
Bibliothèque nationale de France : 2012 - 2013

Annual report for the CENL

The full annual report (in French) is available on the website www.bnf.fr : La BnF > Knowing the BnF:
<http://webapp.bnf.fr/rapport/html/accueil.htm>

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The ReLIRE registry: new BnF program

The law of 1 March 2012 which is the result of consultations between the Ministry of Culture and communication, the representatives of authors and publishers and the BnF, stipulates the conditions relating to the digital use of 20th-century out-of-commerce-books. It is the responsibility of the BnF to create and manage the registry by indexing the documents concerned.

Eventually the collection will contain around 500,000 works. Each year, the registry will be supplemented with 50,000 new titles (ReLIRE). The European project ARROW may have a practical application in this system.

The BnF-Partnership subsidiary

The Subsidiary, BnF-Partenariat which is 100% privately owned by the BnF, was created in April 2012. Its purpose is the digitisation and promotion of the collections of the BnF as part of the "Investments for the future" program which is aimed at supporting long-term growth.

The aims of the subsidiary are:

- to significantly increase the digital conversion of the BnF's collections in the pursuit of its policy of digitisation.
- to increase access to its contents through new services
- to make the new digital resources accessible in the reading rooms of the BnF (through the Gallica Intra Muros) which will eventually be viewable, without appointment, on Gallica
- to preserve all these new paperless documents in the long-term archiving system of the BnF (SPAR).

At the end of the year, BnF-Partenariat committed itself in partnership with the companies Believe Digital and Memnon Archiving Services to the digitisation and promotion of 200,000 long-playing records and 70,000 early printed books with the company ProQuest.

The service of the Gallica digital library

Since March 2012, Gallica intra muros has been providing users, within the confines of the library, with a single access to all of the digitised collections which are either under copyright or in the public domain, i.e. 2.3 million documents of which 221,000 under copyright. The major increase in the number of documents this year is essentially due to the results of the ambitious digitisation programs of printed documents and press (470,000 documents have been put on line which is to say 29% more than in 2011).

The digital library is now accessible on tablet computers and smartphones via iPad and Android applications which can be downloaded for free. A certain number of the BnF's documents are available on iTunes U. There have been 260,000 visitors to this site since it was opened.

Furthermore its presence on the social media has been strengthened with: the blog (11,000 subscribers), The Gallica Newsletter (40,000 subscribers), the Facebook page (20,000 subscribers), Twitter (11,000 subscribers) and the Pinterest account (which was opened in June 2012, 500 subscribers).

Finally, the Gallica Labs platform allows users of the internet to test the new features of Gallica such as the new search engine Exalead.

The number of visitors to Gallica, currently 35,000 every day is constantly increasing.

The Statistics office which keeps a record of who is using the BnF, either by visiting it either in person or on-line, set up an on-line questionnaire so that it can constantly keep up to date with what readers of Gallica think of the newsletter.

Reliure bnf.fr (The BnF on-line site for bookbinding)

The Reliures.bnf.fr site offers unique access to the BnF's bookbinding collection. This digital database will over time offer a selection which will be the most representative of the history of this craftwork in France. By autumn 2013, 1,000 bookbindings will be viewable.

The impact of digital technology on the BnF

Digital is developing a growing presence in the activities, practices and skills of the BnF (digitisation of collections, emergence of native digital resources, development of uses on line or mobiles). In the light of this finding, the BnF has launched a collective consultation process to decide on the digital strategy to be adopted. Four major themes have been identified: the digital impact on documentary policy, the collection and processing of the collections, the conservation and communication, the organisation and promotion of digital services, organisation and human resources.

The new access to the François-Mitterrand site

The BnF is concerned about improving access to its main site. To this end an agreement has been signed between the State, the BnF and a private company (MK2, which runs art houses). The opening is scheduled for autumn 2013.

A FEW FIGURES

- legal deposit from publishers: 72,139 books, 303,916 deposits of periodicals, 13,584 various brochures and publications, 14,999 specialised documents and 35,666 audio-visual documents
- collection of 90 To of data for 2.3 billion web addresses (URL) as part of worldwide web legal deposits
- 125,000 digital documents made available in 2012 to researchers (100,000 in 2011)
- 925,394 readers using the reading rooms of the different sites of the BnF and release of 1,204,881 documents
- Gallica (www.gallica.fr) contains 2.1 million copyright free documents of which 7% are from partner libraries and 5% from e-retailers; 9.5 million visits
- visits to temporary exhibitions (free and chargeable access together): 280,300 visitors; presentation of 2,823 exhibits
- 174 public events attended (debates, conferences, symposia, concerts, lectures) by 20,061 people
- participation by 19,068 pupils and teachers (15,420 in 2011, + 24%) in educational activities
- number of visits to all of the sites: 1,255,425 visitors which is to say 8% more than in 2011
- BnF staff at the end of 2012: 2,506 employees (i.e. the equivalent of 2,335.3 **full-time positions**)
- 2012 budget: 274 million euros.

Development of the collections

Legal deposit

The Legal deposit records office has now for the first time in its history been put on-line. It includes a public statistics data bank and general summary of the major changes occurring to publishing in France.

2012 saw an increase in the number of audio-visual and sound documents which were the subject of a legal deposit (+ 36% compared to 2011) due notably to the retrospective prospection conducted in respect of des videograms and the dynamic nature of this type of publication.

The extranet for legal deposits has been extended to specialist documents (maps and plans, prints...).

2012 electoral news is covered by collecting information from sites relating to presidential and general elections. 10,500 sites have been collected and 20 libraries for printer legal deposits have contributed to this selection. Furthermore, the Internet archives offer two new guided tours within the confines of the BnF: "Amateur images, amateurs of images" and "The Tunisian revolution as seen through the web"

E-books

At the same time as acquiring digital collections, the BnF has started tests for single purchases amounting to 416 titles in 2012.

Remarkable heritage additions supported by sponsorship.

The BnF has acquired the *Livre d'heures de Jeanne de France*, (*Book of Hours by Jeanne de France*) which is a manuscript from the XVth century, and classified as a national Treasure. For the first time in its history, the library has had recourse to public fundraising.

ACCESS TO THE COLLECTIONS AND PROMOTION

In 2012, the bnf.fr data project moved into the production phase. The information from the different catalogues of the BnF and from Gallica can all be found on the same page. The open licence recommended by the Etalab governmental program allows the reuse of its metadata. The BnF contributes on its own terms to the release of public data.

The automatic by-passing of notices is now very widely applied to the processing of foreign collections.

The library has acquired the search engine, "Ebsco Discovery Service", for researching electronic resources. A major increase, has been recorded, in the on-line viewing of a part of these resources by researchers who have an annual pass (+ 16% compared to 2011).

A purchasing service on SINDBAD has been successfully tested.

The bnf.fr site offers theme based pages: sustainable development, Europe, French-speaking countries and Societies in debate, the "haut-de-jardin" (Open Garden) library as a counterpart for the future centres of documentary resources;

Additionally the BnF has launched a program for digitising 260, 000 Greek coins.

With 53 million pages visited, the on-line coordination of activities has contributed to the influence of the cultural policy of the BnF. As such the redesign of the site classes.bnf.fr, has provided new access opportunities to teachers.

COOPERATION

At **national** level, the BnF relies on a network of associated divisions (for printer and documentary legal deposits) for which the cooperation agreements were renewed in 2012. A large part of the subsidies granted by the MCC is dedicated to digitisation (41%).

The Collective Catalogue of France now offers a unique access to collections of manuscripts and archive funds held at the BnF (BAM), and at French partner establishments.

As part of the Etalab governmental program, the BnF was successful in its candidature for the 2012 call for projects "Innovative cultural digital services" from the MCC with "OpenCat: BnF data for use by public libraries". As such it is seen as a pivotal provider of national data in the new organisation of libraries on the web.

The cooperation with the CNRS resulted in the opening of the portal HAL-BnF within the open multi-disciplinary archive HAL (On-Line Hyper Article) aimed at improving the visibility of the academic production of the BnF.

At **international** level, the BnF is actively working with European and French speaking cultural institutions through partnerships.

Bruno Racine gave his backing to the Data Exchange Agreement (DEA) project which having been signed by more than 280 suppliers and publishers allows the metadata of more than 20 million digital items on Europeana to be reused.

During the twenty-sixth general meeting of the CENL in Vaduz and with the financial difficulties that several national libraries are faced by, an audit concerning the financing of TEL (the aim being to clarify the roles of TEL and its connections to Europeana) was commissioned.

Three European projects were completed in 2012: Europeana Regia made possible the digitisation of 1,298 royal manuscripts and their uploading onto Europeana via TEL; KEEP, coordinated by the BnF, concerned the long-term conservation of audio-visual documents and video games and BHL-Europe was concerned with establishing a digital collection of 25 million pages on biodiversity and developing a database listing biological species.

2012 saw the continuation of Europeana Collections 1914-1918, the project for the digitisation of documents all about the First World War.

At the same time three new projects were started in 2012: Europeana Awareness (January 2012-December 2014) for the promotion of Europeana. Europeana Newspapers (February 2012-January 2015) will make it easier to view articles from the daily European press thanks to the automatic recognition of press articles and a semantic enhancement of the metadata relating to these contents and SUCCEED (Support Action Centre of Competence in Digitisation) (January 2012-December 2014) for promoting search results in digitisation and optical character recognition as part of the skills centre IMPACT).

Furthermore the Europeana Foundation has launched "Collections Days" in several countries. These are all about collecting the personal memorabilia of families who were involved in the First World War, as part of the Europeana 1914-1918 program. Since 2010, ten European countries have organised similar collections which have enabled the documents brought in by the public as well as their own stories to be digitalised. In France the event is called the "Grande collecte" and will take place from 9 to 16 November 2013. The BnF is one of the driving forces in France behind this event and will be featuring this event on three of its sites.

Concerning French-speaking countries, the BnF has contributed to the development of the documentary policy of the website of the RFN (Réseau Francophone Numérique) through the membership of its documentary associated division, the Limoges French-language multimedia library. Furthermore, the BnF has formed partnerships with the Institut Français and the Centre National du Livre.

It continues to be involved within professional networks: priority being given to the digital work and its preservation within the IIPC (International Internet Preservation Consortium, and iPRES (International Conference on the Digital Preservation), to heritage documents with CERL, the preservation of European cultural heritage, the improvement of access to collections held within research libraries with LIBER, to audio-visual documents with IASA and ARSC, without mentioning its very active participation every year in the IFLA.

The digitisation theme projects which are being shared with Poland, Brazil and Turkey as well as the continuation of the consultation process on access to copyright documents with the German National Library illustrate the richness and diversity of the bilateral relations.

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