German National Library Annual Report 2011

2011 Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Bernd Neumann opened the fourth annex building of the German National Library in Leipzig on 9 May. In his opening speech he underlined the importance of libraries as preservers of culture. 500 guests from the worlds of politics and culture, people involved in the annex construction and staff and friends of the library celebrated the opening of the new building. It provides the German Museum of Books and Writing (Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum) with space for its new permanent exhibition, additional exhibition space, a new reading room, stacks and offices. The German Music Archive (Deutsches Musikarchiv), which relocated from Berlin to Leipzig at the end of 2010, was given a reading room, exhibition space, stacks and office space plus a recording studio, digital conversion facility and listening booth.

The completion of the building and its opening were the events which attracted most public attention. However, the German National Library also pressed ahead with many individual activities and developments in 2011, all dedicated to the same overall purpose: that of comprehensively collecting publications in conventional and new formats, cataloguing them, making them available for use and ensuring their long-term preservation – for which the German National Library has been mandated since being founded on 3 October 1912. 2012 is therefore the centenary year of the library.

The German National Library is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary in 2012 with a programme of events scheduled to take place between the two book fairs. The centenary highlights include the opening of the new permanent exhibition of the German Museum of Books and Writing, an exhibition devoted to exile in Frankfurt am Main, the open-air concert weekend in Leipzig, presentation of the commemorative silver coin and stamp in Frankfurt am Main and the official ceremony in the Leipzig reading room on 2 October.

Archiving

The collections held by the German National Library continued to grow, primarily as a result of the undiminished acquisition of physical media publications: books, journals, sheet music and sound recordings. Detailed information is provided in the statistical section of the Annual Report.

Online publications The German National Library collects and processes online publications largely using automatic procedures. A third form, the so-called hotfolder method, has been added to the existing web form and OAI technical interfaces. This enables depositors to submit objects and metadata to a server from where the German National Library can import them automatically. The hotfolder supplements the existing submission options by providing a push process capable of handling large volumes of data. Objects are currently collected in PDF or E-Pub format.

Metadata is delivered to the library along with the objects, regardless of the method used. It is converted into catalogue entries and is then visible in the catalogue of the German National Library; the publications are archived.

The German National Library intensified its collaboration with book industry aggregators and service providers. Service providers now include the submission of online publications as digital publisher deliveries in their range of services.

e-papers The system for automatically collecting, cataloguing and making available the e-paper editions of more than 300 daily newspapers went into routine operation. 1,800 issues are added to the collection each week; these are available for use on the screens in the reading room.

Online university publications The online university publication submission system changed over to the new metadata standard XMetaDissPlus in the middle of 2011. University libraries submitting larger quantities of publications use the OAI interfaces, whereas smaller numbers of university dissertation and thesis publications can be deposited using the relevant web form.

Cataloguing and bibliographic indexing

Cataloguing All physical publications collected by the German National Library in 2011 were descriptively catalogued. In addition, approximately 150,000 publications were subject catalogued by the German National Library, roughly 103,000 of these with subject headings and/or DDC notation. Following customary practice, all bibliographic data was made available for re-use.

The German National Library introduced its first machine-based cataloguing processes in 2011. An automatic comparison is made which links the title data records of parallel online and printed editions of the same work with each other and reciprocally exchanges non type-related information such as subject cataloguing data and authority data links. This process allows existing cataloguing data to be re-used. The direct link also permits users to switch rapidly from one edition to another. A further process also allows an automatic link to be made to the Name Authority File for the steadily increasing number of personal names which can no longer be manually processed.

In addition a process is used for the machine-based issuing of subject categories. This deploys a learning system which is primed with publications which have already been catalogued. The development of an automatic process for subject indexing is not yet complete. A system is being set up which analyses machine-readable texts, extracts salient terms as subject headings and checks these against the controlled vocabulary of the authority files.

DDC The DDC German consortium was dissolved in the autumn after roughly ten years. This body, in which most German-speaking library networks were represented, oversaw and supported the introduction of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system in the German-speaking countries. Naturally, the partners will continue to collaborate on all DDC-related issues.

Roughly 2,500 classes were either changed or created last year. The main emphasis was on the areas of computer science and language.

RDA The German National Library is the first non Anglo-American institution invited to join the Joint Steering Committee for Development of the RDA (JSC) which is responsible for developing and shaping the Resource Description and Access (RDA) standard. The interests of the German-speaking library community will therefore be directly represented in the development of the RDA standard. The German National Library and the expert groups of the Committee for Library

Standards have contributed to the establishment of this new cataloguing standard over many years.

Staff members of the Office for Library Standards held numerous lectures and training events on RDA during the course of 2011. The Office for Library Standards regularly issues information on the latest RDA developments via the Internet and its public RAK mailing list. The thrice-yearly "Newsletter for Library Standards and Cataloguing" also contains relevant information.

GND The Integrated Authority File (GND) combines the hitherto separate content of the authority files – the Corporate Body Authority File GKD (Gemeinsame Körperschaftsdatei), the German Personal Name Authority File PND (Personennamendatei), the Subject Headings Authority File SWD (Schlagwortnormdatei) and the Uniform Title File of the German Music Archive (DMA-EST file) – to form an integrated authority file. All library networks in the German-speaking countries and the German Union Catalogue of Serials (ZDB) are involved in the GND project alongside the German National Library. The GND-MARC format has been available since April 2011 and development of the GND format was completed by the end of the year. Different sets of rules are affected by the amalgamation of the authority files meaning that interim rules were required for the GND in various fields. These were unanimously accepted by the Committee for Library Standards in October.

VIAF The VIAF (Virtual International Authority File) is an authority file which virtually integrates existing national authority files. The purpose of the VIAF is to link together different sets of authority data from all over the world and to provide users with access to publications via authority data in the preferred language and script. The authority data of the authority files from the German-speaking authority files constitutes a substantial part of the basis for this. Very large numbers of searches are conducted in the VIAF from the German-speaking countries.

The VIAF currently compares 25 authority files from 20 partners using a machine-based matching process; successful results are shown as clusters. Non-Latin scripts such as Hebrew, Cyrillic and Arabic can also be found in the VIAF. The VIAF therefore represents a highly effective international search instrument for personal names. There are also plans to integrate corporate body data records and titles of works.

Catalogue enrichment The number of digitised tables of contents almost doubled to more than 755,000. They can be included in full-text searches via the portal catalogue. The digitisation of tables of contents from ongoing monograph acquisitions (Series A and B) and, retrospectively, those of books from the early 1980s, and also the ingest of digitised tables of contents from six library networks have contributed to this. The collaboration with MVB Marketing- und Verlagsservice des Buchhandels GmbH saw the number of content descriptions provided by publishers increase by 50,000 to a total of 370,000 texts.

Bibliographic data The service developed in 2010 to make the authority data of the German National Library available as linked open data went into routine operation at the start of 2011. An SRU (Search/Retrieve via URL) and OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) interface was established in addition to the existing access options (http, FTP). It is now possible to search the data and access multiple data records simultaneously.

RDFxml was added to the range of free formats offered via the SRU interface for authority records. RDF (Resource Description Framework) is basically a system for describing resources. It is a core component of the semantic web and its purpose is to transfer the principles of the World Wide Web (linked content, openness, heterogeneity) from documents to general data.

Serving the users

The German National Library was open for use on 297 days in 2011. Bibliographic information inquiries accounted for a large number of requests, as did inquiries about title protection. The stack and book issue staff members in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main processed 609,996 borrowing slips and sought 569,654 items in the stacks for issue to users. By the end of the year 500 pre-installed electronic publications were available on data carriers, and 32 national licences and all online publications were accessible on all reading room computers.

The opening of the annex building to the German National Library in Leipzig saw the addition of three reading rooms: the reading room of the German Music Archive, the reading room of the German Museum of Books and Writing and the Shoah reading room. The new music reading room provides superior technical facilities for listening to music at 18 work stations. Sound recordings can be converted into digital versions. Booklets and other materials accompanying the sound recordings are also available for use. Four work stations equipped with piano keyboards are provided in the music reading room for practical work with sheet music. The facilities are completed by a reference library containing almost 5,000 musicological works. This supplements the extensive specialist music history and music bibliography library. A sound-proofed listening booth containing multichannel surround sound equipment (5.1 configuration) is available for discerning listeners. Nearly all types of sound recordings can be digitally converted in the recording studio.

Since the middle of the year, the German National Library has made sheet music and sound recordings published from 1993 available for use at its Frankfurt site. Sound recordings can be used on the terminals in the reading room of the library. High fidelity sound quality is provided in a specially equipped listening booth and in the mediatheque.

The opening of the Shoah reading room, which contains additional work areas, the Anne-Frank-Shoah Library and the reference library of the Collection of Exile Literature (Sammlung Exil-Literatur) makes two important special collections available for direct use. The reading room is part of the series of reading rooms: the six reading rooms of the historical building and the extensions are linked together over two storeys. The map reading room can now be accessed via the multimedia / journals reading room.

The museum reading room opened for service in March. The collections of the museum are available for practical use and for study and research purposes. The open-access reference library features roughly 3,500 German and foreign language books and specialist journals on the history of handwriting, paper, book illustration, printing, publishing, the press and many other topic areas related to the five thousand year history of book and media culture.

Digitisation In September the German National Library began work on digitising roughly 8,000 books which are no longer available for use on account of their poor state of repair due, for example, to their being severely damaged by acid corrosion. The digitised versions serve the purpose of long-term preservation and can be accessed in the reading rooms of the library. Approximately 1.36 million pages are to be digitised over a period of two years.

A bookviewer has been set up for accessing digitised works from the holdings of the German National Library. It makes use of open-source software from the Open Library Initiative, displaying the digitised book pages on a screen and allowing users to scroll virtually through the work.

URN Service The German National Library has the longest and most extensive experience in the field of URN:NBN within Europe. A redeveloped URN resolver significantly improved the stability and fail-safe levels of the system. The number of URNs registered at the German National Library rose to just under 7 million in 2011.

Portal development The opening of the Leipzig music reading room saw the launch of the music access system. This permits music CDs migrated from the German Music Archive to be accessed and listened to at the reading room work stations via the catalogue. By the end of the year the number of CDs which were usable in this way had risen to 15,000.
Searches can be made which cover the library's entire stocks, but since autumn 2011 it has also been possible to filter catalogue searches down to holdings of the German Music Archive, the exile collections and the German Museum of Books and Writing.
The new search engine for the web portal of the German National Library went into operation in March 2011. It allows searches to be conducted of metadata and scanned tables of contents from the entire holdings of the German National Library. The search engine makes use of a new technical base which will permit the continual development of the library's catalogue search function over the long term. It was decided to use open-source Apache Solr/Lucene software based on the Java programming language.

Permanently preserving

Preservation The German National Library subjected 100,000 printed works to deacidification in 2011, corresponding to a weight of roughly 34,000 kg.

Long-term preservation In the kopal project the German National Library created the conceptual foundations for a digital repository. Once the project had come to an end, the library continued to develop the archive and integrate it into internal processes by means of new components. New hardware equipment which is based on IBM's DIAS development for the long-term repository and has been specially designed to meet the rising demands successfully passed a series of special tests. Significant factors here were the functional aspects and the overall performance of the system.

The German National Library has a continuing commitment to various national and European long-term digital preservation projects. Its goals here are to support the consideration of practical aspects in this still relatively young area of research and to remain involved in the further development and expansion of existing initiatives.

Collaborating and networking

International activities The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) brings together the directors of European national libraries. The European Library information service represents the European national libraries on the Internet. The European Library provides a single access point to the libraries and their services and at present allows integrated searches to be made via the catalogues and collections of 46 European national libraries, including more than 150 million items of bibliographic data. The Director General of the German National Library, Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann, was chairperson of CENL until September 2011.

Topics currently being discussed include digitisation, long-term preservation of electronic publications, copyright and public-private partnerships. In 2011 the CENL Working Group on Copyright was involved in the dialogue concerning out-of-print works initiated by the European Commission. At its annual conference in Copenhagen, CENL resolved to grant free access to the

metadata provided by the national libraries via The European Library as open data in the future, thereby making it freely re-usable. As the patron of The European Library, CENL resolved to give the information service a new strategic orientation which the EU-funded Europeana Libraries project started to draft in January 2011.

Europeana Europeana went into routine operation in 2011 and by November it was offering access to more than 20 million digital objects from more than 1,500 cultural institutions from all European countries. Europeana allows searches to be made in digitised collections held in European libraries, archives and museums. It is backed by the Europeana Foundation, launched in November 2007, which was chaired until the end of October 2011 by Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann. As the German partner, the German National Library remains actively involved in developing and extending Europeana.

2014 will be the centenary of the start of the First World War. The "Erster Weltkrieg in Alltagsdokumenten: Europas virtuelles Gedächtnis – Europeana" project has set itself the goal of preserving individual recollections of this 20th century catastrophe and presenting them to the public in digital form. Germany's contribution is being handled by the German National Library and Germany was the starting point of the campaign initiated and implemented by Europeana. Ten European countries will be involved in the project which is scheduled to run until 2014. Its goal is to create a diverse and multinational yet personal and private perspective of the collective experience of the First World War.

German Digital Library The project partners worked on metadata analysis, on conceptual and technical metadata mapping and on the selection and quality of the desired digital content in the first phase of the project for setting up the German Digital Library (DDB). The German National Library coordinated the different specialist areas and made significant contributions within these. The core system, including an initial set of portal functions, was handed over to the competence network at the end of December.

At the same time the German National Library helped set up virtual exhibitions which will be ready in time for the launch of the DDB. Two films were created and a corporate design was devised for the DDB's future website. A data usage contract was drafted for the data submissions from archives, libraries and museums to the DDB.

Cultural and scientific institutions were invited to register with the DDB and participate in the DDB portal and network. A helpdesk was set up to support institutions joining the DDB. One of the competence network's working groups (Innovation and Research WG) will coordinate the further development of the DDB and take care of the testing and integrating of tools and services and the setting up of interfaces for providing the DDB's value-added services and functional extensions.

Copyright Copyright remained a topic of great importance in 2011. Defining a publication usage regime which meets all the relevant legal requirements remains pivotal to the success of digital library projects such as Europeana and the German Digital Library. This is because their purpose is to make digitised cultural heritage from a wide range of fields available to users beyond the confines of the contributing organisations themselves. These projects require further legislative measures to be taken in order to provide legal security.

Particular attention was paid in 2011 to orphan and out-of-print works. Overseen by the EU Commission, the German National Library collaborated with other libraries, national and international organisations, authors and publishers at the European level on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at defining the main issues regarding the use of out-of-print

works. The EU Commission also launched a guideline on the permitted use of orphan works. Here, too, the German National Library issued statements and took part in national and international hearings. It will continue to make active contributions to this lively discussion – especially in view of the national legislation for the third basket of the Copyright law.

Collaborating on projects

Digital preservation

APARSEN APARSEN is a competence network for digital preservation which is supported by the European Commission. It began its work in 2011 and will receive support from the European Commission in the Seventh Framework Programme until 2014. Working groups were set up during the course of the year. These consisted of participants from 13 countries and 30 institutions, including the German National Library, who came together to network their experience, research and development plans.

Digital Preservation for Libraries (DP4lib) It was observed that kopal could possibly be made use of in a client model in which each archiving institution assumes an active role. This idea is being pursued in the DFG-sponsored DP4Lib project in which the technical and organisational aspects of a cooperative long-term preservation service are being developed on the basis of the preliminary work carried out in kopal. It was planned to partially integrate these services into the productive operation processes of the German National Library; they were finally integrated at the test level into the online publication system by the end of October and successfully tested. Individual aspects of the services are already in productive use.

KEEP The objective of the EU project KEEP is to ensure long-term accessibility of the cultural heritage by developing flexible access tools and storing a broad range of digital objects. In 2011 a prototype was completed, the planning documentation was revised and the comparative legal study into the basic conditions for preserving multimedia objects undertaken as part of the project was continued.

LuKII LOCKSS and KOPAL Infrastructure and Interoperability (LuKII) is a project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and carried out by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in partnership with the German National Library. The aim of the project is to achieve interoperability between the distributed LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) archive system and the archive system set up by the kopal project. The LOCKSS system, which is well established within academic circles in the USA in particular, provides open-source software which permits low-cost storage with built-in redundancy for all networked LOCKSS partners in the form of a peer-to-peer network. Universität Regensburg, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Forschungszentrum Jülich, SUB Göttingen and Hochschulbibliothekszentrum des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen will also be involved in the German LOCKSS network. The Library of Congress (LoC) and Stanford University are actively supporting the project.

The interoperability modules between LOCKSS and kopal were implemented and trialled in 2011. Here the main focus was on generating and saving technical metadata using the kopal model for the LOCKSS system objects and on exchanging objects between the two systems. This involved creating exchange interfaces between the systems, for example. In addition, migration scenarios for objects from the LOCKSS system were prepared which are now to be trialled.

nestor The key issues addressed by nestor, the competence network for long-term digital preservation, included web harvesting, certification, standardisation and the archiving of research data.

On the basis of DIN 31644 ("Trusted digital repositories"), due for publication in spring 2012, the Certification working group has developed and tested a certification procedure which harmonises with the European system (European Framework for Audit and Certification). The DIN standard 31645 (Information and Documentation – Guide to ingesting information into digital repositories) was published in November 2011. This was developed by the Ingest working group within the "Records management and preservation of digital information objects" DIN Standards Committee (NABD15) on the basis of the nestor "Into the Archive" manual. In September a workshop devoted to the long-term preservation of social and economic data was held in conjunction with the Council for Social and Economic Data and GESIS – Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften. A manual entitled "Langzeitarchivierung von Forschungsdaten – Eine Bestandsaufnahme" is currently undergoing its final edit and is to be published at the beginning of 2012. A check list for the selection of systems and system components for long-term digital preservation has been compiled by the Cooperation & Networking working group and is available to interested parties on the nestor website.

SHAMAN The objective of the EU project SHAMAN is to design and implement a comprehensive, networked long-term preservation infrastructure. The German National Library helped collate the project results and was involved in presenting and distributing them. Further key aspects were the identification and formulation of basic policies as guidelines for the design of future long-term preservation services.

Digital Library

culturegraph.org culturegraph.org is a platform for services and projects concerned with data networks, persistent identifiers and linked open data for cultural facilities. The motivation for setting up the platform was the large number of different databases run by libraries, publishers and library networks. The Cooperative Network (KVA) working group charged the project partners – the German National Library and Hochschulbibliothekszentrum des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (hbz) – with developing a solution which integrates bibliographic data from different sources. The ultimate aim of the joint venture is to establish non-network specific identifiers. In the first half of the project a new infrastructure was set up to facilitate the efficient import and analysis of large quantities of data and to present their results.

IMPACT The last year of the IMPACT project came to an end with the opening of the competence centre in October. The Helpdesk, which the German National Library was instrumental in setting up, continued to operate. The project supplied just under 21 million names for the creation of computer lexicons aimed at supporting and improving OCR and retrieval.

ODE The Opportunities for Data Exchange (ODE) project investigates challenges and opportunities arising from the exchange and re-use of research data. It is being funded in the Seventh Framework Programme by the European Commission. The first half of the project came to an end in October 2011 when two important results were published: "Ten Tales of Drivers & Barriers in Data Sharing" is a brochure describing the incentives and obstacles associated with exchanging research data from the point of view of ten decision-makers in the fields of science, infrastructure facilities and research support. The "Integration of Data and Publications" report examines the increasing integration of data and publications from the perspective of scientific publishers and libraries. It takes stock of the current situation, presents the latest developments and initiatives and examines challenges and development possibilities.

PersID The PersID (Persistent Identifier) project set up to standardise and link together the different persistent identifier solutions in Europe was concluded in 2011. The project helped promote the use of persistent identifiers in science and raise awareness levels for the topic. The standardisation work is set to continue once the project ends. From experience gained in the project it is apparent that different persistent identifier systems will co-exist in the future and, accordingly, initial partnership negotiations were held with DOI, Handle etc. The long-term goal is to create a browser-based solution for resolving URNs to supplement the existing meta-resolver for all persistent identifiers.

An initial meeting was held in Frankfurt am Main with former project partners and further interested parties with a view to setting up a URN:NBN cluster. The German National Library is currently already operating the resolver for Europeana Connect, and further European partners are considering the possibility of handing responsibility for maintaining and adapting the resolver software to the German National Library.

THESEUS ALEXANDRIA and CONTENTUS are parts of the THESEUS project, a research programme financed by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology aimed at developing a new Internet-based knowledge infrastructure.

The German National Library's involvement in the ALEXANDRIA project has been successfully concluded. The main aspects of the work were the ontological modelling of media and related entities from the field of cultural heritage, and of the relationships between persons. The resulting findings are important for CONTENTUS e.g. in searches in which the media model constitutes an integral part of the semantic search. The differentiated "AgRelOn" model based on the German Personal Name Authority File (PND) for personal relationships was also compared with the Integrated Authority File (GND) to which corresponding codes for relationships were added.

The third and last CONTENTUS Demonstrator was also built in 2011 and presented at the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives Conference (IASA 2011) and the International Broadcasters Conference (IBC 2011).

The main contributions of the German National Library included coordination of the partner activities and development of an authority data web service which is of decisive importance for the semantic networking of media, metadata and external information sources. Other projects such as the German Digital Library (DDB) and the resolving and lookup service (culturgraph.org) also benefit from this development.

At the end of November 2011 the project results were presented at two events entitled "New ideas and technologies for media cataloguing" organised by the German National Library in the THESEUS Innovation Centre. They attracted a great deal of interest and were well received by representatives from libraries and archives.

ARROW

The aim of the ARROW project, which was completed in February, was to help simplify the process of identifying copyright holders through the Europe-wide networking of relevant data sources and the creation of automatic request possibilities. In addition, a register was created of works for which the rights holders can no longer be identified or traced ("orphan works"). Models were also to be developed which provide integrated access to free and charged digital content. ARROW's close links to Europeana were pivotal here. Besides contributing to the technical work packages of the project, the German National Library also scrutinised the various legal issues and the processes

involved in establishing the rights for individual titles. The archive of the "Best German Book Design" competition organised by Stiftung Buchkunst was used as a test case for this investigation.

Acquiring antiquarian books, archive records and museum objects

Besides collecting new releases, the German National Library also works to fill any gaps in its holdings. The figures regarding antiquarian acquisitions are contained in the statistical section.

The holdings of the German Exile Archive 1933–1945 (Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933–1945) were supplemented by numerous acquisitions. Six new partial or full estates of German-speaking emigrants were added to the archive; further acquisitions included numerous additions to existing holdings. Worthy of special mention among the new acquisitions are the estate of the publisher Leon Hirsch and that of the publicist, literary agent and author Heinz Liepman. Major supplements to existing holdings include the estates of the theatre critic Julius Bab, the chemist Friedrich R. Eirich and the archive of the Germanist and exile researcher Prof. John M. Spalek. Principal amongst the acquisitions of individual manuscripts are a letter from Joseph Roth to René Schickele from 1934, the typescript of a declaration of solidarity from Thomas Mann to Léon Blum and two letters penned by Stefan Zweig to Antonina Vallentin from 1938. Also of significance are a bundle of manuscripts written by the psychologist Erich Neumann.

Key acquisitions made by the Leipzig Exile collection and the Anne-Frank-Shoah Library include "Das Märchen von der Mode", written and drawn by Hans Fischer. The 1944 edition includes 120 hand-coloured copies signed by the artist and is printed on Fabriano rag paper. Other acquisitions were "De Reis", featuring initials and illustrations by Alice Horodisch-Garman, Amsterdam, 1948, and "Gedenkbuch für die Toten des Konzentrationslagers Dachau". Further outstanding additions include the memorial book for the Jewish victims of National Socialist persecution in Leipzig entitled "Menschen ohne Grabstein", the declarations of the Allied military government of Leipzig and three copies of a limited 300-copy edition of an elaborately designed selection of texts from the diary of Anne Frank printed on handcrafted Japanese Kochi White paper.

The library and the historical archive of the Börsenverein posted three major acquisitions in 2011. The photo archive of the "Börsenblatt. Wochenmagazin für den Deutschen Buchhandel" association newspaper from 1970 to 2005 includes roughly 70,000 photos of personages involved in the book trade and other related sectors, and of events such as bookseller conferences and peace prize award ceremonies. The photograph and media archive of Ausstellungs- und Messe-GmbH contains roughly 15,000 photos of the Frankfurt Book Fair, book fairs in Germany and abroad plus numerous sound and film recordings from the post-1950 period. Roughly forty metres of shelving are taken up by the files of Börsenverein members who are no longer active. These stem from the period since the founding of the Frankfurt Börsenverein in its current organisational form in 1955 up to approximately 2000.

A large number of interesting and unique exhibits were added to the collections of the German Museum of Books and Writing in 2011. These ranged from old printed works and modern artist's books through to bookseller archive records and devices associated with the cultural history of printing and reading. Exhibits such as reproductions of the NASA Voyager Space Craft Golden Record and the Nebra sky disk were purchased for the new permanent exhibition. Larger sets of documents related to the history of paper, to the development of the 'Schulausgangsschrift' style of handwriting taught in GDR schools from 1968, and to publishing history represented significant additions to the holdings. These include the collection of the Dutch maker of decorated paper Eva van Breugel and the archive of the Faber & Faber publishing house in Leipzig including correspondence between authors and artists, production documents and the book archive.

In addition to honouring its ongoing collection mandate, the German Music Archive purchased roughly 4,400 historical sound recordings. Of prime importance here are very early and correspondingly rare Gramophone and Zonophone shellac discs, seven Lindström shellac discs featuring original recordings of the Austrian Kaiser and the protagonists within his inner military circle. Various Schallophon, Graphonie DGG, Beka Meister Record, Gigant (Wertheim) Kaufhausplatten and Kadewelt (KaDeWe Berlin) Kaufhausplatten discs and one recording each from Symphonion Saphir Schallplatte, Vier-Piecen-Platte and "Das HO-Echo" Schellackplatte were added. Further remarkable additions include 16 unusual Sonderlabel-Serie Eterna shellac records (issued to commemorate the 3rd World Festival of Youth and Students in 1951): "Songs of the IIIrd World Festival August 1951 Berlin", 77 rare phonograph rolls, most of which issued by the Edison company, and also extremely rare large-format Pathé concert rolls and four Schellhorn Platina-Guss Record phonograph rolls.

Exhibiting

The "Golo Mann. Die Geschichte" exhibition in Frankfurt used private and public accounts, rare photographic, text, sound and film documents to depict the life of Golo Mann: childhood and teenage years, emigration from National Socialist Germany, the return to Europe and his later success as a historian, speaker and commentator in the Federal Republic of Germany. The exhibition was taken over from the Buddenbrookhaus in Lübeck and the Literaturhaus Munich; its curator was the Golo Mann biographer Tilmann Lahme. The exhibition's transfer to Frankfurt and its adaptation for the new venue were made possible by the financial support of the Hessische Kulturstiftung. The first conference of the Golo Mann Gesellschaft was held at the German National Library during the exhibition.

The German Museum of Books and Writing displayed a selection of the illustration work of the graphic artist and book illustrator Karl-Georg Hirsch to mark the presentation of the Gutenberg Prize of the City of Leipzig to the Leipzig artist in the German National Library.

Staging events

Of the numerous events held in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main, one of the most significant was the evening with Inge Jens entitled "Begegnungen mit Golo Mann". Inge Jens, well-known as the publisher of Thomas Mann's diaries and as an editor of correspondence, made the acquaintance of Golo Mann in 1984 while editing Thomas Mann's diaries; numerous meetings with the famed historian were to follow.

The panel discussion entitled "Formen des Erinnerns" also attracted a great deal of attention: Sylvia Asmus, German Exile Archive 1933–1945, Ruth Klüger, author and contemporary witness, Edita Koch, publisher of the Exil journal, Herta Müller, writer and Nobel Laureate in Literature, Volker Weidermann, head of the features section of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, and presenter Jochanan Shelliem examined the different ways in which the Holocaust, exile and emigration are remembered, and posed the question of how remembrance should be conducted in the future.

The German National Library organised three events as part of the supporting programme of both the Leipzig and Frankfurt book fairs. The Leipzig events were the "100 Jahre Max Frisch" evening, the presentation of the new edition of the last novel written by Hans Fallada, "Jeder stirbt für sich allein", and a reading by the author Tanja Langer. In Frankfurt am Main Karlheinz Braun, Klaus Reichert, Peter Urban and Urs Widmer read extracts from "Chronik der Lektoren. Von Suhrkamp zum Verlag der Autoren", Wilfried F. Schoeller presented his biography of Alfred Döblin, and Halldór

Guðmundsson portrayed the life and work of the Icelandic Nobel Laureate in Literature, Halldór Laxness.

The "Frankfurt liest ein Buch" opening event was once again staged in the national library. This year, the chosen work was Wilhelm Genazinos' trilogy "Abschaffel". Prominent guests from Frankfurt's cultural scene read from the Büchner prize winner's work.

The programme of events organised to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the S. Fischer publishing house included the company staging its "Thomas Mann – ein deutscher Nationaldichter?" event and a discussion evening entitled "Die Rechte der Menschen" with Carolin Emcke, Gert Scobel and Roger Willemsen at the German National Library.

Continuing the long-standing tradition of collaboration with publishers and cultural institutions, various readings and book launches were organised with writers such as Thea Dorn, Jan Seghers, Ian Morris, Susan E. Phillips and the actors Joachim Król, Michaela May, Dieter Mann and Nina Petri. The reciter Lutz Görner put on two Schiller evenings, each time attracting a full house. Sreten Ugričić, author and former director of the Serbian National Library, was invited to speak about the German translation of his novel "Neznanom junaku".

The theme of the 2011 Night of the Museum events held in Halle and Leipzig was "Heimliche Liebe". Just under 2,000 visitors accepted the invitation issued by the German Museum of Books and Writing to view the new museum rooms in the annex building in Leipzig. The annex building was officially opened in May and was also a popular "Day of Architecture" attraction. Roughly 4,000 guests took advantage of the open days organised at the Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main sites in order to take one of the numerous guided tours offered by the library. The new stacks, the reading rooms, the exhibition and work rooms of the German Museum of Books and Writing and the German Music Archive attracted a great deal of interest in Leipzig.

The German Museum of Books and Writing opened the museum gallery in the annex building – a new events room dedicated to educational work with children and young people. An event entitled "Museum zum Mitmachen" ("The Hands-On Museum") gave school classes, families and grandparents with their grandchildren the opportunity to explore actively and creatively the history of writing, books, paper and the media. A varied programme covering 17 different topics offered a wide range of cultural insights and activities suitable for school projects and for spare-time activities. Pupils can discover how old books are, how pictures are incorporated into books, how to write Chinese characters or how to make figures out of papier-mâché. Many of the topics are linked to practical activities requiring and promoting creativity, manual dexterity and patience. Besides the public events held during the summer and winter holidays, the museum stages a regular series of activities for children and families on the third Sunday of each month.

Training

The German National Library fulfils its social responsibilities by offering traineeship positions in two different career areas. Besides specialist traineeships in media and information services for libraries, the Leipzig site also offers apprenticeships in bookbinding. A total of 12 trainees completed their final exams in 2011 – all of them achieving either "good" or "very good" final grades.

Friends

Gesellschaft für das Buch Roughly 23 years ago a group of companies and private individuals joined forces to create a society of friends dedicated to supporting the German National Library. Gesellschaft für das Buch e. V. was founded with the objective of offering material and non-material support to one of the most significant cultural institutions in Germany in performing its various tasks and thereby anchoring its importance as the cultural memory of Germany in the awareness of its citizens. The society regards books and the written culture as indispensable elements of cultural life which manifest social and scientific developments. This is the basis upon which the Gesellschaft für das Buch supports the work of the German National Library. In 2011 the society funded the public "Wer hat das Buch?" initiative carried out at the open days in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main. Over 300 books were purchased for the German National Library as a result. It also provided generous support for the "Formen des Erinnerns" panel discussion which drew a great deal of public and media attention.