was set up for this purpose. Even if the works were not perfectly catalogued, it would be possible to find them. After one year, it can be said that the pre-prints are going well and the numbers have increased. The relationship with the publishers is complicated, but an agreement has been reached: Any publisher can generate a digital signature to detect unauthorised use. This helps publishers to have confidence in the National Library of Spain. Future plans would include expanding the e-legal deposit and adding other libraries. New formats are also to be included. A start has already been made with the collection of podcasts. José Bueren also spoke about thinking about how to deal with streaming platforms such as Netflix. This would of course affect Spanish productions in particular. In addition, digital archiving and the security of the information would be a challenge. Attempts will also be made to introduce automatic cataloguing in the future.

## 12.9 National E-Legal Deposit System: From Legal Framework to Library Practices

Taner Beyoğlu, National Library of Türkiye

The legal deposit of electronic publications began in Türkiye in 2012 with the adoption of the Deposit Law. This transferred the responsibility of depositing electronic publications to the National Library. To this end, a secure system was created that respects copyright and is user-friendly for publishers. It required a lot of stakeholder management and a study of similar implementations on a global level. In accordance with the law, the National Library could now also deposit e-books, e-journals and e-theses.

In their Electronic Legal Deposit System (EYDES) there is a distinction between born-digital publications and publications for the visually impaired. Both unite the fact that publishers are obliged to upload their electronic publications within fifteen days of their first online transmission. Technically, EYDES allows depositors to upload their publications in various formats, whether audio (mp3) or visual (pdf, e-pub, word). A graph presented showed that the system would be well received, as the number of publishers would steadily increase. Nevertheless, a tension between publishers and the National Library can be felt. Taner Beyoğlu also reported that emphasis is placed

on ensuring the system security of EYDES by carrying out thorough security checks. With the help of a verification protocol, secure access can also be guaranteed within the library premises. This is an internal library access with a restriction to secure computers that are intended for reading full texts. Remote access to the deposited works is not possible. Even employees would have no way of downloading the content.

The National Library of Türkiye is also responsible for other libraries, creating a massive workload that can be turned to its advantage. He concluded by talking about the national digital library. This enables current publications to be made available to users via the national digital library system without any additional digitisation effort. The declared aim is to make the deposited electronic publications accessible to users throughout the country and not just in the National Library. The conditions are already good in 20 different public libraries in the country thanks to the commissioning of digital access stations. This would allow users who are unable to come to the National Library in Ankara to make use of these services by going to the public library in their city and using the access stations there.

### 13. Discussion in Break-out groups: Presenting the group results and conclusions

The CENL members present were called upon to form groups to deal with specific topics relating to the e-legal deposit. In a period of over an hour, the following results of the group discussions emerged.

#### **Group 1: Music** *(presented by Frank Scholze)*

Only Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany were in this group. Everyone agreed that things should continue as before, with more cooperation. France and the Netherlands were seen as promising partners to be included in order to collect digital music together in a system that still needs to be negotiated. But the general idea is that the countries that have the technical and organisational capabilities would build the collections and the smaller countries would provide access to the respective parts of the collections.

#### **Group 2: Requirements** *(presented by Anna Chulyan)*

In this group, the question arose as to whether everyone had their own vision of what requirements were needed. They therefore started by finding out what exactly was needed by everyone. It was agreed that the content did not need to be specified, but that it was basically publications of all kinds, regardless of the format. This is more difficult with online publications, which is why the group also discussed what is still politically neutral here and whether X (formerly Twitter) is a medium or a product. Access via copyright was also debated and everyone agreed that it was good to have licences and data protection rights. The group summarised that libraries have a responsibility in the creation of metadata and long-term archiving. They emphasised that everyone involved must be aware that it is not about perfection, but about fulfilling the tasks of a national library as well as possible every day.

#### **Group 3: Webharvesting** *(presented by Carlo Blum)*

This group focussed on how data is collected and on the extent to which the internet is chunk. From a technical perspective, it is not a chunk, as it is not yet possible to predict what users will need in

the future. The primary goal is to collect as much as possible. There is neither good nor bad content. Users were considered as the main challenge: If the indices are not placed on the Internet, the consequence is that there are no users. Even the Internet Archive does not change this. During the discussion, it emerged that everyone would have to think about how the data could be made available. This raises questions such as: Should there be a curated selection or a broad crawl? The group came to the conclusion that a broad crawl makes sense, but that both options should be used. This would depend above all on the resources and the framework conditions. Selective projects are vital as some websites would have to be crawled in greater depth. The group therefore discussed the extent to which a selective crawl is possible. As the selection comes from people, a certain bias must always be taken into account. In principle, the question of sustainability has to be asked: should something like this, which consumes a lot of energy because it is not a green project, really be done? But doing nothing is not a solution either. The group summarised that if no collection is made now, the questions of tomorrow cannot be answered. Ideas are needed about who covers what part of the collection, whether each national library is responsible for itself and who collects the rest. The group is left with the question of whether the aim of collecting everything is too ambitious or whether it is enough to collect well enough. It was agreed that it was unclear whether everything could be harvested at all.

Frank Scholze completed these comments by adding that this is precisely where closer cooperation could be the solution. At least from the German perspective, he still sees room for improvement.

#### **Group 4: General practices of legal deposit** *(presented by Linda Arnold-Stratford)*

The last group focussed on how to engage with publishers and their concerns. If a copy was produced, then something would be done with it. This is not an area for hackers, Spotify has also helped with this. Nowadays, there is much more e-legal music content that enables users to avoid having to switch to illegal platforms for music. The group shared the view that if access to legal deposits could be expanded, this might help. This was followed by a discussion about preservation versus access. What is legal deposit actually about? According to the group, there is a need for both open access and migration. The question is how to ensure that content that is collected today can still be made available in 10 years. And whether that is even what is wanted. Expectations should be adjusted accordingly and how migration could be planned. It should also be discussed whether there is a legal deposit for preservation and one for usage. Problems to be overcome were identified in the group and explicitly named with AI language models. It is questionable who uses the legal treasure to train AI language machines.

The Chair expressed his thanks for the interesting contributions from the different groups.

## 14. Closing remarks

Frank Scholze concluded the first day of the meeting by saying that he was looking forward to the many further discussions and resulting developments. He emphasised that the challenges are so great that they can only be met together. The Chair thanked all members for their valuable contributions.

## **DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 18 June**

---

The Chair welcomed all members and opened the meeting at 09:10 CEST.

## 15. The National Library of the Czech Republic Development Strategy for 2024-2027

Tomáš Foltyn, National Library of the Czech Republic

Tomáš Foltyn gave a brief overview of the strategy of the National Library of the Czech Republic and its milestones after 1990. There have been many strategy cycles within the National Library, 20 years after the strategic planning. All policies were ordered and approved by the Government of the Czech Republic. To describe the process for the new 2024-2027 strategy cycle, he used the quote "If it doesn't hurt, it's not strategic planning...". His point was that it is not about each individual's opinion, but about the need to have a discussion. Strategic planning is not always painful, but sometimes it is very difficult. But above all, it is about team work. But why develop a strategy in the first place? For the first time, the National Library of the Czech Republic was in a situation where it has been given this task not by the Ministry of Culture, but by itself. The aim is to present a transparent report on the current state of the art, and also to show the vision of where the National Library of the Czech Republic sees itself in 2027. This is mainly about setting priorities, which also means that for the first time the National Library is in a position to say that it does not want to carry out certain activities, even if this is what is expected from outside. In this way, the institution is taking a more self-confident attitude. Working closely with employees, this would create a participatory process. It would also make sense for the library to develop a strategy to raise its own visibility and promote itself. The timeline and work procedures are determined by both external (e.g. rapid development of AI and other technologies) and internal influences (e.g. human resources, staff mindsets barriers).

This results in strategic dilemmas: Not only would the question of a new library building arise, but also the question of how to manage to be open and still support human resources. At the same time, Tomáš Foltyn explained that it is about funding from several sources and how to find the balance between the need for unconventional events and the working comfort of the internal library. It should also be taken into account that the increase in investment in human resources would mean a reduction in funding for collection management. As traditional and conservative as national libraries are, it must be also questioned where the limit to progressivity lies in order to prevent an exodus of long-term employed staff. All these issues would play a role in the measures to be taken, but also in the activities that are not typical topics for national libraries. Tomáš Foltyn listed the main areas of current developments and also highlighted the influence of social media, which would increase the work of his employees due to its growing importance. Among the examples of the goals of the National Library of the Czech Republic, the responsibility for long-term preservation and the development of a new repository was emphasised. In addition, work would be done on modern services for an open society by making some investments in the study rooms. The Director General was very satisfied with the digitisation process. They are the centre of the Czech library system and their activities in this area are to be further expanded. This would be done both by their own staff and by training other libraries. AI services would now be used for training procedures as well. Furthermore, the library is not only well networked, but also carries out its own research. As far as international status is concerned, the National Library of the Czech Republic wants to become an integral part of it and wants to be perceived as a prestigious and globally recognised memory institution. Tomáš Foltyn emphasised that the strategy considerations should also be open to a new generation of libraries. This would require the dialogue with younger generations. Strengthening the

development and skills of employees is also an important factor. In conclusion, he affirmed that collaboration would take place with anyone who was interested in working with them.

## 16. National Libraries as the nationwide networks coordinators

Tomasz Makowski, National Library of Poland

Tomasz Makowski spoke about the activities around building a national platform for libraries in Poland. A national network, OMNIS, is being built in collaboration with public and academic libraries. The project started in 2018 and aims at connecting 855 libraries by 2025. It will be an integrated library management system based on ALMA with the Primo research engine. A common catalogue will be provided in ALMA with the National Library of Poland cataloguing all publications within 24 hours as well as on demand, providing the data for the rest of the library community. Cataloguing training is also provided by the National Library of Poland through virtual tutorials that are available on the National Library of Poland's website, as well as consultation hours from Monday to Friday. The advantages of this new system are becoming more visible to all parties and acceptance is increasing. Currently, OMNIS contains over 15 m. bibliographic records of 45 m. objects in Polish libraries. The database of the National Library of Poland includes all metadata of publications in the Polish market as well as metadata of foreign publications

Tomasz Makowski went on to present Academica, the distance lending system for academic publications, including 4 m. objects as well as POLONA, the digital platform for Polish libraries. POLONA is linked to the OMNIA search system which aims at reducing costs of digitization, long-term preservation as well as increasing visibility in the academic field. Furthermore, the eISBN publishing repository provides a common database for metadata of new publications, which also increases the visibility for publishers as the search engine integrated in OMNIS pushes metadata into the major search engines.

## 17. Network Groups Update

### 17.1 Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group (AI)

Jean-Philippe Moreux

Jean-Philippe Moreux reported that the pace of progress has increased rapidly since the group was founded. Many libraries are experimenting with AI applications, but he emphasised the need for closer cooperation between institutions. The momentum would be better utilised if one could benefit from the mutual exchange of experience. The original goals of the group are therefore still valid:

1. the use of AI in order to better understand its use
2. the promotion of the exchange / standardisation of AI between institutions
3. the identification of special areas in which AI could be of particular importance.

The group consists of 20 members from 14 institutions. Actions included updating the group's AI survey published in 2022, which will soon be sent out through CENL's communication channels. The updated survey will include a section on generative AI. A link to the National Library of the Netherlands' initiative for generative AI in Europe has been established via Elsbeth Kwant. Two webinars were held in 2023/2024 with an average of 25 participants, mainly from Europe. In autumn 2024, two webinars will be offered focusing on LLMS and AI strategy. A joint project has been

initiated, for which a call for proposals will be made to Horizon Europe. Together with potential partners, a multimodal text-image model is to be created that can be transferred to European iconographic corpora. The group's other activities include organising a workshop at the National Library of Spain in November 2024. The last workshop of this kind was held at the National Library of France in 2022. This public workshop will include short presentations and lightning talks by individual group members from actors from the Spanish AI ecosystem. Additionally, it will serve as a basis for reflection on the future role of the network group.

## 17.2 Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG)

Ineta Vaivode

Ineta Vaivode began her presentation with a short review: BANG was founded more than 5 years ago, in 2018. The group has expanded in the meantime. The most important element of the Network Group is the management of various library collections. BANG is used to promote and organise exhibitions. In keeping with the focus, the centrepiece of BANG is the book. But exhibitions in the context of libraries do not always consist of books. The question would therefore be how to work with the printed heritage? In the meantime, new ways of working had emerged. BANG would provide a balance between members from national libraries and individual researchers, offering an interesting diversity. She encouraged CENL members to get involved in order to achieve greater variety in how printed publications are handled. She went on to say that BANG would offer a webinar with a different theme each year. The direction in which the group is developing and what could be improved should be critically reviewed. Their next webinar will take place in October 2024. Upcoming plans include the long-awaited website presentation, which is now being finalised. Ineta Vaivode also reported on regular online meetings. The main focus would be a face-to-face event in Latvia. She added that the last on site meeting of members had taken place in 2018.

## 17.3 Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Group (EEDI)

Jackie Cromarty and Maja Micevska Rizova

EEDI is a new network group established on 7 March 2023 and supports the CENL strategy to strengthen CENL as a networked community. The group currently has 12 members. It was reported that their aims include discussing EEDI and sharing ideas on how colleagues in CENL member libraries can support and learn from each other. The Network Group meets once a month to discuss problems in the libraries and how to solve them. In order to find out the status of EEDI in CENL member libraries, a survey was carried out in 2023 with a participation rate of 70%. The main results were presented: 16 out of 20 libraries said that they would like to see an EEDI group where one does not yet exist. 13 libraries expressed an interest in becoming part of the EEDI Network Group. This would show the level of interest in EEDI, which is why the Network Group is trying to support CENL member libraries in implementing it.

Jackie Cromarty and Maja Micevska Rizova also reported on the first face-to-face meeting of the group, which took place from 23-25 October 2023 in Skopje. Six members were present, who worked on drafting a strategic plan for the next three years. The resulting topics will mainly deal with the question of what could be meant by EEDI in national libraries and how it can be communicated to colleagues. Therefore, the plan for the next 12 months is above all to increase the visibility of the Network Group's work. The next face-to-face meeting will take place in Croatia in October 2024.

## 18. Dialogue Forums Update

### 18.1 FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum

Ute Schwens, National Library of Germany

The FEP-CENL Dialogue Forum was set up to enable representatives of the Federation of European Publishers and representatives of CENL to discuss common issues between national libraries and publishers (e.g. legal deposit, copyright, European framework regulations, digitisation, etc.). Currently the group consists of ten members in total. From the publishing industry, the French Publishers Association (SNE), the International Association of Scientific Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), the Italian Publishers Association (AIE) and the Börsenverein des deutschen Buchhandels are involved. On the CENL side, members from the national libraries of France, the Netherlands, Norway and Germany and the British Library are participating. Importance is attached to having an equal number of publishers and librarians within the group.

Ute Schwens, Director of the German National Library in Frankfurt, stated that the aim of the forum was to create a common understanding for balanced cooperation. The main topics in recent years have included the digitisation of works from out-of-commerce sector and the implementation of numerous European laws. Legal aspects and scientific demands were also taken into account. The European language data rooms and current activities in legal e-deposit were also discussed. Originally, the idea of this group was to formulate recommendations. This was not considered for music, which is why Ute Schwens emphasised that lessons would be learned from the discussions in Warsaw. She concluded by stressing the importance of building trust and of continuing the work in all the areas mentioned.

### 18.2 Dialogue Forum National Libraries as Data

Sally Chambers (DARIAH-EU, KBR) Peter Leinen (German National Library) and Andreas Witt (CLARIN, University of Mannheim)

Sally Chambers reported that this Dialogue Forum helps in particular to facilitate strategic collaboration between European national libraries and research infrastructures and identifies specific challenges. A survey of CENL members served as the starting point for the activities, the results of which were presented. These results would have shown that even in the last year with the introduction of ChatGPT, interest in AI has grown. While Digital Humanities and collections as data were recorded as ongoing activities among the respondents.

From 5-6 December 2023, the workshop 'CLARIN and Libraries 2023: Large language models and Libraries' took place at the National Library of Norway. This built on the first workshop on CLARIN and libraries that took place in The Hague in May 2022. The legal aspects of the topic were discussed in particular. Sally Chambers was able to appear as keynote speaker. From 19-20 February 2024, 'Collections as Data: Collaborating across Data Spaces for Cultural Heritage and Open Science' took place at the Royal Library of Belgium. Sally Chambers described the event as an important exchange to better understand the main challenges of data sharing and how research infrastructures such as DARIAH, CLARIN and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) can simplify this process. It was also a good opportunity to bring together a number of CENL members, which is why she encouraged more libraries to get involved. An in-depth session was made possible, which is now being developed into a workflow. This will include a step-by-step guide in which items on a checklist can be clicked on and explained. Sally Chambers went on to explain that a lot had changed since the last AGM: in 2023, she

had talked about the dynamic data infrastructure landscape. The ECHOES (European Cloud for Heritage OpEn Science) project from France is particularly noteworthy as 25 million euros had been reserved over five years to set up the cloud, making it the largest funding ever mobilised in Europe for a cultural heritage initiative and, more broadly, for the social sciences. EOSC can therefore be seen as an EU hub, enabling work to be carried out jointly. Following the survey, the dialogue forum now knows what the needs of national libraries in Europe are. The next step is therefore to work on a 'Collections as Data' pilot. This involves experimenting with analysis platforms for large cultural heritage corpora.

Ute Schwens added how important she believes communication between the CENL Dialogue Forums is. It would be therefore very valuable to share information.

## 19. Report of EKN Grant Holders 2023

### 19.1 Stronger professional network for building social resilience and peace

Elena Pintilei, National Library of Moldova

Elena Pintilei began her presentation by thanking CENL for making this project possible. The EKN grant enabled the international conference entitled 'Social Resilience and Stronger Professional Networks as Preconditions for Peace', which took place from 9 to 10 October 2023 in Chişinău, Moldova. The aims of the conference included the exchange of best practice examples of social resilience and library partnership, the exchange of knowledge at national and international level and the integration of social resilience into the work of the national library system. It was a mixed format with online speakers and speakers who gave their presentation on site. Frank Scholze, in his role as CENL Chair, welcomed the 109 participants in a pre-recorded video message. Discussed topics covered how the partnerships of libraries can be shaped in times of crisis, ways to strengthen institutional and library resilience, and how libraries can adapt to the new identity of the library institution. The conference was promoted through social media, websites and is available on YouTube. After the conference, information events were organised by participants from the national libraries of Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania. Articles about the conference were published in professional journals in Ukraine and Moldova. Elena Pintilei concluded her presentation by announcing that another project would be coming this year.

### 19.2 Study Days "Robotic conservation sites"

Ophélie Ramonatxo, National Library of France

Ophélie Ramonatxo reported that the National Library of France (BNF) had applied for an EKN grant for the first time. This made it possible for the BNF to organise the conference "Robotized conservation sites" in Paris from 12 to 13 June 2023. In addition to the BNF, the National Library of Switzerland, the Kooperative Speicherbibliothek Schweiz, the Royal Library of the Netherlands and the British Library were involved. A new generation of buildings was discussed. These are characterised by being particularly resistant and offering protection against fire, which can damage library collections. The EKN grant was mainly used to cover expenses during the conference. The main conclusion of the conference was that all projects follow the same rules, but in the end each institution has to experiment on its own, depending on which collections it wants to preserve and how. Ophélie Ramonatxo emphasised that the conference had above all helped to improve contacts and share experiences. In May 2024, the BNF project management team was also given the opportunity to visit Büron in Switzerland. A book publication on the four European installations is

also planned. The current collaborations would therefore be continued. She also reported on the BNF's Project at Amiens. Dedicated architects would be commissioned for the future building. Work would begin in 2026 and continue until 2029. This would result in two new main buildings: One for storage and one for work activities. As a result, the storage conclusion would be secured for the next century.

## 19.3 Improving the Web Archiving Infrastructure of the National Széchényi Library and the National Library of Luxembourg

Dávid Rózsa, National Széchényi Library

Dávid Rózsa expressed his gratitude for the EKN grant. He reported that the National Széchényi Library (NSZL) had started web archiving in 2017 through its department for the Centre for Digital Humanities. Not only URLs of the domain .hu would be archived, but also pages with a thematic reference to Hungary. The application for the EKN grant was submitted together with the National Library of Luxembourg (BnL) in March 2023. Four points were planned for the exchange:

- Infrastructure development
- Development of digital collections
- Improving research
- Promoting interlibrary staff communications

For the participants, the mutual visit was also about exchanging knowledge with each other and presenting the results of the cooperation to the international community. The staff of the NSZL visited the National Library of Luxembourg from 11-15 September 2023 to discuss technical issues and learn about the work processes of Luxembourg's web archives. In the same year, the Luxembourg colleagues also paid a return visit to the NSZL in Budapest. As a result, the common goal of improving the infrastructure of both web archives was achieved. The BnL installed a new instance of SolrWayback, while the NSZL started using Browsertrix. As expected, a great deal of knowledge was exchanged, including good practices from which both institutions could benefit. Dávid Rózsa emphasised that good working relations had been established during the visit, which would have a promising future well beyond the period of the EKN grant. The commitment to code sharing has also been fuelled by the sharing and open sourcing of important code, which has led to a significant improvement in the web archiving activities of the two national libraries.

Frank Scholze thanked the speakers and underlined that the EKN grant offer was open to all CENL members and encouraged them to apply next time.

## 20. When cultural heritage becomes the target of damage and aggression

### 20.1 Disaster planning in NL – Results of the CENL survey

Susanne Oehlschläger, CENL Secretary

Susanne Oehlschläger reported that the CENL Secretariat had created a survey with the aim of gaining an overview of how well prepared national libraries are in the event of threats and dangers. This questionnaire was sent to all 46 member libraries, of which 23 responses were received. The very first question in the survey revealed that 96% of respondents had already been confronted with emergencies, with only one library answering no to this question. It can therefore be assumed that this problem affects all national libraries. In order to be able to specify the time window, the survey

showed that the threats have mainly occurred in the last five years. The top 3 emergencies experienced by national libraries were water, cyber-attacks and war. Multiple answers were possible. Almost all of the libraries surveyed stated that they have a risk analysis and an emergency plan, which is very good. Nevertheless, Susanne Oehlschläger mentioned that it should be noted that not all emergency plans reflect the dangers mentioned before. Obviously, recognising the danger did not yet lead to planning.

Almost 82% stated that they review their emergency plans every 2-3 years. Of those who regularly update their emergency plans, the war in Ukraine and climate change did not lead to a revision of the plans. The reason may be that the risk of war is not considered as high in other countries. At the same time, in many places there is a lack of money and time to adapt plans accordingly. The survey also found that 83% of staff receive regular emergency training. This is highly recommended as even the best plan is useless if staff members do not know the plan or what to do in the case of an emergency. 92% of respondents stated that they work with external organisations for this, especially local organisations. According to Susanne Oehlschläger, the conclusion from this survey is still open, but the results will now serve as a basis for discussion within the new EC. In the course of this, she once again thanked all those who completed the questionnaire.

## 20.2 Update on the situation in Ukraine

Lyubov Andriivna Dubrovina, Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine

As in previous years, a pre-recorded video message from Lyubov Dubrovina was played for this contribution.

The Director General of the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine (VNLU) expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to report on her views and experiences regarding emergency situations at this year's AGM. In this context, the VNLU deserves special attention, primarily because of its history, in order to better understand the current state of cultural heritage preservation. The first social catastrophe hit the VNLU during the First World War and the revolutions in Russia and Ukraine. It was founded at a very difficult time of destruction, but was nevertheless able to establish itself as one of the first national institutions in Ukraine. In the course of the bloody battles and the change of governments, cultural values were also affected, which led to the VNLU becoming the main centre for the accumulation of derelict collections. When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1919, the national functions of libraries in terms of preserving and researching historical cultural heritage were completely cancelled. Only printed books and manuscripts approved by the authorities remained accessible. The Second World War also played a disastrous role in that literature collections were exported, only some of which returned to Ukraine. The VNLU set itself the task of gathering all the collections of Kiev's academic libraries, making it the most important library in Ukraine by the mid-1960s.

Lyubov Dubrovina explained that it was not only wars that led to the destruction of the collections: in 1964 and 1968, the VNLU was ravaged by fire. In both cases, items were destroyed, but a large part of the collection was saved. The government made special funds available for this purpose so that the library could be restored over several years and additional measures could be taken. In 2002, the hot water heating system failed, resulting in several floors of the book storage with valuable collections being flooded. This makes the VNLU the only national library in Ukraine to have suffered so much from wars, revolutions, fires and floods. After gaining independence, several

leading libraries were granted national library status in the 1990s, opening up new ways for self-development and the fulfilment of a library's role in a democratic society. Enormous efforts have been made to bring the bibliographical heritage and the names of "forgotten" personalities back into free scientific and cultural circulation, thus enabling the formation of a new generation of citizens free from the ideological constraints of the former mentality.

Today, the VNLU's collections range from the beginnings to the present and are therefore not only of great value for Ukraine, but also for global culture. This development continued until the early days of 2020. Due to the ongoing Russian aggression, the libraries in Ukraine were once again plunged into a phase of crisis and destruction: 131 libraries were destroyed, more than 746 have suffered serious damage and require extensive repairs. Costs that the state cannot currently afford. The total loss of library collections exceeds 1 million volumes. Dubrovina emphasised that although much of the destroyed material could be replaced with duplicates from other libraries, this would still be a disaster for the historical cultural heritage. For this reason, security precautions to protect cultural heritage have taken on new dimensions. The consequences of the destruction are clearly noticeable for the VNLU, as there is a lack of basic things such as heating and electricity. Possible cyber-attacks and terrorist attacks are also major threats. To improve security measures, the library team is working closely together to review the condition of the library and organise training sessions. Specialist trainers and psychologists are also being brought in to help staff cope with the daily challenges of war. This aid is largely provided on a voluntary basis. With the experience gained in 2022, special instructions have been drawn up to prevent unauthorised access to the buildings. Under these conditions, libraries are forced to cut salaries, which also has a negative impact on their ability to adequately support library technologies.

Historically, the VNLU has always played a crucial role in the preservation and dissemination of cultural knowledge. The irreparable loss of historical heritage as a result of the events described is difficult to measure. According to the data, almost half of the collections that existed before 1920 were lost. While it is possible to share experiences with international partners, the effectiveness of the safety measures would require financial support, which is currently unavailable. Dubrovina emphasised once again how important it is to recognise that a war has social consequences, but also significantly worsens potential environmental disasters. Thousands of people had given their lives to save the library collections. She ended her speech by saying that saving the library collections would continue to be her ambition after all the disasters of the 20th century.

In this context, Frank Scholze recalled the event "Cultural Genocide: Ukraine's Struggle to Preserve History and Identity", which took place at the National Library of Poland on 15 June 2024. This event made it clear once again that everyone should be motivated to strive for the impossible - even in these difficult times. He reiterated that Ukraine should continue to be supported for as long as possible. Everyone should be aware of the fact that the issues of war and cyberattacks are two essential topics for the future which all National Libraries have to deal with in one form or another.

### 20.3 Cyber-attack on the British Library – lessons learned

Roly Keating, British Library

Roly Keating began his remarks by reporting on what an eventful year the British Library (BL) has had since the last AGM. 2023 was the BL's 50th anniversary and the new strategy was published. The year therefore had two very different halves. On the one hand there were celebrations, on the other

hand the BL was overshadowed by a serious cyber-attack. This would be in line with our world today, which is full of extremes. There was also a large-scale cyberattack in 2024, this time affecting the Ministry of Defence and much of London's healthcare system, with similarities to the attack on the BL. The paper 'Learning lessons from the cyber-attacks', which was published in March 2024, emerged from this context and reflected on the situation. Traditionally, such experiences with attacks tend to be highly sensitive and there is a certain shame involved. For this reason, there were long discussions within the Board about how openly the topic should be dealt with other institutions. Ultimately, they came to the conclusion that it was an obligation to talk as openly as possible about the situation, share insights and strengthen collective resilience. This could lead to a good exchange of experiences, so that something good could come out of what was in fact a very bad situation. Since the publication of the paper, they are convinced that this could be of interest to other libraries, but there has also been interested reactions from the commercial sector. This was a reminder that this topic is generally not talked about enough, even though it is relevant for many institutions.

Roly Keating went on to explain how the cyber-attack on the BL came about in the first place: On 28 October 2023 (but probably three days earlier), there was a ransomware attack controlled by a criminal hacking group called Rhysida. Fortunately, the library's building did not have to be closed at any time. From day one, there was a strange duality: on the one hand, there was the normal everyday life of the library (with successful exhibitions and overcrowded reading rooms), while on the other, a completely different picture emerged behind the scenes. The ransomware attack was able to capture personal data for the purpose of blackmail. It is estimated that BL was the 17th victim of Rhysida. After a while, the hacker group published a sample of the data and put it up for auction. They then dumped the data on the dark web. It was important to work very closely with employees and users once the personal data was out there. As far as the group's method of operation is concerned, it can be said that it essentially consists of stealing and destroying data. The latter possibly to cover their own tracks. According to Roly Keating, the first attack was on a poorly protected server that was introduced during the corona pandemic to allow access. The damage was major and intense. Although a lot of cyber security software was used and most of it worked well, there were also other products that could be cracked but were not useful for the damage.

In terms of incident management, Roly Keating reported that there was never any risk to human life or building safety. The IT department reacted immediately and shut everything down to prevent further damage. The (digital) collections were backed up in various ways. Some of them could be restored. How to react to such incidents has been rehearsed many times. Although role-playing was practised, it was not possible to test to such an extent as it was not assumed that such a totality would occur. As it was not clear how secure the internal communication was, a lot of work was done on mobile phones (via WhatsApp). Collaboration took place with government departments and external partners, from whose expertise it was possible to benefit. Some lessons were learnt right from the start: No contact with the perpetrators. In the early days, the link to consultation was never opened. The UK government's advice here was quite clear: the hacking group would not be paid.

Stakeholder management was carried out by the BL itself as nobody from outside knows the users and the staff better than the BL itself. Early on, there was a rhythm with regular communication updates. There were many emotions within the employees, from anger, fear and frustration to feelings of guilt. This led to more face to face meetings taking place in the library building and more communication in general. Overall, the media storm was relatively limited. It was only when

moments of calm returned that the media began to speculate on theories. During the recovery phase, it became clear that priorities had to be set. A lot had to be improvised. BL managed to put a version of its own catalogue with the basic data set online. The paper-based work of the libraries came in very handy for the BL. The technology is very diverse, as the BL is celebrating the 50th anniversary of at least 15 very different organisations. This has made it clear that if a bad actor gets into the systems, there are a lot of consequences. Since everything can be hacked, this would mean that it would become increasingly expensive to invest in security against cyber-attacks. Both in terms of protecting against and recovering from an attack. Other measures included the establishment of a new Board Committee with external advisors. Roly Keating concluded his speech by saying that everything had happened faster than expected. Nevertheless, one could benefit and learn from this experience.

## 20.4 Discussion and Q&A

Karin Grönvall thanked Roly Keating for his presentation and said that the case had also been discussed within the National Library of Sweden. Recovering from such an attack is certainly very expensive. She therefore asked him what he thought if no extra funding was received for such incidents? Certainly there are already some movements within the library as employees acquire new skills in this area.

Roly Keating confirmed the change in skills in-house. In terms of financing, this would certainly be a challenge. He underlined that the BL still does not publish concrete figures on the costs. Generally speaking, the running costs of cyber-attacks are higher today. Spending the money now is therefore exactly the right thing to do. Large reserves are necessary for damage limitation. The BL has left everything open to the government.

Tomáš Foltýn mentioned that the National Library of the Czech Republic had the same experience in 2021 and that he had noticed many similarities. Cyber security would be a never-ending story. A major rethinking process that is taking place both inside and outside the library. In his opinion, it is therefore always easier to implement changes when something big has happened. As the libraries are part of the culture department, it could not be assumed that a lot of money would be available to support them. This makes it all the more important to share knowledge and experience. The BL's approach could be compared to that of the National Library of the Czech Republic. For political reasons, however, it is not possible to publish the procedures.

Piro Misha also reported that the National Library of Albania recently experienced a similar incident. This was not caused by a criminal group, but by a political group. This caused major problems for the library, even though they are part of an integrated system. One of the consequences was the development of a new protocol. The work turned out to be very difficult as the computers had to be replaced and no data transfer was possible. Nobody could have imagined that another country would do this to them. This would be very disconcerting and demonstrate the difficult times we find ourselves in.

Frank Scholze emphasised that he thought the idea of regular training sessions was a good tip. This whole development would have a major impact on our actions. Positively speaking, this is similar to the corona virus pandemic. Big challenges create opportunities for growth.

## 21. Presentation by the 2025 host

Jackie Cromarty, National Library of Scotland

Jackie Cromarty, on behalf of Amina Shah, was delighted to present Scotland as the host for the AGM 2025. She said it was an honour for her and her colleagues to follow in the footsteps of the colleagues from the National Library of Poland who have been an outstanding host this year. She invited all CENL members to Edinburgh on 15-17 June 2025, where the next AGM will be held at the National Library of Scotland (NLS). This is particularly meaningful as the NLS will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025. Jackie Cromarty also reported that they were pleased that the main building of the National Library is located in the heart of the historic city centre. A visit to Glasgow is also a possibility. The Royal Mile is another possible destination, along with many other things to discover.

Books and writers would be part of next year's programme, such as the well-known crime novelist Ian Rankin, who has donated his archive to the NLS. There is also a treasure chamber with beautiful pieces to examine, a copy of the Gutenberg Bible and many other exhibitions that will take place in 2025. Jackie Cromarty invited CENL members to celebrate the value of national libraries next year and looked forward to seeing everyone in Edinburgh again.

## 22. Closing remarks, Farewell

The AGM 2024 was officially closed by Frank Scholze. He thanked the National Library of Scotland for the warm invitation to come to Edinburgh in 2025 for the next AGM. Special thanks also went to the colleagues from the National Library of Poland, who gave the CENL members a very warm and professional welcome. The Chair expressed his thanks to all members for their attendance and to the CENL Secretariat for all the work in the background. Tomasz Makowski concluded by thanking the attendees and assuring them that everyone is always welcome at the National Library of Poland.

At the end all those interested were offered a tour of the conservation and digitisation centre of the National Library of Poland.

The meeting ended at 12:50 CEST.