

## Network Group Applications and Selections for 2026 – 2028

### Actions required:

- Discussion on applications and selection
- Agree on network group sponsors

In 2020, the CENL Network Groups were launched for the first time. Their purpose is to enable knowledge exchange, network-building and professional support in relation to a chosen topic of interest. During the first term (2020 – 2022) CENL had the following three network groups:

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

For the second term (2023 – 2025) the Executive Committee agreed on these three groups:

- Artificial Intelligence in Libraries Network Group
- Books and Audiences Network Group
- Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network Group (EEDI)

The call for applications for CENL network groups for the third term (2026 – 2028) opened on 3 June 2025. All members were invited to apply with a deadline before 2 September 2025. (See attachments to paper 09.)

Four applications were submitted by the deadline. Three of these groups have been existing for some time, while one is applying for the first time:

#### 1. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Applicant: Jean-Philippe Moreux – National Library of France  
The group has been operating since 2020.

**Number of members involved:** staff from 18 CENL member libraries

Practitioners on AI in libraries need to get together and share experience and knowledge. This group has established arenas for sharing and collaboration (online seminars, workshops, meetings) and plans to create new ones. This proposal therefore is to extend the life of the already existing AI in Libraries Network Group within CENL, by expanding it to include new libraries/members and new methods of sharing and collaboration.

#### 2. Books and Audiences (BANG)

Applicant: Ineta Vaivode – National Library of Latvia  
The group has been existing since 2020.

**Number of members involved:** staff from 6 CENL member libraries, 4 external (all from the UK)

Over the past years, BANG! has stood out as one of the rare, enduring network groups focused on exploring and sharing knowledge in the field of book exhibitions. The group brings together curators, collections experts, and project managers from diverse national libraries and disciplines who are interested in sharing experiences, testing new approaches, and discussing the role of book exhibitions today. An essential aspect of the network group is to highlight that people from national libraries with responsibility for exhibitions are not alone; they are part of a connected network of

professionals who face similar challenges but approach them with a wide range of innovative and creative solutions.

### 3. **Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI)**

Applicant: Rosemarie van der Veen-Oei – KB National Library of the Netherlands  
The group has been existing since 2023.

**Number of members involved:** staff from 11 CENL member libraries

The Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) Network Group will enable knowledge exchange, network building and professional support in relation to EEDI.

Their vision is to cultivate a thriving and interconnected community within CENL member Libraries where every colleague feels valued, empowered, and inspired. Enabling dialogues, sharing knowledge, and supporting learning from one another, we strive to creating a dynamic environment with opportunities for personal and professional growth. With the commitment of all members, we will build a legacy of innovation, equity, and excellence in the national library community.

Their mission is to provide an equitable, equal, diverse and inclusive network for colleagues in CENL member Libraries to discuss, to share ideas, knowledge and practical advice, to support colleagues, and to create opportunities.

### 4. **National Libraries' User Spaces and Services Network Group (NLUSS)**

Applicant: Céline Ben Amar - Royal Library of Belgium  
This is the first application

**Number of members involved:** staff from 11 CENL member libraries (including Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, Italy) and 1 (still) external (Wales)

The proposed working group - The National Libraries' User Spaces and Services Network Group (NLUSS) - would explore how library space and user services can be integrated into a coherent strategy that supports the educational, cultural, and social missions of national libraries. It would provide a platform for exchanging experiences, research, and best practices on topics such as flexible learning environments, inclusive design, technology-rich spaces, and user-centered service models.

By addressing themes such as user engagement, the social aspects of reading rooms, and the balance between welcoming spaces and collection security, the group seeks to contribute to preserving and evolving library environments as vital places of intellectual work, identity formation, and democracy-building in the digital age.

The Secretariat evaluated the applications according to a number of selection criteria. The results show that there are only a few differences:

- The applications are formally complete.
- All applications clearly show how the network groups intend to work.
- A broad geographic distribution is given by three of them, the application for the new group involves also a member from Firenze, Italy which is remarkable as there is rarely any contact with Italian members.
- Only one of the applications has the focus on an innovative topic (AI).
- None of the topics the network groups want to focus on refers solely to national libraries.

EC members are asked to discuss and agree on which network group's application to accept.

The next step is to agree on network group sponsors within the Executive Committee.

The current Network Group sponsors are: Tomáš Foltýn for AI, Sara Lammens for BANG and Karin Grönvall for EEDI.

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## CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

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### 1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Mr

Forename: Jean-Philippe

Surname (family name): Moreux

### 2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Head of AI mission

Department / Library: Bibliothèque nationale de France

Address: Bibliothèque nationale de France, quai François Mauriac, 75013 Paris

Country: France

### 3. Applicant Contact Information

Email: jean-philippe.moreux@bnf.fr

Telephone: 00 33 153794860

Mobile: 00 33 621629490

Work address: same

### 4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed network group topic in less than 300 words.

As AI will change society in general, AI will also influence the way libraries work both internally and as service providers to patrons<sup>1</sup>. The current understanding of the potential of AI for libraries is growing but yet seems low (45% of CENL members did not respond to our 2024 survey<sup>2</sup> which was designed to collect information from CENL members about their AI practices and maturity). The demand for better knowledge on the field is significant, both in short-term and concrete use of AI in libraries as well as the long-term potential of the technology.

Since its creation in 2020, this group has contributed to the general understanding of AI in libraries, and thereby promoting the use of AI in libraries, thanks to its work in networking key individuals, rare skills and inspiring examples. It will continue to strengthen the network of national libraries already involved in this transition, or willing to do so, and thus create a dynamic of exchange and sharing which will be beneficial and speed up the deployment of new technologies, including AI, in libraries. This need is all the more pressing in the age of generative

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<sup>1</sup> "Is Artificial Intelligence the Future of Collective Memory?", *Memory Studies Review*, Dec. 2024, [https://brill.com/view/journals/mesr/1/2/article-p195\\_001.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/mesr/1/2/article-p195_001.xml)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cenl.org/2024-survey-on-artificial-intelligence-report/>

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AI and its impact on society as a whole. The last two years have seen growing concerns among European national libraries (ENLs) about the ethics of AI, the conditions for reusing legal deposits for training AI models, but also the implementation of increasingly ambitious business applications (cataloguing assistance, access to content) and eventually the training of large language models (LLMs) by ENLs.

Practitioners on AI in libraries need to get together and share experience and knowledge. This group has established arenas for sharing and collaboration (online seminars, workshops, meetings) and plans to create new ones. This proposal therefore is to extend the life of the already existing AI in Libraries Network Group within CENL, by expanding it to include new libraries/members and new methods of sharing and collaboration.

*4.2) Please describe the main aims of the proposed network group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2023 – 2027, and what its impact will be.*

The initial objectives of this group are still valid:

1. To leverage the use of AI in libraries through better understanding and use,
2. To promote sharing and collaboration on AI between institutions,
3. To identify areas on AI of particular significance for libraries.

1. and 2. are among the priorities of the CENL's 2023-2027 strategy, in particular 'Build capacity and professional expertise in CENL members', to be taken into account in a rapidly changing world where digital transformation is a cultural change that requires librarians to continually question themselves<sup>3</sup>. Since its inception, the group's activities have demonstrated the benefits of sharing and training, and it has found its place among other international collaborative bodies (notably IFLA and AI4LAM) thanks to its European positioning and the nature of its members (ENLs as legal deposit libraries have unique concern, are high risk profile institutions and shared linguistic and cultural aspects).

Particular attention will be paid to Generative AI and its potential benefits and risks for the library sector (3.). This objective is in line with CENL's commitment to supporting its members "in their development as institutions of memory for the past and for the future", at a time when AI technology and AI players are challenging some of the fundamentals of heritage institutions.

To achieve these objectives, the group will continue with its activities (webinars, annual in presence workshop, annual survey) but will introduce new methods: meetings at European conferences, small workshops at the invitation of a member, informal webinars between members on specific topics.

## 5. Membership

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<sup>3</sup> "The Pulse of the Library", Clarivate, 2024, <https://discover.clarivate.com/LibraryofTomorrow2024>

### CENL Secretariat

*5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:*

The group has expanded considerably and now includes 31 representatives from 18 ENLs<sup>4</sup>. This situation calls for a change in the group's governance model (see next section).

- National Library of France (BnF)
- National Library of Norway (NLN)
- National Library of Austria (ONB)
- National Library of Czech Republic (NLCR)
- British Library (BL)
- National Library of Estonia (NLE)
- National Library of Sweden (NLS)
- National Library of Luxembourg (BnL)
- Royal Danish Library (DKB)
- Swiss National Library (SNL)
- Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)
- German National Library (DNB)
- National Library of the Netherlands (KB)
- National Library of Spain (BNE)
- National Library of Latvia (LNB)
- National Library of Finland (NLF)
- National Library of Scotland (NLS)
- National and University Library of Slovenia (NUK)

*5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation (CENL member library) for the following roles:*

Considering the group's expansion and ambition, we recommend a change in governance with the appointment of co-chairs, who will help to carry out the group's commitments and activities. Co-chairs will support the chair or take the lead on specific activities related to the group work.

A. Group Chair, CENL contact person: Jean-Philippe Moreux, Head of AI mission, National Library of France

Group Co-chairs:

- Maximilian Kähler, Scientific Coordinator Automated Cataloguing, German National Library
- Tan Lu, Lead of the KBR Data Science Lab, Royal Library of Belgium
- Mia Ridge, Digital Curator, British Library

B. Group Treasurer: Bjarne Andersen, Head of Data, Royal Danish Library

C. Group Secretary: Svein Arne Brygfjeld, Special advisor on AI, National Library of Norway

*5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words interest and expertise of CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining the proposed network group.*

*BnF: AI has been present at the BnF for more than 15 years, at least in its "machine learning"*

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cenl.org/networkgroups/ai-in-libraries-network-group/>

version, and published its AI roadmap in 2021. Today, the democratization of AI promotes the ability to experiment and carry out in virtual autonomy, but also makes possible interdisciplinary projects where expertise on content, data and processing is required. The BnF launched its first large scale AI project in 2023.

The *National Library of Norway* has for the last years been an international leading memory institution on AI, contributing through conferences, networks and other activities. NLN has its own AI-lab to do innovation and experiments on AI in libraries, archives and museums. This lab has carried out several significant experiments, providing relevant knowledge about AI to the community. NLN AI-lab has also contributed to the foundation of AI4LAM, the international consortium on AI in Libraries, Archives and Museums.

For more than 10 years, the *German National Library (DNB)* has been working on automated cataloguing of digital publications using AI methods. In a recent AI project the suitability of LLMs for automated subject indexing was investigated and benchmarked against a variety of other state-of-the-art methods. The DNB is also involved in the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) for Text- and Language-based Research Data.

The *British Library* has taken part in many AI projects led by its Digital Scholarship team including BL Labs and Living With Machines. In parallel, its Digital Scholarship Training Programme has worked to equip its staff with these skills and the wider research sector via partnerships. It hosts The Alan Turing Institute, the UK national institute for data science and AI and is currently co-chair of AI4LAM along with the BnF. It is hosting the international Fantastic Futures 2025 conference.

In recent years, the *Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)* has launched a series of projects for archiving, sharing, facilitating access to, and exploiting, in more intelligent ways, the rich collections that are hosted in KBR. A wide spectrum of materials, such as historical magazines (BelgicaPeriodicals), newspapers (BelgicaPress), contemporary social media content (BESOCIAL), etc. are being investigated using AI related technologies pertaining to the analysis of images, texts, and automated cataloguing. In the long term, KBR is keen in developing and promoting AI technologies in creating improved and automated workflows for unlocking rich library resources.

*[See appendices for the end of the list]*

5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

### **Chair and co-chairs**

*Jean-Philippe Moreux* has been the scientific referent of many R&D projects of the BnF with an AI dimension. Participates in the integration of the results of these projects into the BnF's systems and processes and he's now the BnF head of AI mission. He's also a member of the AI4LAM and the IIF exec committees.

*Maximilian Kähler* is mathematician and data scientist, specialized on the topic of automatic indexing. He is part of the Department for Automatic Indexing and Online Publications at the DNB and works as project lead for the DNB's recent AI project.

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*Tan Lu* is leading the Data Science Lab of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), while also affiliated to the research group mathematics and data science (MADS) of Vrije Universiteit of Brussel (VUB). He has rich experiences working with image and text processing, including, for example, image segmentation & layout analysis, joint visual and language modeling, and explainable AI.

*Dr Mia Ridge* is the Digital Curator for Western Heritage Collections at the British Library. She was a Co-Investigator on Living with Machines (2018-2023), a £9 million AI and data science project with the Alan Turing Institute. She wrote the British Library's principles for ethical AI with collections, and co-led work on their AI strategy. She is Secretary for the Executive Board of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations (ADHO) and a member of LIBER's AI Taskforce.

### **Treasurer**

*Bjarne Andersen* is head of Data at the Royal Danish Library. The Data department is working with ingest and long term digital preservation of all the cultural heritage collections in the library, mostly under legal deposit. Bjarne holds a masters degree in IT as well as a recent master of data driven organizational development. Currently also the treasurer of the international IIPC consortium and thus used to numbers and budgets.

### **Secretary**

*Svein Arne Brygfjeld* leads the efforts on AI at the National Library of Norway through their AI-lab. He has been leading this work for several years, and he is a much used speaker in conferences internationally. He is deeply involved in the series of Fantastic Futures conferences on AI, in Oslo 2018, Palo Alto 2019 and Paris 2021. Finally, Mr Brygfjeld is central in the shaping of an international community on AI in libraries, archives and museums.

*5.4) Please describe the proposed network group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.*

After five years of activity, the group unanimously agrees that it is still necessary to maintain a network on AI at the European level, focused on the missions of libraries, and that it complements the international AI4LAM initiative or the IFLA AI Interest Group. Nevertheless, stronger collaboration between these groups is necessary and already underway.

The group's proposition is to emphasize on sharing and showcasing the AI shift at the European level within a library context.

The group is committed to implementing the work plan outlined below.

### **Work plan**

*Webinars* (6-8 each year, 1 hour). The webinars organised by the group proved very popular and attracted a significant audience (20-50 participants, from the CENL community and beyond). Special focus webinars received great attention in the past, like automated cataloguing. The group intends to continue these series of webinars, focusing on technical, organisational or strategic topics.

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*Informal webinars.* These webinars are reserved for members of the group and focus on specific work-in-progress topics defined according to the needs of the group or part of the group. In 2025, the group started to investigate the ethics of AI under this modality.

*Local workshops.* Some European national libraries are already well-developed on AI, while others have just begun studying the area. To support the development of knowledge and skills on AI in the various institutions, a framework for knowledge exchange based on local seminars or workshops should be established. In 2025, the BN Luxembourg trialled such a scheme, with a 2 days seminar attended by 5-6 people. In order to implement this scheme, a transport and accommodation budget and administrative support will need to be provided to the host BN by the AI network group.

*International workshop.* Organized under the Danish EU Presidency, in collaboration with Europeana and AI4LAM, this in-person event in Copenhagen offers an excellent opportunity for European national libraries to exchange experiences and strategies with other stakeholders working in the field of AI.

*Annual workshop.* The group has organised two workshops since its creation (Paris 2023, Madrid 2025) which facilitated exchanges within the group and beyond. The new governance structure will enable one workshop to be organised per year thanks to the support of the co-chairs.

*Face-to-face meeting at a conference (at least once a year).* Major European conferences in the library sector can be used to organise group or sub-group meetings, as group members often attend these events. In 2025, the Fantastic Futures conference (London, December) will offer such an opportunity.

*Annual deliverables (at least once a year).* The network group “AI survey” update or other document must be delivered to the CENL community. In 2025, the group will submit a proposal regarding Ethics of AI in NELs.

*Cooperation with other initiatives.* AI4LAM has already committed to helping co-organise certain activities, particularly webinars with an educational focus. Contact with LIBER's AI task force is ongoing, as some of the proposed network group's members are also members of LIBER's task force

#### *Operation of the network group:*

- On-line meetings of the group's secretary (chairs, secretary, treasurer): every 2 months (30 mn)
- On-line meetings of the group: every 3 to 4 months, on a fixed slot (1 hour)
- One face-to-face workshop every year, hosted by a library (in rotation)
- A chat group to share resources (Slack, Basecamp...)
- Centralized resource sharing via Github ([AI in Libraries Network Group](#))

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Signature:



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Date: 1 September 2025

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Please email this form before **2 September 2025** to the CENL Secretariat at [cenl@dnb.de](mailto:cenl@dnb.de)

## Appendices

*End of section 5.3:*

The use of AI in the context of large data and metadata collections is a key goal of the *Austrian National Library* (ONB). Currently ONB is investigating AI in collaborative research projects for identifying text signals, for identification, extraction and classification of images in large corpuses of books and newspapers. In addition AI plays also a key role for cataloguing and will also be evaluated for the processing of online content. ONB hosted also events with the focus for AI in libraries (eg. ONB Labs Symposium 2024) and published a [policy](#) for the use of AI in 2024.

The *National Library of the Czech Republic* is at the beginning of the journey to use AI. It deals with the extraction of large data acquired in the digitization of library collections and the processing and exploiting the harvested content of web archive. The NLCR plans to use ML and AI in the digitization process, later to automate the cataloging of new acquisitions and process and use its contents using AI based systems.

*The National Library of Estonia* has carried out several projects on automated subject indexing and is currently implementing automated cataloguing. In addition, the Library has piloted chatbot and voicebot solutions. In 2023, DigiLab was launched as a platform to enhance the digital accessibility and usability of data, and to promote data enrichment, research, and innovation. All national mass digitisation projects, including the Estonian Web Archive, are integrated into this framework as a foundation for creating text corpora that will support the strategic implementation of AI in diverse applications and services. Through these initiatives, the Library seeks not only to adopt international best practices but also to strengthen the competences of its staff and contribute to building AI-related capacity across other Estonian memory institutions.

The KBLab at the *National Library of Sweden* provides scholars with access to the library's digitized collections, NLP-tunnels, computational resources and expertise in deep learning and language technology. Large language models (such as BERT and XLNet), trained on the library's digitized collections, will presently be made freely available.

The *National Library of Luxembourg* has started its first proof of concept machine learning project in 2016 to correct OCR for its digitized collection in 2019. Since then, it has used a variety

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of text and image-based tools like topic modeling, classifiers using BERT, image similarity and object detection to enhance the discoverability of its collections. In 2023 a chatbot was launched to interact with the entirety of the digitized heritage and since then a project was launched to automatize cataloguing for digital-born documents.

At the *Royal Danish Library* we have worked with experimenting and investigating different AI technologies in combination with our digital collections. We have a production line running for classifying images using Google Vision and a number of prototypes within NLP, Classification, nGram-viewer etc. online at KBLabs ([labs.kb.dk](https://labs.kb.dk)). In 2024 the library launched KB-GPT as an internal tool for all staff members and currently we are working with AI to extend access to millions of audio and video recordings.

Since 2020, the *Swiss National Library* has been building up knowledge in the field of machine learning and gaining initial experience as part of an Innovation Fellowship (Automatic classification of subject groups of e-dissertations, Face recognition for photo archives and (Semi)-automatic content indexing for the poster collection with existing methods). Currently, the AI focus is on the automatic indexing of posters. In addition, the conditions are currently being created to drive forward further AI projects.

The *KB, the national library of the Netherlands*, is actively exploring AI technologies, preferably in collaboration with research partners (e.g. [Cultural AI Lab](#) and [HAICu](#)), with the aim of using such technologies to improve access to its collections and to support its staff and processes. This engagement is guided by established principles ([AI in Libraries: Seven Principles](#), 2020). Since 2012 the KB has made substantial portions of its digital collections (comprising both Public Domain materials and copyright-protected works) available as data. In this context, the institution adopts a dual position: it is critical of the use of copyright-protected collections for the training of generative language models (cf. [AI Statement on Commercial Generative AI](#)), while at the same time facilitating the national dialogue between creators, publishers, and developers of language models.

Over the past decade, the *National Library of Spain* (BNE) has integrated AI into large-scale digitization, metadata enrichment, and language technology research. Through BNElab, it has deployed pipelines for collaborative transcription, semantic annotation, and georeferencing, enabling structured reuse of digitized collections. Its Spanish Web Archive, exceeding a petabyte of textual data, has been leveraged as training material for MarIA, a suite of Spanish large language models developed in collaboration with the Barcelona Supercomputing Center. BNE has also taken part in LibrarIN, a European initiative assessing AI adoption in national libraries, contributing insights on automation, NLP, and digital transformation challenges. These efforts, framed within Spain's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (ENIA), position BNE as both a cultural data provider and a testbed for advanced NLP research in Spanish.

The *National Library of Latvia* is applying AI to improve bibliographic processes, including automated retrospective cataloguing and experimental automated subject indexing. We have also tested generative AI for annotations and other metadata tasks. As a member of the CENL AI in Libraries network group, we are eager to stay connected and learn from innovative approaches across the community.

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The *National Library of Finland* develops and maintains Annif, a widely used tool for automated subject indexing. The National Library has also been researching the use of large language models for bibliographic metadata extraction. AI use for information retrieval is of interest to e.g. the Finna discovery service, as well as automated description of pictures. The library's 2025-2028 digitization program will explore AI for enhancing post-processing and search functions of digitized materials.

The *National Library of Scotland* has been publishing open data at scale since 2019 on our Data Foundry (<https://data.nls.uk/>) platform, and more recently on HuggingFace. This has led to a number of researcher-led collaborations around AI and the collections. We published our organisational [AI Statement](#) in 2025, which sets out our guiding principles and commitment to the 'responsible' adoption of AI. We are currently working with Daniel van Strien from HuggingFace to automate day-to-day elements of our workflows, with a view to publishing code and outputs for reuse.

The *National and University Library of Slovenia* initially piloted AI projects aimed at improving OCR, transcribing manuscripts, and colorizing black-and-white photographs, relying on technologies that had already been developed and tested. Now the focus has shifted towards more research-oriented projects, including semi-automatic cataloguing, automatic article segmentation, metadata enrichment and semantic search across text and images. NUK is one of the main contributors of the materials for the in-development Slovenian large language model GaMS.

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## CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

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### 1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Ms

Forename: Ineta

Surname (family name): Vaivode

### 2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Project manager, Research and Interpretation Centre

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Country: Latvia

### 3. Applicant Contact Information

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Mobile: +37129978329

Work address: Mūkusalas iela 3, Rīga

### 4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed network group topic in less than 300 words.

In recent years, libraries and other memory institutions have increasingly focused on how books are presented in exhibitions, turning them into complex, multisensory, and interdisciplinary projects for diverse audiences. Exhibitions are among the most important and powerful forms of communication. They often become the main channel for dialogue with visitors, offering transformative experiences that shape understanding, interest, and perceptions of collections. Exhibitions and other interpretive settings make parts of the collection accessible, present research results, provide critical perspectives on the subject, and balance educational goals with enjoyable experiences.

Over the past years, BANG! has stood out as one of the rare, enduring network groups focused on exploring and sharing knowledge in the field of book exhibitions. The group brings together curators, collections experts, and project managers from diverse national libraries and disciplines who are interested in sharing experiences, testing new approaches, and discussing the role of book exhibitions today. An essential aspect of the network group is to highlight that people from national libraries with responsibility for exhibitions are not alone; they are part of a connected network of professionals who face similar challenges but approach them with a wide range of innovative and creative solutions.

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To sum up, the topic of the network group is how national libraries and other memory institutions can use exhibitions (broadly defined) to engage audiences, share knowledge, and explore curatorial strategies, while fostering collaboration, inclusion, and sustainable practices.

4.2) Please describe the main aims of the proposed network group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2023 – 2027, and what its impact will be.

The main aim of the network group is to expand and strengthen a thriving network of expertise in the field of book exhibitions and audience development.

This is supported by two significant objectives:

- **Supporting exchange between institutions of different experience levels:** encourage active collaboration between national libraries and organizations with diverse and varied exhibition and audience engagement experience, sharing good practice and creating opportunities for innovation, growth and development.
- **Fostering critical thinking, discussion and practical application:** create opportunities for specialists to share knowledge, experiences, and skills through in-person study visits, enabling them to apply new ideas and methods in exhibition-making practices.

To do this, our main focus over the next three years will be organizing study visits to book exhibitions at national libraries. These visits will include tours and presentations of the exhibitions by the curators focusing on, for example, aims and objectives, techniques used, audience development and lessons learned from the exhibition-making process. The insights gained will be theorized and made accessible to a wider audience as practical tips and tricks for exhibition professionals.

While digital transformation remains a central issue on libraries' agendas, it is equally important to explore the changing relationship between visitors and institutions, a priority reflected in CENL's vision and closely aligned with BANG!'s goals. Public access to knowledge and information lies at the heart of library work, and the network aims to highlight exhibitions, not only as a form of engagement, but also as an effective way to present research and encourage critical thinking skills. In line with CENL's strategy, BANG! values cooperation with other memory institutions, such as archives and museums, as well as with individual experts. This broadens the exchange of knowledge and strengthens the capability of national libraries to create exhibitions and their capacity to engage wider, more diverse audiences.

Our goals are fully in line with the CENL 2023–2027 strategy, as the following quotation illustrates:

- *We will support our members to develop as memory institutions for the past and for the future.*

National Libraries preserve vast heritage collections. It can be shared with the wider public through exhibitions in the library. The network encourages library

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professionals to incorporate different media and interpretive approaches to presenting old collections, creating a link between past and present and making them more engaging for today's visitors.

- *We will continue to support our members to increase their impact and to be strong and networked organisations.*

The network helps raise awareness of its member institutions as opinion leaders in exhibition-making practices. Key findings emerging from the study visits will also be disseminated through BANG!'s existing communication platforms. The network group also plans to hold regular online meetings and to promote its work through CENL and BANG! communication channels.

- *We will continue to strengthen CENL as a community.*

By facilitating peer exchanges through visits to member institutions, we build a real community of colleagues working with similar material in different contexts. Study visits will also include discussions between attendees that share ideas and best practice, as well as new approaches and opportunities for potential collaboration. The study visits aim to strengthen connections and continue to build a network of practice and new ideas.

## Membership

5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:

1. National Library of Latvia
2. Royal Library of Belgium
3. National Library of Poland
4. National Library of Georgia
5. British Library
6. National Library Scotland
7. University of Leicester
8. Peter Lester - Independent researcher
9. The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge
10. The University of Manchester

5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation (CENL member library) for the following roles:

A Group Chair: Ineta Vaivode, National Library of Latvia

B Group Treasurer: Vanessa Braekeveld, Royal Library of Belgium

C Group Secretary: Maciej Szablewski, National Library of Poland

5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining the proposed network group.

Member institutions differ widely in their exhibition-making traditions. There is no unified approach across CENL libraries; each institution's practices are shaped by its mission, resources,

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and even architecture. This diversity is one of the network's greatest strengths, fostering exchange and learning across very different contexts. A library exhibition is not only a form of communication but also a tool for cultural diplomacy. This is why it is particularly important to welcome libraries for whom being an integral part of the European network is crucial, as in the case of the National Library of Georgia.

Some institutions in the network have recently opened permanent exhibitions, as in the case of the National Library of Poland. In the spring of 2024, a permanent exhibition was opened there, displaying 170 of the most valuable items from the National Library's vault.

The Royal Library of Belgium, the British Library, and the National Library of Latvia have showcased permanent exhibitions for several years, but they keep exploring new ways to rethink what a book exhibition can be. By collaborating with artists and researchers beyond the library field, they explore new perspectives, showing that book exhibitions are dynamic forms of interpretation and cultural dialogue rather than fixed traditions.

5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Ineta Vaivode is a Project Manager at the Research and Interpretation Centre of the National Library of Latvia and a guest lecturer at the Latvian Academy of Culture. She curated the exhibition "Text is not Our Type" and has contributed to international book exhibition projects in Belgium and Germany. Holding an MA with a thesis on the role of text in exhibition-making and the interpretation of objects on display, her research focuses on cultural heritage interpretation and intercultural communication. Since joining the network in 2022, she has served as secretary.

Vanessa Breakeveld has been part of BANG! since its creation, taking on different roles. She started her career at the Royal Library of Belgium in 2004 as a scientific assistant in the Music Department and, in 2005, founded the Education Department. What began with two staff and two activities grew into a vibrant program with a permanent exhibition, workshops, guided tours, events, and a team of volunteer guides, reaching 10,000 participants annually. Vanessa became responsible for KBR exhibitions in 2016, overseeing planning, partnerships, and visitor experience.

Maciej Szablewski has recently joined the network and is eager to take on the role of the Secretary. Since May 2024, he has been responsible for the permanent exhibition of the treasures of the National Library at the Palace of the Commonwealth. He also manages a team of over 30 staff serving both readers in the library's reading rooms and visitors to the exhibition. His duties include overseeing information services, coordinating guided tours, organizing workshops and promotional events

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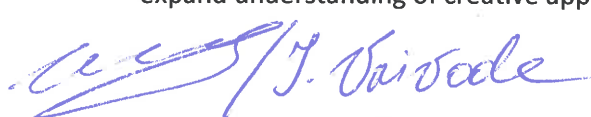
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5.4) Please describe the proposed network group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.

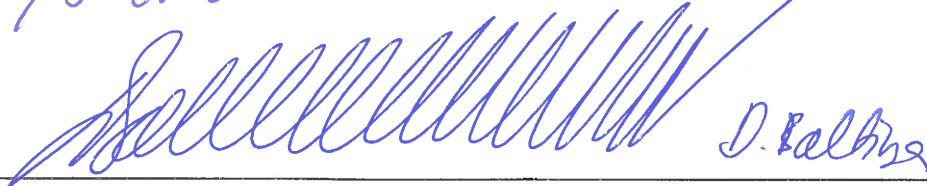
It is important to note that BANG! is not a newly formed group, but one that builds on six years of experience. So far, the focus has been on internal online meetings and an annual webinar, both aimed at providing open access to knowledge. This work culminated in a well-received in-person conference in Riga in May 2025. At that event, participants expressed a strong desire to continue the working group. Meeting in person has proven especially valuable, sparking enthusiasm and new insights among members. Over these years, the group has expanded its network, established new connections, and advanced topics relevant to the field. Looking ahead, BANG! intends to strengthen internal knowledge exchange through study visits while continuing monthly online meetings. The group envisions a three-year cycle culminating in either an in-person public conference or a published edition. Since the grant would primarily support networking activities, one priority will be to seek additional funding to ensure broader dissemination of outcomes. Partner updates will be shared regularly with all members, so everyone stays informed about news, resources, and good practices. This helps keep the community active, supports clear communication, and encourages ongoing collaboration.

To sum it up, main plans for the network work are to:

- Hold regular online meetings.
- Maintain written exchanges to share updates among partners.
- Organize study visits.
- Develop previously established communication platforms.
- Raise awareness of BANG members as experts in book exhibition design, promoting opportunities to invite them as speakers for national libraries outside the network to expand understanding of creative approaches to book exhibitions.

 J. Vaisode

Signature:

 D. Balke

Date:

01.09.2025

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## CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

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### 1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Ms

Forename: Rosemarie

Surname (family name): van der Veen-Oei

### 2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Head of Department

Department / Library: Research, KB National Library of the Netherlands

Address: Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, The Hague

Country: The Netherlands

### 3. Applicant Contact Information

Email: [Rosemarie.vanderVeen-Oei@kb.nl](mailto:Rosemarie.vanderVeen-Oei@kb.nl)

Mobile: +31 (0)6 38298545

Work address: Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, The Hague

### 4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed network group topic in less than 300 words.

The Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) Network Group will enable knowledge exchange, network building and professional support in relation to EEDI. The EEDI Network Group was created to support CENL Strategy 2023–2027 in three main areas:

- Support CENL libraries to develop as memory institutions for the past and for the future
- Support CENL libraries to increase their impact and be strong and networked institutions
- Strengthen CENL as a community

#### **Mission:**

To provide an equitable, equal, diverse and inclusive network for colleagues in CENL member Libraries to discuss, to share ideas, knowledge and practical advice, to support colleagues, and to create opportunities.

#### **Vision:**

To cultivate a thriving and interconnected community within CENL member Libraries where every colleague feels valued, empowered, and inspired. Enabling dialogues, sharing knowledge, and supporting learning from one another, we strive to creating a dynamic environment with opportunities for personal and professional growth. With the commitment of all members, we will build a legacy of innovation, equity, and excellence in the national library community.

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**Values:**

1. Equity
2. Equality
3. Diversity
4. Inclusion

4.2) Please describe the main aims of the proposed network group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2023 – 2027, and what its impact will be.

Since its establishment in January 2023, the EEDI Network Group has made significant progress in advancing CENL's 2023–2027 strategic objectives by promoting equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion across national libraries in Europe. The EEDI Group Sponsor is Karin Grönvall (National Library of Sweden). Highlights include:

- Successful 2 in person meetings in Skopje (2023) and Zagreb (2024), which brought together representatives from 11 national libraries. Additionally, 4 quarterly online meetings and 3 extraordinary online meetings were held.
- Development of shared priorities across education and training, communication, visibility, and collaboration with cultural and educational institutions.
- Strengthened partnerships, leadership transitions, and plans for the 2025 meeting in The Hague.
- A project application OPEN (Opportunities for People through Equity and Networking) which has been reviewed positively by the Erasmus+. The project was compiled by the Network Group, but only 7 of 11 CENL members are eligible for funding. We are still awaiting the final decision from Erasmus+.

These achievements demonstrate both the momentum and necessity of this network group to continue. At the same time, the scope and impact of EEDI work across national libraries require sustained commitment beyond the original three-year term.

The project OPEN will implement activities across different areas, e.g. inclusive collections, cultural awareness, training, and dissemination. It will organize focus groups with marginalized communities, develop a digital platform for cultural exchange, and run training seminars for library managers. Additionally, it will create an inclusive metadata framework, launch media campaigns, and engage associated partners to ensure long-term adoption of diversity strategies. The project will start at October 1, 2025 and will last until end of September 2028. This period aligns with the period of the new term.

With the support from CENL and hopefully Erasmus+ as well, we will increase our impact as a network by strengthening members in their role as memory institutions, building their capacity as resilient and well-connected organizations, and further consolidating CENL as a cohesive community - all fully aligned with CENL's strategic priority areas.

We therefore respectfully request that CENL approves an extension of the EEDI Network Group's term beyond its current mandate, in order to:

- Consolidate achievements and ensure continuity of leadership.
- Deepen collaborative initiatives and knowledge exchange.

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- Provide a stronger foundation for embedding EEDI principles into CENL's members institutions.

We believe this extension will safeguard the progress already made, and allow the entire EEDI Network Group of 11 members to continue contributing meaningfully to CENL's vision of inclusive, collaborative, and innovative national libraries.

5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:

1. KB Nationale Bibliotheek / KB National Library of the Netherlands
2. British Library
3. Nacionalna i sveučilišna knjižnica u Zagrebu / National and University Library in Zagreb
4. Bibliothèque nationale de France / National Library of France
5. Национална и универзитетска библиотека „Св. Климент Охридски“ / National and University Library “St Clement of Ohrid”
6. Народна библиотека Србије / National Library of Serbia
7. Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba / National Library of Scotland
8. Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Vatican Apostolic Library
9. Kungliga Biblioteket / National Library of Sweden
10. National Library of Ireland
11. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library of Bulgaria

5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation (CENL member library) for the following roles:

A Group Chair: Rosemarie van der Veen-Oei (KB Nationale Bibliotheek / KB National Library of the Netherlands)

B Group Treasurer: Maja Micevska (Национална и универзитетска библиотека „Св. Климент Охридски“ / National and University Library “St Clement of Ohrid”)

C Group Secretary: Lauren Turner (British Library)

5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words interest and expertise of CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining the proposed network group.

The CENL members are based in the national libraries of France, Ireland, Scotland, England, North Macedonia, Sweden, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and the Vatican, as well as of course the Netherlands. The current members tend to be committed to and already demonstrably working in EEDI areas within their libraries. As part of their library roles, our networking members are:

- Engaging in constructive discussion and exchange ideas on topics related to EEDI
- Collaborating on initiatives and projects that promote EEDI within their National Libraries and within our societies and communities.
- Actively resourcing and advocating for a broader understanding of and engagement with EEDI in their libraries and communities.

5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

- Rosemarie van der Veen-Oei currently heads the Research Department at the KB National Library of the Netherlands, where she is senior member of the Diversity & Inclusion team, which has grown from 5 to 22 members, including directors, and now

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operates through sub-groups, e.g. policy, collection/metadata management, etc. Rosemarie is part of the KB's core team for polyvocality and initiated the Erasmus+ project OPEN (Opportunities for People through Equity and Networking), which received positive review, though only 7 of 11 Network Group members are eligible for funding. She has been part of the EEDI Network Group since its inception.

- Maja Micevska Rizova has her background in psychology working with individuals with special needs. As a certified Gestalt counselor, she continues to volunteer with underrepresented communities, advocating for inclusivity and support. In the library sector Maja is a driving force behind innovative and creative events, seamlessly blending digital marketing, photography, and graphic design to enhance the library's public engagement. Her expertise extends to international projects and networks, where she plays a key role in fostering cross-border collaboration and cultural exchange. Maja has been actively involved as member and in the role of Treasurer of the CENL EEDI network group since 2023.
- Lauren Turner is currently Head of Inclusion and Engagement at The British Library and sits on the Board of Trustees at The Brunel Museum. Lauren leads key cultural change initiatives, shaping diversity and inclusion within the workforce. She brings extensive experience from the education sector, with expertise in Human Resources, employment law, recruitment, and learning and development. Passionate about making Libraries inclusive for both staff and visitors, Lauren is committed to fostering welcoming environments for all. Lauren has been an active member and secretary of the EEDI Network Group since the beginning.

5.4) Please describe the proposed network group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.

#### Meetings:

- The quarterly network group meetings are held online and for every meeting the secretary distributes the agenda in consultation with the chair.
- We plan our annual meeting in person and organised by one of the members. This meeting is covered by the CENL annual funding. Nevertheless, the annual CENL allocation of €5,000 has not been adequate to meet the total costs associated with travel, accommodation, and the organization of an in-person meeting for the full group of 11 members. Some libraries has provided additional funding to enable the members to attend the meetings.
- There is one informal Holiday Seasons coffee break (December) for all members.
- If needed, in-depth and thematic online meetings can be organised.

#### Structure:

- The EEDI Group Sponsor is Karin Grönvall (National Library of Sweden).
- Due to unforeseen circumstances and for the sake of continuation we have appointed a Deputy Chair (Dunja Marija Gabriel - Nacionalna i sveučilišna knjižnica u Zagrebu / National and University Library in Zagreb) and a Deputy Secretary (Jackie Cromarty - Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba / National Library of Scotland)

#### Visibility :

- We continue working on our visibility by presenting the CENL EEDI Network Group on several conferences, e.g. the Macedonian Library Association's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in Dojran, the National Library of Ukraine's scientific conference, etc.

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- We developed a plan of podcasting. Sweden and Croatia will take the initiative to have the first podcasts. Podcast will focus on challenges and future of EEDI topics in the respective country. This will be followed by France and the Netherlands.

Communication:

- We reached to all CENL members with a survey to help co-create our first three year plan which we plan to build on.
- We developed an information sheet for new members (see 5. 2024 information sheet new members)
- Soon after our in person meeting 2024 in Croatia Maja Micevska (National Library of North Macedonia) drafted an [article](#) about our findings to be published on the CENL website.
- To strengthen our network groups' communication an informal WhatsApp group was set up for sharing short messages including pictures from in person meetings, while email remains the main tool for distributing meeting documents and invites.

Signature:



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**Date:** 28 August 2025

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## CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

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### 1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Mrs  
Forename: Céline  
Surname (family name): Ben Amar

### 2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Head of the Contemporary Books Collection  
Department / Library: KBR - Royal Library of Belgium  
Address: Kunstberg 28, 1000 Brussels  
Country: Belgium

### 3. Applicant Contact Information

Email: celine.benamar@kbr.be  
Telephone: +3225195465  
Mobile: +32496409648  
Work address: Kunstberg 28, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

### 4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed network group topic in less than 300 words.

Libraries are undergoing a profound transformation, moving beyond their traditional role as custodians of collections to becoming active providers of spaces and services. The concept of space as a service [1] highlights the potential for both physical and digital library environments to be catalysts for advancing research, learning, and community engagement. According to OCLC research [2], libraries will increasingly act as “space providers,” offering environments that inspire and support diverse forms of knowledge creation.

Studies on user behavior confirm this shift. Students report using libraries most for quiet study, computer labs, reading rooms, cafés, and group study spaces [3]. These figures demonstrate that users turn to libraries for a wide spectrum of activities—from focused individual work to collaborative learning and social interaction. Such findings stress the importance of designing and managing national library spaces to foster critical thinking, creativity, and informed citizenship.

The proposed working group - The National Libraries’ User Spaces and Services Network Group (NLUSS) - would explore how library space and user services can be integrated into a coherent strategy that supports the educational, cultural, and social missions of national libraries. It would provide a platform for exchanging experiences, research, and best practices on topics such as flexible learning environments, inclusive design, technology-rich spaces, and user-centered service models.

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By addressing themes such as user engagement, the social aspects of reading rooms, and the balance between welcoming spaces and collection security, the group seeks to contribute to preserving and evolving library environments as vital places of intellectual work, identity formation, and democracy-building in the digital age.

[1] <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2022/4/moving-to-mobile-space-as-a-service-in-the-academic-library>

[2] <https://doi.org/10.25333/2d1r-f907>

[3] <https://universitybusiness.com/university-library-research-results-what-you-dont-know-might-hurt-you/>

4.2) Please describe the main aims of the proposed network group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2023 – 2027, and what its impact will be.

The National Libraries' User Spaces and Services Network Group (NLUSS) is dedicated to strengthening the role of library spaces within national libraries by fostering a collaborative, cross-border approach to innovation, service design, and user engagement. Its primary goal is to create a shared platform for professionals to explore emerging challenges and opportunities in the management of library spaces, with a particular focus on user experience, collection security, and the integration of digital and physical services.

This initiative directly supports the CENL Strategy 2023–2027 by contributing to greater institutional impact. NLUSS encourages national libraries to reimagine how their physical spaces serve a wide range of audiences, including researchers, tourists, and the general public, ensuring these environments remain inclusive, adaptable, and relevant. As libraries evolve in how they engage with both traditional users and broader communities, library spaces play a pivotal role in this transformation. Redesigning these spaces with input from users and insights from peers is increasingly essential to meet changing expectations.

NLUSS also contributes to professional development by facilitating regular meetings and knowledge exchange. Staff working in public-facing roles are highly skilled professionals whose expertise must be nurtured. By sharing know-how and best practices, the group supports colleagues in implementing new service models, rethinking space design, and enhancing user engagement, advancing CENL's commitment to innovation in a rapidly changing environment.

At its core, NLUSS is about connection. It brings together colleagues from across institutions to foster a shared sense of purpose and mutual support. As networked institutions, national libraries have much to learn from one another, and NLUSS provides the space to do so.

The group's impact will be reflected in improved service delivery, increased staff engagement, and the development of adaptable frameworks that can be applied across national libraries. NLUSS positions library spaces not as static, but as dynamic environments central to the future of European memory institutions.

## 5. Membership

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5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:

1. KBR - Royal Library of Belgium
2. National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia
3. Royal Danish Library
4. Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany
5. National Library of Ireland
6. Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, Italy
7. KB - National Library of the Netherlands
8. National Library of Scotland
9. Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica, Slovenia
10. British Library, United Kingdom
11. National Library of Wales
12. Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie, Poland

5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation (CENL member library) for the following roles:

A Group Chair: Céline Ben Amar - KBR (Royal Library of Belgium)

B Group Treasurer: Jill Dye - National Library of Scotland

C Group Secretary: Dorja Mučnjak - National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia

5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining the proposed network group.

The member libraries involved bring a diverse range of expertise and perspectives to the group. Each institution has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving reading room services and engaging with users in meaningful ways. Their interest lies in addressing common challenges such as collection security, user diversity, service innovation, and the integration of digital and physical experiences.

These libraries have experience in excellent user services, but also public programming, managing tourist access to iconic reading rooms, and reimagining reading rooms for future needs. Their participation ensures a rich exchange of ideas and practices, contributing to the development of scalable, adaptable solutions that benefit the wider CENL community. The libraries represent various corners of Europe, ensuring a wide range of expertise, challenges and knowledge.

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5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Chair: Céline Ben Amar brings over two years of experience chairing the independent 'International Reading Room Challenges' working group and has led multiple working groups within her library as Head of the General Reading Room. Her familiarity with the group's goals and dynamics, combined with a strong foundation in collaborative leadership, positions her well to guide its future direction within CENL. She is motivated by the opportunity to foster inclusive dialogue, strengthen professional connections across national libraries, and support innovation in user services and library spaces. Her commitment to professional development and knowledge exchange reflects a genuine enthusiasm for the group's mission and impact.

Treasurer: Jill Dye has ten years' experience on CILIP special interest group committees, and is currently Treasurer for the Rare Books and Special Collections Group. She manages the group's finances, reimburses committee expenses, ensures compliance with CILIP HQ rules, prepares the annual accounts, and coordinates event spending/ticket costs (£33k turnover for the 2024 conference broke even). As her CILIP term ends, she is keen to apply this experience in a European context, for a group which better aligns with her role as Head of Reader Services at the National Library of Scotland.

Secretary: Dorja Mučnjak, Library Advisor, has over 20 years of professional experience in various library roles with a strong focus on user services, information literacy, professional development, and library communication. Since 2021, she has served as Head of User Services at the National and University Library in Zagreb. In this role, she leads a team of approximately 50 staff members and oversees three core service areas: General Reference, Special Reference, and E-Scientific Information. Her responsibilities include managing people and processes, strategic planning, and advancing user-oriented services. She served as President of the Zagreb Library Association and currently is Editor-in-Chief of its professional bulletin.

5.4) Please describe the proposed network group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.

NLUSS will operate through regular online meetings (up to 2 hours), supplemented by email communication about various topics. One in-person meeting per year will be hosted by a participating library. The group will maintain an open, inclusive approach, encouraging contributions from all members of the network group and CENL. Topics will be proposed collaboratively, and outcomes will be documented and shared with the CENL community. The group will also explore partnerships with other CENL network groups and external organizations where relevant. The group has been unofficially active since 2022 and already held two in-in face meetings (2023 and 2024).

**CENL Secretariat**

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The CENL is registered at the Chamber of Commerce Haaglanden, NL, # 27177490



**Signature:**

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**Date: 1 september 2025**

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Please email this form before **2 September 2025** to the CENL Secretariat at [cenl@dnb.de](mailto:cenl@dnb.de)

**CENL Secretariat**

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