

## Press Release

### GUILDHALL LIBRARY WINS NAG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE 2014

**London, Monday 8 September 2014**

This year's National Acquisitions Group (NAG) Annual Conference provided the opportunity to present the Guildhall Library with the 2014 NAG Award for Excellence, for their Incunabula Project working with the Consortium of European Research Library (CERL).

Guildhall Library, City of London Corporation, holds 73 incunables (pre-1501 printed books) many of which are of interest to a wide audience including international academics and researchers but until now have been hidden treasures, largely uncatalogued, within the library.

Dr Cristina Dondi said of the project *"Progressive libraries are now offering images of provenance evidence on the web, either on their own website or using tools such as Flickr or Pinterest. The enterprise is praiseworthy as it raises the quality of scholarly research exponentially. Linking pictures to MEI offers an excellent opportunity to assure that evidence of provenance, illustrated in a London library website, will be picked up in Massachusetts if relating to the same former ownership."*



Simon Skinner, Sales Director of Nielsen Book, Discovery Services commented *"Nielsen is proud to sponsor the NAG award for the fourth year. It is all too easy to dwell on the challenges being faced by libraries, and in particular public libraries, so the NAG Award offers a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate success and innovation. Nielsen would like to thank NAG and the judging panel for their work and to congratulate the Guildhall Library for their achievement"*.

(Pictured left to right: Ann Martin and Sara Pink receiving this year's award from Corina Petcu, Key Account Manager from Nielsen Discovery Services).



Working with CERL, the Guildhall Library is in the process of capturing the wealth of provenance information found within these books to enhance their catalogue records and add the information to CERL's new MEI database (Material Evidence in Incunabula). This project will enable worldwide access to provenance information for researchers and family historians and, by including digitised images from the collection; they are bringing it to life and encouraging researchers to transcribe the more challenging annotations and marginalia for them.

The project is anticipated to take 12 months to complete with cataloguing carried out book-in-hand and pages selected for digitisation depending on the presence of provenance information to add to MEI and to their collections site on Pinterest.

The award's judging panel received a number of high quality applications, all from teams doing innovative work to develop the acquisitions process through the use of technology.

**About this Award:**

Designed to promote excellence, original thinking and innovation by a library or individual within the field of Bibliographic Services and Acquisitions, the NAG Excellence Award is sponsored by Nielsen and is in its fourth year. The previous winners are Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Public Library Service (2011) and Graham Stone, Dave Pattern and Briony Heyhoe-Pullar representing the University of Huddersfield (2012) and Derbyshire County Council Libraries and Heritage Division (2013).

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The images and transcriptions from the Incunabula Project can be viewed here:  
<http://www.pinterest.com/guildhalllib/guildhall-library-incunabula-inc2/>

**About NAG**

NAG is a voice for everyone from all sectors associated with library and information resources: Chief Officers, librarians, publishers and service suppliers – providing leadership and a source of shared expertise for its membership in the public, academic and private sectors.

NAG produces industry standards and impartial good practice guidelines relating to its core purpose. It offers opportunities for education and training, knowledge sharing and networking through its annual conference and a series of regional seminars and workshops.

**About Nielsen Book**

Nielsen Book is a leading provider of information, transaction and sales analysis services globally. Nielsen runs the Registration Agencies (ISBN and SAN Agencies for UK & Ireland, ISTE), provides search and discovery products through its Nielsen Book Discovery product range, electronic trading services via Nielsen Book Commerce and retail sales analysis via Nielsen Book Research services.



In 2013 Nielsen acquired two business Intelligence and commerce solutions products, consisting of: PubTrack™ Digital, PubTrack™ Christian, PubTrack™ Higher-Ed, and Bowker Market Research Books & Consumers, Global Ebook Monitor and custom research. Commerce Solutions products: PubEasy® and Pubnet®. This acquisition will enhance Nielsen's Book solutions portfolio and brings deeper insights and improved efficiencies to the global book industry. Nielsen Book employs 120 staff in the UK. The company is wholly owned by Nielsen. For more information, please visit: [www.nielsenbook.co.uk](http://www.nielsenbook.co.uk)

**About Nielsen**

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