

Annual report to CENL 2011

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands
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Key facts and figures

Founded	1798
Status	autonomous administrative body since 31 August 1993, financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science
Budget	€ 59 million
Staff	262,4 full time equivalents = 291 employees (end 2011)
Holdings	6 million items = 110 km of library materials (books, newspapers, journals) 12,500 current periodicals 850 m. of microforms 3 million newspaper pages on our website Historical Newspapers
Acquisition	annual growth of deposit print collection: 48,000 books and 77,000 issues of periodicals. In 2011 1.3 million digital items and 1,650 e-books were loaded.
Accommodation	Net floorspace of the building : 80,000 m ² - library: 37,000 m ² , including 28,000 m ² stacks - other institutions: 15,000 m ²
Capacity	500 study seats including 125 with a work station, WiFi available
Library use	16,350 annual library pass holders 100,500 library visits 450,600 publications made available (print and digital) 4.6 million KB website visits

Tasks and duties

The tasks, duties and operational limits of the KB are defined in general terms in Section 1.5 of the *Higher Education and Research Act*. "As the National Library of the Netherlands, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek operates in the field of libraries and information services for the benefit of higher education and research, as well as public administration, business and industry. In any case, the KB is responsible for the national library collection; it promotes the development and maintenance of national facilities in the above-mentioned areas and promotes coordination with the other research libraries."

General overview

For the KB in 2011, the ambition to accelerate the changeover to a digital library was key. We were able to make important progress in this endeavour by our cooperation with Google and ProQuest. The KB is proud to be able to realize its policy aims by means of public-private cooperation.

The permanent storage of the digitized files and accompanying metadata places great demands on our ICT capacity. In 2011, a state-of-the-art server room was constructed in the building that meets the most advanced requirements. Thus one of the most important pre-requisites has been met.

Step by step, the KB is working towards its final goal: a digital library in which everyone can search directly, and which at the same time forms the basis for services of others. A digital library for researchers and the general public that allows everyone who wishes it free access to the results of scholarship.

In 2011, an external evaluation of the KB was carried out by a committee under the chairmanship of Wiljan van den Akker, Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities, Utrecht University. After receipt of the report and under the pressure of the financial cuts announced by the government, the KB revised its long-term strategy, with considerable input from all the sections of the organization. In the autumn appeared 'The Future of the KB is Digital', describing the KB's long-term strategy. Shortly after the document was published, the decision of the government to merge the Koninklijke

Bibliotheek and the National Archives was announced. This development makes it even more important to focus on clear priorities:

- Digital: full speed ahead!
- Reaching a wider audience
- Strengthening international cooperation

Digital: full speed ahead!

The KB Strategic Plan 2010-2013 already included an acceleration of efforts to realize the digital library. Those efforts have been further intensified in the long-term strategy. Translated into practice: less staff and funds will be allocated to the 'physical' library in favour of the digital library. For instance, books are only retrieved for customers from the stacks three times a day so that staff in the stacks can devote the rest of the day to the preparation of digitization projects. This is a fundamental change in favour of 'digital'. In addition, the experiment of Sunday opening hours was not continued. Although the response to it was reasonably good, this proved to be primarily because of the availability of study space and only to a limited degree because of the need to use the collections. As expanding the use of the collections is one of the KB's most important key priorities, priority will be given to deploying staff for the digital library. The departments have been given the task to free up ftes and funds for new duties. This shift will make budget available for the digital library.

The public-private partnerships on which the KB embarked in 2010 in order to increase its digitization efforts began successfully. *Google* was the first to begin by digitizing the copyright-free books in the KB collection from the 18th and 19th centuries. At least 160,000 books will be digitized. Following some months of preparation (selection of titles, setting up workflow), Google began digitization at the end of 2011 (scanning and making machine-readable via OCR) of thousands of books a month. In April 2012, the first results became available in the KB catalogue. The books digitized by Google are suitable for reading and study purposes.

The KB's second private partner, *ProQuest*, began scanning the pre-1700 Early Printed Books in January. As the books are very vulnerable they are being scanned on the premises. By August, the first five hundred Early Printed Books were already available; by the end of the year, 800,000 pages had been scanned. The quality of these scans makes them suitable for use in transcriptions and for scholarly research.

The web-service Historical Newspapers [Historische kranten] offers more than three million newspaper pages, including several post-war newspapers. They were all full text searchable by the end of the year. The website Early Dutch Books Online was launched. This web service gives access to ten thousand late eighteenthcentury books. These books are part of the KB collection and of the collections of the libraries of the universities of Amsterdam and Leiden.

Reaching a wider audience

The KB is a research library with a rich collection in the field of Dutch history, culture and society; the KB wishes its collection to play a leading role nationally. The KB collection consists of digital and 'physical' publications, which the KB views and expands in relation to each other.

Naturally, the KB wishes these collections to be found and used by as many people as possible. This aim underpins in essence all the KB's digitization efforts: to make that which has been collected with public funds freely available digitally as much as possible.

All the material in the above-mentioned digitization projects that is available online through our various websites is accessible to everyone free of charge. Our Early Printed Books, which have been scanned by ProQuest, are an exception: these can only be accessed free of charge in the Netherlands via Early European Books, access from other countries requires payment.

In addition to the results of the mass digitization projects, 29 web exhibitions and virtual books appeared on the KB website in 2011, offering both scholars and the general public the opportunity to search treasures in *full-text*.

Strengthening international cooperation

In the past years, the KB has invested a great deal in order to play a role within the scholarly infrastructure at European level. The KB was co-founder of the Alliance for Permanent Access, which aims to ensure permanent access to research publications. The KB has also been a strong supporter of The European Library (TEL) and of Europeana, and participates in various large-scale EU projects. In this way, the KB has a large European network at its disposal. The future development of the international e-Depot will further enhance the KB's European role.

The KB's international e-Depot functions as an archive for foreign research literature for Dutch scholars and enables the KB to guarantee permanent access to research literature. National libraries have a depository role for publications

from their own country, but the KB also stores publications from international, scholarly publishers from a variety of countries.

In order to strengthen the European role of the KB, the KB wishes to develop the international e-Depot into a European service that guarantees permanent access to international research publications for the whole European research community.

Two major European projects, IMPACT and KEEP, were finalized. The IMPACT Centre of Competence was launched in October. It supplies and further develops applications and tools made during the project. The centre aims to improve OCR techniques and to compile lexica for better and quicker digitizing historical, printed texts and making them searchable.

In the last few years the KB has contributed to the project KEEP (Keeping Emulation Environments Portable) by developing software. The KB's development team presented a new version of the Emulation Framework. This software enables access to old computer files and programmes. The Library of Congress praised the results of KEEP as major accomplishments of digital preservation.

The complete annual report is available at www.kb.nl/verslag2011