

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek  
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Germany



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Name of country: **Germany**

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: **German National Library**

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### 1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

The website "Arts in Exile"

The "Arts in Exile" website went online in 2013. More than 30 research institutions, archives, museums and galleries have joined forces to create this project network: alongside the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach – which has been involved right from the outset – further network members include the Jewish museums in Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich, the Bundesarchiv, the Max-Beckmann-Archiv, the Academy of Arts and the Gesellschaft für Exilforschung. The Österreichische Exilbibliothek in Vienna, the Thomas-Mann-Archiv in Zurich and the Schweizerische Literaturarchiv are also involved. And naturally also the German Exile Archive 1933–1945 of the German National Library which has also been leading the project. The overriding aim of this virtual exhibition is "to make the life and work of exiled artists and intellectuals accessible – as an important and decisive part of our cultural heritage and as a sign of remembrance and commemoration," as the former Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Bernd Neumann, emphasised during the project presentation in the Chancellery on 18 September 2013. Neumann had launched the project a year earlier, providing three quarters of a million euros of funding in the first step. A further two million euros have been invested into the digitisation of works of art by the various participating institutions in setting up the exhibition. The result is a website which effectively shines a spotlight on the exiles and their work – including visual artists, photographers, writers, architects, theatre and film directors, dancers, actors and musicians. The main groups being honoured are the creative artists who fled from the National Socialist dictatorship, but also emigrants from the former GDR and contemporary exile artists who have come to Germany in search of shelter from political persecution at home.

The strategy process

In these times of digitisation and international networking, the German National Library is continuing to develop its processes, methods and modes of practice. The main focus in 2013 was on the formulation of the "Strategic Priorities 2013 to 2016". The priorities for the coming years were defined in close coordination with all those involved and, in a new

departure in the institution's 100-year history, they have now also been published. To help manage this strategy process, an external organisational consultancy project for professional support was put out to tender in the latter half of 2013. In November it was announced that a further employee survey would be carried out in spring 2014. The findings will then be fed into the new organisation development process.

## The international standard RDA

The German National Library is currently leading efforts to introduce the new Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard in the German-speaking countries. Significant progress was made in 2013. In May the German translation of the code was released as part of the online version of RDA – the RDA toolkit. A printed version followed in July. In August 2013 the DNB became the first non-Anglo-American member of the Committee of Principals. The majority of the necessary adjustments to the Integrated Authority File (GND) were presented for approval in September. The practical test phase was also launched, the roll-out was prepared and training programmes elaborated. The most significant developments, however, were the joint creation and adaptation of application rules for the German-speaking countries.

## **2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations**

The German National Library is a Federal institution with legal capacity under public law. The Law regarding the German National Library (<http://bundesrecht.juris.de/dnbg/index.html>, in German only) defines the tasks, obligations and organs of the Federal institute. The Law confers widespread autonomy on the German National Library; it comes under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Supplementary to the Law, the Legal Deposit Regulation (PflAV), which came into force on 23 October 2008, increased the level of detail specified in the collection mandate (BGBl. I P. 2013). Basically, the Law and the Directive lay down what the German National Library is to collect.

Since 1913 the Library has collected works in various media published in Germany, works in various media published abroad in German, translations into other languages of German works published abroad, "Germanica" - i.e. works in various media about Germany published abroad in other languages, printed works written or published between 1933 and 1945 by German-speaking emigrants.

Works in various media, in both physical and non-physical form, are collected. This includes conventional publications in paper form but also microforms, sound recordings, physical works on electronic data carriers and online publications.

The Legal Deposit Regulation sets out the right of the German National Library to be sent, free of charge and without a specific request being issued, works in different media from Germany, while excluding those whose collections are of no public interest from the deposit copy obligation. All commercial and non-commercial publishers in Germany are obliged to submit two mandatory copies of their works, free of charge, to the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.

### **3. Key facts and figures (31.12.2013)**

- 701 full time equivalents
- total budget: 54.465.000 Euro
- total holdings: 28.714.645 items
- new acquisitions in 2013: 947.474 items
- users per day: 741
- orders per day: 2.284

### **4. New developments in creating and building collections**

The new acquisitions in 2013, including 600,000 physical media publications, increased the number of holdings to roughly 29 million units. Approximately 700 websites of federal authorities and institutions, political parties, interest groups, cultural institutions, sports associations and religious communities are regularly harvested in the selective web harvesting process. The number of online publications collected passed the one million mark in 2013. The automated workflow for the collection of e-Paper editions – around 17,600 editions of daily and Sunday newspapers per month – went into routine operation.

### **5. New developments in managing collections**

190,500 volumes were descriptively catalogued in 2013. The collection of online publications surpassed the one million mark. Reflecting the importance of the area of automatic indexing methods, a separate organisational unit was set up for this purpose. Significant progress was also made in introducing the Resource Description and Access (RDA) international indexing standard in the German-speaking libraries. The German National Library is the first institution outside the Anglo-American world to become a member of the Committee of Principals.

A major step was taken in 2013 with the reorganisation of the Preservation section which was given a new work and responsibility profile and considerably strengthened. The main structural preventive measures were carried out in Leipzig. Roughly 31,000 kg of library stocks were treated in the last year of the current framework agreement on mass deacidification for the Federal libraries and archives. By the end of August 2013 roughly 830,000 pages from 8,000 books had been digitised as part of the "Digitisation of damaged book media" project.

### **6. New developments in providing access to collections.**

Identical opening hours at both sites were introduced from 1 June 2013 (Mon to Fri 9:00–22:00, Sat 10:00 –18:00). A total of 23,451 users availed themselves of the library's reading rooms. The number of times that electronic media were accessed increased by ten percent, albeit at the expense of the use of analogue holdings. In the field of catalogue enrichment, the figure of one million digitised tables of contents was passed. A platform for presenting virtual exhibitions was successfully set up. This allowed the "Arts in Exile" exhibition to go online on 18 September.

### **7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)**

See 1: Arts in Exile and The international standard RDA