

Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) 2012

Bibliothèque nationale de France : 2011 – 2012

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2012

The whole annual report (in French) is available at www.bnf.fr: La BnF > Connaître la BnF : <http://webapp.bnf.fr/rapport/html/accueil.htm>

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

Performance contract through 2013. The BnF's actions are guided by the strategic orientations defined in its multiannual performance contract, structured around six major objectives that strongly stress digital media. An assessment of the performance contract's implementation has shown significant results on the priority actions it includes, from developing the "Gallica" digital library, and the digitisation of our collections, to the projects undertaken to renovate our scientific and cultural offer on-site and on-line or to modernise our management resources.

The establishment's strategic priorities are now part of a sharply modified context, notably due to the priority given to the digitisation of our cultural heritage under the national loan plan and the government's "Investments for the Future" programme. Significant work has been carried out by the BnF teams to prepare for the required changes in terms of methods and rhythms applied in digitising our national collections for large-scale programmes, aiming at digitise the entire collections within 20 years.

Renovation work on the Library's historical building in the centre of Paris (rue de Richelieu).

The year 2011 saw the end of the architectural studies and the effective start of the work. This renovation is combined with the drafting of a scientific and cultural project in close cooperation with the hosted institutions, the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art and the École Nationale des Chartes.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Gallica digital library. As of July 2012, Gallica, the digital library [<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>], contained over 1.8 million documents. This spectacular growth is mainly the result of ambitious digitisation programmes for printed materials and the press.

Gallica operates in an architecture with the latest graphics and ergonomics, notably providing new services and functions such as the embeddable viewer enabling users to share Gallica documents on a website or blog, or even your Facebook wall. A new JPEG2000 zoom that was first applied to maps was expanded to other types of documents in 2011, notably daily newspapers. Facebook or Netvibes pages and Twitter feeds can be used to follow and share Gallica news.

This enhanced offer can be measured in the continuing progression of Gallica's audience, reaching 9.5 million visits in 2011.

Digitisation and exploitation of copyrighted out of print books of the 20th century. A framework agreement, which is the expression of a desire to breathe new digital life to 20th century books under copyright which are no longer published was signed in February 2011 by the Minister of Culture and Communication, the General Commissioner for Investment at the Prime Minister's Office, representatives of the Syndicat National de l'Édition, the Société des Gens de Lettres and the President of the BnF. A corpus containing 500,000 books can thus be digitised and proposed for sale within the next 5 years. The books will be digitised from copies held in the legal deposit collections at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, which may keep a digital copy for its own use. The Gallica website (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>) will present the totality of the enriched bibliographical references, with browsing possibilities and will redirect to commercial websites for purchasing digital books. Financial support from the French government will be included in the "Development of the Digital Economy" programme, endowed with 4.5 billion euros.

Partnerships for the digitisation and promotion of the BnF's collections in the public domain.

In July 2011, a call for partnerships was launched for digitising and promoting the BnF's collections under the "Investments for the Future" programme. Thus, the BnF has identified 12 bodies of works that could be digitised in partnerships with private actors who would like to promote them

commercially: ancient books from 1470 to 1700; a set of 3 to 500,000 printed works in French from the public domain; the French press from 1780 to 1940; 78-rmp and LP records; medieval and modern manuscripts; portrait collections; genealogies and family histories; territories: maps and representations of France and foreign countries; local history; music photography; French cinema from the origins to World War II.

Some of these bodies of works could be extended to the national domain so that other libraries could benefit from the “Investments for the Future” system, both in Paris and in the provinces. All these works will be digitised with private partners who, in exchange for possible commercial use, will contribute to the digitisation’s financing, thus making it possible to considerably increase Gallica’s current volume within just a few years. With support from the Fonds national pour la Société Numérique (FSN), set up by the French government and managed by the Caisse des Dépôts as part of the “digital economy development” programme under the “Investments for the Future”, the BnF set up a 100%-owned subsidiary, “BnF-Partenariats” in December 2011. This subsidiary’s mission is to sign agreements for the digitisation and commercial promotion of the collections. The agreements will take into account the recommendations from the European Union’s “Comité des sages” to define the criteria of duration and exclusivity for commercial exploitation by the partner company.

COLLECTIONS (development, management, access)

Reinforced Internet legal deposit mission. The BnF’s French Internet legal deposit mission was laid down in a decree dated 19 December 2011. This major step forward consolidated and widened the scope of the system for gathering, preserving and transmitting the Internet archives already set up by the establishment. It is within this new context that the Library launched a targeted archiving campaign for the websites set up for France’s 2012 Presidential and Legislative elections.

Remarkable cultural heritage acquisitions with patronage support. Legal deposit, current and cultural heritage acquisitions and many donations and bequests of works and personal archives from authors and creators have continued to enrich our collections. Cultural heritage acquisitions, largely supported by patronage, have made it possible to enrich the collections with major works, beginning with the illuminated manuscript of the *Life of Saint Catherine of Alexandria* and the archives of the thinker, Guy Debord, both classified as national treasures.

A new on-line service proposed by the BnF for following the news in the publishing world. Keeping up with a publisher’s production, a collection, new publications on a given topic or searching for a title or author – all this is now possible for everyone, book professionals or simple book lovers, thanks to the on-line service in French, “Nouveautés Éditeurs” (**nouveautes-editeurs.bnf.fr**). In agreement with the publishers who use the on-line declaration service, depotlegal.bnf.fr, set up earlier, it has provided information on books available on-line in the form of announcements with daily updates since February 2011.

Data.bnf.fr makes the BnF’s data accessible by the web. To make its resources more visible to web users, the BnF has come up with a new tool – data.bnf.fr. This tool can be used to create web pages concerning authors and works by linking content using the RDF format (Resource Description Framework). The nature of the project presupposes major data organisation work in keeping with the latest models of bibliographic description and the techniques of the semantic web. This modelling work is mostly completed. A first version has been operational since July 2011 with a first body of works that will be expanded. The first user feedback is encouraging: more than 80% of views come directly from search engines and there is a 70% bounce rate toward BnF websites.

COOPERATION

Digital documents remain fertile ground for cooperation. On the **national** level, digital cooperation between the BnF and other French libraries, including Gallica, is the principal vector, notably leading to multiannual programmes for concerted digitisation and promotion.

Storage and archiving of digital content is now a line of cooperation between the BnF and its domestic partners. The high-performance digital storage and archiving infrastructure set up by the BnF to preserve digital resources from technological obsolescence and to ensure that they remain accessible over the very long term, was opened to partners in 2011, thus making it possible to pool costs and skills. Under the “third-party archiving” agreement signed in December 2011 between the BnF and the Centre National d’Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, 170,000 gigabytes of data from the Pompidou Centre will be preserved and archived at the BnF for a total renewable period of eight years. This fee-based service has also been offered to other institutions and administrations.

Internationally, the BnF has pursued dynamic collaborations, notably playing a new role in the construction of a cultural Europe. It has thus:

- given new impetus to its European action, as can be seen in the European technological and documentary projects that it coordinates (Europeana Regia, Keep) or participates in (Europeana Collections 1914-1918, Europeana Newspapers, Europeana Awareness, BHL-Europe), but also in the creation of new bilateral cooperation projects, such as with Poland, and in its contribution to Europeana, with which it has strengthened its ties.
- reinforced its presence in the governing bodies of the CENL (Conference of European National Librarians) and the Europeana Foundation with the election of the BnF's President to the chairmanship of these two organisations in 2011. In the context of these European activities, the BnF's President is committed to freeing up access to the metadata in Gallica and Europeana. The BnF is committed to putting its own metadata under a CCO license.
- worked for the consolidation of the Réseau Francophone Numérique (French-Language Digital Network) [<http://www.rfnum.org/>] through a number of actions: joint oversight, with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, of a study on improving the portal's accessibility, participation alongside the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec in training programmes for countries in the French-speaking world (regional seminar in Senegal) and providing technical expertise in the context of the digitisation of a body of French language Cambodian press publications.
- renewed its cooperation through new agreements with North Africa, notably Morocco and Tunisia, and pursued cooperation with Haiti in respect of solidarity between French speakers.

KEY FIGURES FOR 2011

- the BnF received for legal deposit from publishers: 70,109 books (increasing by 4% compared to 2010), 319,203 periodicals (slightly up by 1%), 14,298 brochures and miscellaneous publications, 13,189 specialised documents and 26,156 audiovisual and audio documents;
- 57 TB of data for 1.6 billion URLs were gathered under its Internet legal deposit mission;
- 923,267 readers were welcomed to the reading rooms at the various BnF sites and 1,272,420 documents were made available;
- at the end of 2011, the Gallica digital library (www.gallica.fr) proposed over 1,600,000 documents on line (representing a 24% increase), 5% of which came from partner libraries and 5% from partners working with e-distributors. Gallica received nearly 9.5 million visits (up by 28% over 2010);
- 197,000 people visited the exhibition areas, including 87,787 paid admissions to temporary exhibits;
- 22,103 people attended the 190 organised events (debates, conferences, concerts, lectures);
- 15,420 students and teachers (compared with 16,824 in 2010) took part in educational activities;
- at the end of 2011, staff at the BnF comprised 2,558 agents (or 2,387 full-time equivalents);
- the 2011 budget amounted to 264 million euros.