

ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM – ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2011-2012

The KBR Mission Statement

The Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) is a scientific institution of the Federal Belgian State (Federal Science Policy) which is responsible for collecting and making available to the public, now and in the future, all publications produced in Belgium or elsewhere by Belgian authors or concerning Belgium. The KBR is responsible for the Legal Deposit in Belgium and conserves a large, rich and varied European heritage (manuscripts, old printed books, newspapers, prints, music collections, medals and coins, maps and plans...).

1. Mandate; governance and organisation

Since 2005, KBR is directed by the historian Prof. Dr. Patrick Lefèvre, who has been prolonged by the Minister in charge of the Federal Science Policy for a new 6 years mandate (2011-2017). At the same time, the Federal Science Policy Administration has signed for the next years an Agreement of Administration with the Minister which opens a changing period with many structural reorganisations. The scientific institutions are already really encouraged to initiate or reinforce their collaborations. The KBR and the National Archives are working together since a long time. They started to reinforce their collaborations.

2. E-publications

The KBR has continued to develop its voluntary e-depot of Belgian publications (electronic monographs as well as electronic periodicals). KBR has made an upgrade of its DIGITOOL platform (hardware and software) to reinforce its project.

3. Conservation

The KBR has continued its efforts to harmonize its practices for conservation and preservation.

4. Digitization; digital library

On the international level, the KBR has taken part in two European digitization projects. 41 manuscripts from the Middle Age and the Renaissance have been digitised since 2010 for the project EUROPEANA REGIA, led by the Bibliothèque nationale de France (www.europeanaregia.eu).

In May 2011 started the project EUROPEANA COLLECTIONS 1914-1918, led by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. For this project, the KBR digitises more than 10.000 documents (books, music sheets, journals, prints, maps, leaflets, pictures) regarding the WW1 (www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu). In this project, the KBR is responsible for the coordination of the content and the enlargement of the network (WP2).

On the Belgian level, the KBR has finalised the digitization of 70 titles of Belgian newspapers. More than 3.6 M digitised pages of daily press are now accessible in the reading rooms of the library.

The KBR has also taken part in CARTESIUS, a federal digitization project that aims to aggregate Belgian geo-referenced cartographic heritage.

The KBR has also set up an internal mass digitization service which is dedicated to the printed heritage (originals and microfilms). This service has already digitised more than 100.000 pages, including 70.000 pages of music (music journals, music sheets and rare musical treasures) and WW1 material. Around 5.000 prints and 2.000 old printed books also have been digitised at the same time.

5. Exhibitions and events

One important exhibition took place at the KBR in 2011: FLEMISH MINIATURES. First showed in Brussels and later in Paris, this exhibition was made in collaboration with the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Around 22.000 visitors have seen this exhibition in Brussels.

As usual, the KBR has organised and welcomed many scientific conferences and meetings.

6. National and International partnerships; cooperation

On the National level, the KBR participates in the Belgian French and Flemish councils on scientific libraries.

On the International level, the KBR participates in many different organisations and projects that are connected with its missions and activities, like CENL, CERL, EROMM, IFLA, EUROPEANA, TEL, RFN (Réseau francophone numérique), ISSN (the Royal Library organises the ISSN Center for Belgium), LIBER (Groupe des Cartothécaires), RILM (Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale), RISM (Répertoire International des Sources Musicales), INC (International Numismatic Commission), FIDEM (Fédération Internationale des Médailles), CIC (Centre International de Codicologie).

7. Key figures

General collection (in million of units)	6
Budget (in million)	15
Staff (full time equivalents)	256,32
Scientific staff (full time equivalents)	30