

Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) 2010

Bibliothèque nationale de France : 2009 – 2010

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2010

The whole annual report (in French) is available at www.bnf.fr: La BnF > Connaître la BnF

KEY FACTS

- the signature of the 2009-2011 strategic plan by the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the implementation of the main strategic priorities which engage the Bibliothèque nationale de France and its future;
- the start of the renovation of the historical Richelieu site in April 2010;
- a new interface for the digital library Gallica which contains more than one million of documents;
- the acquisition of outstanding works such as the globes, representing Heaven and Earth designed by abbot Nolle in 18e century as well as the manuscript of Casanova's memories;
- the launch of an intranet allowing the publishers to declare their legal deposits online;
- the enhancement of the online cultural offer thanks to the uploading of with the loading of the most famous conferences held in the BnF's auditoriums since 10 years.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

The BnF's new strategy for 2009-2011 in contractual form. The BnF has formalised its strategic priorities in a Performance Contract, signed jointly with the Minister of Culture and Communication on 8 December 2009. This Contract focuses on six major objectives, and constitutes the roadmap for the Library up to 2011. The challenge of digital technology dominates the strategic objectives, but during the term of the contract the BnF also intends to:

- renew its scientific and cultural provision by renovating the Richelieu site and modernising the Haut-de-Jardin Reference library at the François-Mitterrand site;
- maintain its focus on enhancing and preserving its collections, promoting its research activities in its areas of expertise and developing its national and international partnerships;
- develop its own resources and increase value for money by modernising its management tools, preparing its staff to face the changes in the library sector and making a proactive commitment to sustainable development;
- develop and rationalise its real estate assets.

This strategic outlook is accompanied by a rolling financial forecast, updated at the time of each budget exercise. It will be implemented internally by means operational projects which will be closely monitored on a daily basis and assessed.

The renovation of the historic Richelieu site is ongoing. The Richelieu project moved forward decisively in 2009. The application for planning permission was submitted in April, and the definitive Preliminary Plan was approved by the Ministry of Culture in December. Alongside these administrative milestones, the essential preparations for this major renovation project continued: massive transfers of collections (18 km travelled during the year), a shuttle service for accessing relocated documents, preliminary work on installing prefabricated units for the staff and on fitting out and equipping temporary reading rooms since April 2010.

The users can consult all departments' collections in Richelieu either immediately or remotely, during all the renovation period.

The impact of digital technology on organisational methods is being examined. A forward-looking analysis of the ways in which digital technology is affecting the operation and organisation of the Library has been launched. The goal is to identify the changes in processes and working methods brought about by the introduction of digital technology across all the Library's activities. A monitoring unit has been set up to survey and analyse developments in how work is organised and how teams and departments interact.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

Developing the services of the Gallica digital library. Gallica [<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>] offers, since February 2010, more than one million of documents. This tremendous increase is due to the ambitious programmes for the digitisation of printed documents and the press. 250,000 digital documents, amounting to 19 million pages, were delivered during the year as part of the 3-year mass digitisation programme for printed documents. The press digitisation plan, launched in 2005, has already digitised 22 periodicals and 2.5 million pages.

New programmes covering specialised documents (manuscripts, prints, etc.) and the very high quality digitisation of first editions or valuable books, particularly those kept in the Reserve Collection of rare books, were also launched in 2009. The BnF digitisation contract was also opened to include documents from partner libraries.

This expanded accessibility also includes works in copyright. More than 25 000 contemporary documents are available at the end of June 2010 via Gallica under a partnership with the Syndicat national de l'Édition (the French Publishers' Association), the Centre national du Livre (National Book Centre), the Ministry of Culture and Communication, some e-retailers and publishers.

Gallica has also opened up to include external digitised collections by indexing partner digital libraries. 16 documentary sets have been created with some French and foreign Partner libraries and exposed via OAI-PMH protocol. These libraries were chosen thanks to their scientific complementarities and technical compatibility with the BnF. This is the case of the digital library Medic@ of the interuniversity medical library, of the Strasbourg University as well as Manioc, the digital library of the University of French West Indies and Guyana. Some digital collections from Library of Congress, national library of Brazil and, more recently, a consortium of Swiss libraries, are also available via Gallica.

Gallica's architecture, design and user interface evolved. A new viewer based on Flash technology was introduced, enabling readers to leaf smoothly through all the books, or the Facebook and Netvibes pages created in order to support the launch of the new interface in February 2010.

1400 French books the public domain available in text format in Gallica and included in the Wikisource project will benefit from the collaborative revision of web users thanks to a partnership agreement signed, in April 2010, with the Wikimedia France association.

COLLECTIONS

Sub standing acquisitions of cultural heritage added to the collections. The BnF's collections were enhanced through legal deposit, acquisitions of contemporary and cultural heritage material, numerous donations and bequests of works and private records from authors and artists. 2009 was an exceptional year for cultural heritage acquisitions, largely supported by sponsorship, which enriched the collections with major works such as the Abbé Nollet globes, a listed National Treasure, and the *Histoire de la Belle Mélusine*, a 15th-century incunabula. Right at the start of 2010 came the acquisition of the manuscripts of Casanova's *Histoire de ma vie* and the first set of Guy Debord's archives, also a listed National Treasure.

A new document policy in the scientific and technical field. The proportion of digital documents in the acquisitions increased considerably. These included over 20,000 digital documents published by the Elsevier and Springer groups, providing a large boost to document availability in the field of scientific monographs. This policy also chimes with the BnF's ambition to offer its readers remote access to its electronic resources - since June 2009, each reader with an annual Research library card can view remotely a selection of online periodicals and databases to which the BnF subscribes.

Research into dynamic collection management. The storage, conservation and preservation of the collections have always received special attention. An in-depth study into dynamic collection management has been carried out, in a context where the prospect of saturation at all the Library's sites requires measures to be adopted to meet future needs.

The set up of an automatic, safe and integrated system in order to check identities and accesses to the BnF sites was launched in 2009. With this new system which aims at improving the management from the arrival to the departure of a staff as well as his authentication for using the different information systems the BnF thus intends to improve the safety of its collections.

New on-line legal deposit service for publishers in France. Thanks to a new service from the BnF, French publishers can now deposit published or forthcoming books (since July 2009) and periodicals (since December) and track their processing, from receipt to inclusion in the BnF General Catalogue and the French National Bibliography. By the end of 2009, 1,200 publishers had signed up and 3,100 deposits had been made.

SERVICES

A children's literature service at the François-Mitterrand site. Officially incorporated into the BnF on 1 January 2008, the staff, collections and public facilities (reading room, training unit, events) of the national children's literature centre (Centre national de la littérature pour la jeunesse/La Joie par les livres) were transferred to the François-Mitterrand site in summer 2009. The centre is continuing its documentation, training and publication missions, at both national and international level, from its new location.

Since September 2009, visitors have been able to view the centre's collections in a dedicated room of the Haut-de-Jardin Reference library. The stock, unique in France, consists of over 250,000 documents: the entirety of France's publishing output for children since the 1960s, an ample representation of French-language publications, a collection in foreign languages, a collection of reference books, a specialised fairy tale collection and a collection of old, rare or precious books. These collections, combined with the BnF's cultural heritage collections for children collected through legal deposits, make up a singularly rich resource for readers.

A BnF publishing platform for people with disabilities. The DADVSI (Droits d'Auteurs et Droits Voisins dans la Société de l'Information) law of 1 August 2006 introduced a copyright exception in favour of people with disabilities. This exception is linked to a mechanism by which published works are made available in digital form by a specially created official body to organisations and public institutions that request them in order to provide them to people with disabilities. The BnF was appointed in 2009 to be the body acting as the depository for the digital files sent by publishers, responsible for making them available to approved disability organisations. It has developed PLATON, a secure platform for the transfer of digital works, to achieve this goal, operational since June 2010.

The document hub, a tool to facilitate access to BnF resources via the Web. As part of the BnF's digital master plan, and in order to clarify bibliographic description models, the BnF is building a new tool to improve and facilitate access to its numerous resources on the Web. The project involves providing summary pages describing works and authors, directly accessible via search engines and generated automatically by bringing together existing resources such as bibliographic records and links to virtual exhibitions and other services.

COOPERATION

The development of digital cooperation. Digital cooperation between the BnF and other libraries needs to be reinforced over the coming years, according to the "Digital Master Plan for Libraries" (*Schéma numérique des bibliothèques*), which was coordinated by the President of the BnF. Completed at the end of 2009, this Master Plan is designed to review the activities, resources and needs of libraries in the digital sphere, study the conditions for greater harmonisation of national policies and better networking and favour the development of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Digital cooperation, of which Gallica is the principal instrument, is embodied in concerted digitisation and development programmes covering several years, and in joint national digitisation programmes focusing on broad themes. The first of these, ratified by a 2009 framework agreement, concerns the legal sciences. Co-steered by the BnF and the Interuniversity Library of Cujas, this programme brings together a significant number of other libraries and partners (universities, institutions, governments) with documentary resources carrying out digitisation programmes in this field. Art history is part of the second joint national digitisation programme, launched 2010 and jointly led by the Library of the national institut of art history and the BnF.

Digitisation: a fertile source of partnerships at international level. For the BnF, 2009 was a year of dynamic international cooperation projects. In particular:

- it reinforced its contribution to *Europeana*, making all its digitised documents available and taking part in several European research and development projects. It already had a significant investment in projects to improve access to European cultural heritage in digital form and preserve its different components (ARROW, IMPACT, TELplus, KEEP), but this was accentuated in 2009 with progress on new projects (Europeana v1.0 and BHL-Europe) and the preparation of Europeana Regia, a project for a virtual collaborative library of royal manuscripts from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, launched in January 2010.

- it actively took part to the discussions of the Conference of European national librarians (CENL) especially about author rights and the public/private partnerships. It also carried on its commitment in TEL/The European Library, the portal to bibliographical and digital resources of European national libraries.

- it helped to draw up joint digitisation programmes aiming to set up new document collections (a portal on relations between France and Brazil [<http://bndigital.bn.br/projetos/francebr/frances/index.htm>]; manuscripts of the Roman de la Rose [<http://romandelarose.org/#home>]; Dunhuang Collections on the Silk Road [<http://idp.bnf.fr/>]; World Digital Library [<http://www.wdl.org/fr/>], etc.)

- it contributed to the development of the Francophone Digital Network (Réseau francophone numérique [<http://www.rfnum.org/>]), organising training sessions in digitisation for French-speaking partners and preparing a governance charter for the Network adopted in 2010 by the partners during its General Assembly.

The BnF made a spectacular gesture to promote the French language and the French-speaking world in the Near East by donating 500,000 books to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, with the aim of developing a regional French language centre and a Franco-Arabic training facility in library skills.

KEY FIGURES FOR 2009

- in its legal deposit role, the BnF received 66,595 books, 328,667 periodicals and 63,366 special documents, printed and audiovisual, from publishers;
- 189 terabytes of data collected under the legal deposit of Internet material were made available to researchers by the end of 2009;
- as of the end of 2009, the BnF General Catalogue contained 11 million bibliographic records and over 5 million authority records. The BnF Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue lists around 10,700 finding aids;
- 944,058 readers used the reading rooms at the BnF's various sites, and 1,299,822 items circulated;
- the Gallica digital library (www.gallica.fr) recorded a total of 4,006,650 visits during the year, a rise of 28% compared to 2008;
- 317,000 visitors toured the exhibition areas;
- 18,715 people attended the 160 events organised in the auditoriums;
- 23,510 people took part in the educational activities;
- the BnF staff at the end of 2009 consisted of 2,668 employees (2,436 full-time equivalent);
- the budget for 2009 amounted to 264 million.