

## **Annual report of Die Deutsche Bibliothek 2002**

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### **The library of the future**

What will the library of the future be like? What responsibilities and functions will it assume? Although we have no definitive answers to these questions today, it is clear that libraries will be faced with new challenges and new responsibilities. National and international co-operation will grow increasingly important if libraries are to perform their diverse functions efficiently and effectively. The activities of Die Deutsche Bibliothek during the past year exemplify the library's commitment to meeting present and future challenges. While continuing to meet its traditional obligations, the library also took on new responsibilities, which had to be integrated into the whole. National and international co-operation was strengthened through numerous bilateral and multilateral commitments and project-oriented activities.

### **Focal points of library work**

Focal points of library activity in 2002 included further development of collection, archiving and delivery processes for online publications, the preparation of a concept for "long-term preservation of digital documents", standardisation work and the introduction of a controlling system.

### **Library construction**

The architecture competition for the urgently needed fourth expansion wing of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig was completed during the reporting year. The jury awarded five prizes and four contracts. First prize went to the "Inhalt-Hülle-Umschlag" (Content-Veil-Cover) design proposed by the Stuttgart architect Gabriele Glöckler. Encompassing some 11,000 square metres of space, the expansion wing will house book storage areas, office and exhibition space for the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum and provide spatial capacity sufficient to meet the needs of the next twenty-five years. Construction is scheduled to begin in autumn 2004. Renovation of the existing library building of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig is proceeding on schedule.

In order to ensure sufficient storage space for the constantly growing collections, finishing work was begun on the third underground storage level of the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main, which has been vacant until now. Construction work has progressed rapidly and according to plan, making it possible to shift some of the library's holdings to new storage level in 2002.

### **CIP / VLB**

The year 2002 witnessed the successful launch of expanded co-operation between Die Deutsche Bibliothek and MVB Marketing- und Verlagsservice des Buchhandels GmbH on the Verzeichnis Lieferbarer Bücher (VLB, Books in Print) and the CIP service. This co-operative project is dedicated to improving the quality of the VLB and enhancing the currency of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie. Within the framework of this joint project, the CIP service, which has been published as Series N (CIP) of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie since 1974 and has cited new releases approximately four weeks in advance of publication, was discontinued at the end of the year. It is being replaced by the Neuerscheinungsdienst (New Release Service), which will be issued as separately from the standard series of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie. The New Release Service will be based upon reports forwarded by publishers to the VLB and will be offered by Die Deutsche Bibliothek as an information service comprising pre-publication announcements and newly released titles. Titles reported to the VLB will be forwarded automatically to Die Deutsche Bibliothek and cited in the New Release Service on a weekly basis once adaptation of the subject groups of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie has been completed. This service will be available to subscribers in printed form, on title cards, as machine-readable data or in an online version. The first issue of the New Release Service was sent to subscribers in December.

### **Long term archiving**

Electronic publications are a part of the cultural heritage, and they impose substantial new responsibilities on libraries and archives. The task of collecting and archiving online publications can only be achieved on the basis of co-operation. From May to November 2002, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded a project devoted to the development of a concept for "long term archiving and long term availability of digital documents in Germany". In collaboration with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

and the Humboldt-Universität of Berlin, Die Deutsche Bibliothek developed a long-term preservation concept that was presented to decision-makers and interested library professionals for discussion and approval in a series of workshops. The goal of these workshops was to formulate recommendations for further action in the area of long-term preservation in Germany. The outcome was an agreement to begin by developing concepts for the creation of a competence network for Germany and then to proceed with the creation of a corresponding co-operation platform and communication structure. Plans also call for the development of ideas for projects based on the concept, for which applications for funding support will be submitted to the BMBF and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

### **The digital library**

In March 2002, Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e. V. signed the "Co-operative agreement on the voluntary submission of electronic publications for indexing and archiving". In the agreement the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e. V. declares its intent to request all affiliated publishers to forward to Die Deutsche Bibliothek one copy of each online publication issued in Germany which is accessible to interested readers through standard, commercially available technical means. In return, Die Deutsche Bibliothek agrees to ensure to the extent possible that all submitted publications are preserved on a long term basis and cited in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie. Special rules were established for the use of electronic publications. At present, this agreement serves as the basis for the voluntary submission of online publications.

### **New legislation**

In addition, discussion regarding amendment of the Law regarding die Deutsche Bibliothek, which was first proposed in the mid-1990s, was revived in 2002. Fundamental changes in publishing practice make it essential to extend the scope of the law to include online publications. The tasks of collection, bibliographic processing and long term archiving of online publications as well as the need to protect such publications from technical obsolescence and ensure their availability for use beyond legally specified "expiration dates" pose entirely new challenges. A proposal incorporating these new responsibilities, which also impact upon the mandatory deposit directive and the collection guidelines, has been drafted as a basis for discussion by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media and the relevant organs of Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

### **Co-ordination Agency DissOnline**

The Co-ordination Agency DissOnline established at Die Deutsche Bibliothek in 2001 offers assistance to academic libraries for the implementation of new procedures relating to online dissertations as well as guidance in the use of transmission procedures for online dissertations and their metadata. The goals of the DissOnline process are to establish uniform guidelines for the processing of online dissertations in Germany and to provide potential users international access to German online dissertations on a sustainable basis. The DissOnline Advisory Council is providing active assistance to the Co-ordination Agency DissOnline in these matters. Of the seventy-seven academic libraries currently participating in the dissertation submission process, sixty-six use the system on a regular basis. Some 13,000 dissertations and approximately 200 post-doctoral publications have been registered to date.

### **Exilpresse digital**

Within the framework of the project entitled "Distributed Digital Research Library / Periodicals of the Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933 - 1945" (short form: Exilpresse digital) sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has now made 19 digitised journals and newspapers from the collections of the Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933 - 1945 openly accessible on the Internet as the "Exilpresse digital". Use of this programme doubled in the course of the year 2002.

### **Library organisation**

During the summer, a project devoted to the introduction of a controlling system and a controlling organisation for Die Deutsche Bibliothek was launched with the assistance of an external partner. Controlling is a management tool which enables an organisation to make plans and decisions on a goal- and result-oriented basis. In times of steadily increasing library responsibilities and progressively tighter budgets, controlling helps ensure that personnel and material resources are used effectively and efficiently. Controlling measures are applied for a number of purposes: to establish priorities among a growing number of functions and responsibilities, to monitor work progress in order to avoid backlogs, to carry out projects and to assess costs as a basis for calculating prices for services

provided by Die Deutsche Bibliothek. By year's end, a concept for a future cost-performance accounting system was developed for Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

Changes in the organisational structure of Die Deutsch Bibliothek took effect on March 1, 2002. The Central Administration department was restructured. The Technical Library Services section of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig and the Education and Training Department were established as subdepartments within Central Administration and assigned responsibility for services at all library locations. The former Executive Planning Office was reconstituted as the new Organisation and Controlling Department and integrated within Central Administration. The special collections of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig were integrated into the Department of User Services, Archiving and Information.

### **Personnel changes**

Christine Boßmeyer, head of the Information Technology Department for many years, retired at the end of the year. She played a key role in the successful development and expansion of the information technology infrastructure at Die Deutsche Bibliothek. Her successor is Reinhard Altenhöner.

### **Consortium of Library Networks**

The administrative office of the Consortium of Library Networks was established at Die Deutsche Bibliothek in early 2002. The administrative office is responsible for the day-to-day business operations of the Consortium and co-ordinates co-operation among the affiliated library associations. The office serves as a point of contact for individuals and organisations seeking information about the library associations and their services and responds to enquiries regarding library systems in Germany and abroad, services and important new developments.

### **Library and archives of the Börsenverein**

Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels concluded an agreement on the transfer of the historical archives of the Börsenverein for deposit at Die Deutsche Bibliothek in 2001. Transfer of the collection was completed in 2002. Die Deutsche Bibliothek has assumed responsibility for maintaining the collection and providing all related services. The library and the historical archives are now housed at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main.

### **Standardisation**

At its third meeting on December 6, 2001, the Committee for Library Standards passed a milestone resolution: "The Committee for Library Standards advocates a conversion from German to international rules and formats (AACR and MARC). A study is to be prepared for this purpose detailing basic requirements, consequences and matters of scheduling, with emphasis given to business management aspects. In light of this decision, work on further development of the RAK is to be restricted to absolutely necessary modifications which do not conflict with international developments and is to be discontinued by the end of 2003, at the latest." This resolution and its consequences had a significant impact on the work of the Office for Library Standards during the year 2002. In recognition of the major structural and financial consequences of the proposed change, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has been commissioned by the Committee for Library Standards to prepare a study preparatory to a final decision. After consultation with members of the Committee for Library Standards in February, Die Deutsche Bibliothek submitted a funding application to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The application was approved by the DFG Approvals Committee. A project co-ordinator was appointed and project work began in November. The first order of business was to address letters to the library organisations listed in the DFG application, so that the project advisory council could be convened as soon as possible. The Office for Library Standards initiated preparatory studies at the same time.

### **Budget**

The library's budget situation remains critical under the pressure of the Federal Government's austerity programme. The Government's annual appropriation for operating budget of Die Deutsche Bibliothek was set at a fixed amount the fiscal years 2000 to 2004. Rising costs must be covered within this budget framework. Because Die Deutsche Bibliothek, as a direct federal institution under public law, is required to defray all personnel costs from its own budget, it has been necessary to adopt drastic cost-cutting measures affecting material expenditures.

## **Library use**

During the year 2002, 14,941 users placed a total of 530,635 orders on 296 working days at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig. At the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main (including the Deutsches Musikarchiv Berlin), 20,282 readers ordered 463,819 publications for use in the reading rooms on 294 working days.

The demand for both on- and off-site services provided by Die Deutsche Bibliothek remains strong. In previous years, the various information services (bibliographic enquiries, subject and copyright information requests, literature lists) could be ordered only through non-standardised requests submitted via conventional and electronic communication channels (standard mail, telefax, telephone, e-mail). The option of filling out an online form for direct transmission was not available. Work on the development of such a form was completed during the reporting year, making it possible to offer the "Online Information Service" at the Website of Die Deutsche Bibliothek at the beginning of 2003. Orders can now be placed using the appropriate online form. However, requests and enquiries can still be submitted using traditional communication channels.

The catalogue of the Deutsches Musikarchiv Berlin has been openly accessible on the Internet since the spring of 2002. The catalogue includes all materials in the collection processed since 1984 and contains entries for more than 260,000 sound recordings and 125,000 items of sheet music.

## **Services**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliografie 1945 – February 2002 was issued on DVD in February 2002. The disc contains all bibliographic data comprised within the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie since 1945 and enables users to access more than 4.8 million data records through search queries. In the summer of 2002, Die Deutsche Bibliothek acquired distribution rights for the RAK and RSWK rule collections from the Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin. The library has since issued the 4<sup>th</sup> Supplement to the RAK-WB, the 2<sup>nd</sup> supplement to the RSWK and supplements to the MAB2 and DDB-MAB2 documentations. Die Deutsche Bibliothek was represented once again in 2002 at stands at the book fairs in Leipzig and Frankfurt, the Librarians' Conference in Augsburg and the Annual Conference of the American Library Association (ALA) in Atlanta.

## **Information technology**

The new generation of the central CBS4 PICA system was commissioned within the ILTIS platform in 2002. In the process, the central databases and the central cataloguing system were converted from the TANDEM system to an open UNIX system.

## **Collections and outstanding new acquisitions**

The collections of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig grew during the reporting year by 308,256 additions to a total of 10,168,725 units (excluding special materials). The collections of the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main (including the Deutsches Musikarchiv Berlin) were expanded by the accession of 283,599 new items, raising the total number of units to 8,388,720. The collection of online dissertations at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig increased by 2,501 to 5,476 units, while that of the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main grew by 3,419 to 7,836 units.

The Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933 - 1945 once again acquired a number of collections from the estates of German-speaking emigrants in 2002, including the legacies of Lisa and Hans Fittko and Karl Obermann. These collections containing correspondence with other emigrants represent a major contribution to the history of the German-speaking exile period.

Acquisition of the legacy of Axel Bertram was completed during the reporting year by the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum. Born in Dresden in 1936, the typographer, graphic designer and artist Axel Bertram offered his collection as a bequest during his lifetime. Other noteworthy accessions by the museum include drawings, woodcuts and other original works by Johannes Lebek (1901 – 1985), which complement the printing blocks, illustrations and other works of art by Lebek already held in the museum's collections, forming a representative overview of the artist's complete oeuvre.

The Collection Preservation task group was established under the direction of the Deputy Director General at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig. The first project undertaken by the task group was to assess the current situation at all three locations of Die Deutsche Bibliothek. The study encompassed

all preventive measures, including, for example, storage area conditions, all measures taken to preserve original media, protection of original materials through replacement by other media for public use and public relations. The results of this study are to be used as a basis for a preservation concept for Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

Activity devoted to the preservation of printed materials included the de-acidification of 25,000 kilograms – a total of 97,800 objects – of library materials. In addition, 41,012 pages – from 188 objects – were split and rebound. General binding work and repairs were performed on 36,159 objects. Restorative measures were carried out for 1,525 single pages and 51 volumes.

### **Anniversary in Leipzig**

The Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002. On October 3, 1912, representatives of the Börsenverein der Deutschen Buchhändler zu Leipzig, the Kingdom of Saxony and the city of Leipzig signed the founding charter of the Deutsche Bücherei. The anniversary celebration was accompanied by a series of lectures devoted to the history and the role of the Deutsche Bücherei, which was honoured at a festive evening event on October 17. The accompanying exhibition entitled “Ästhetik und Funktion” highlighted the history of construction at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig from its founding to the new plans for building expansion.

### **Periodicals database**

Die Deutsche Bibliothek assumed responsibility for the technical management and further development of the Zeitschriftendatenbank (Periodicals Database, ZDB) two years ago. The decision was made at that time to enter the periodicals data held by Die Deutsche Bibliothek into the ZDB in future. During the reporting year, Die Deutsche Bibliothek initiated a series of extensive analytical studies focused on procedures relating to the distinctive identification of periodicals and monographs and to database rules and formats. In addition, basic specifications were formulated for co-operation between Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the ZDB. A task group composed of representatives of the “Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Datenbankteilnehmer (AGDBT)”, the “Zentralredaktion Titel (ZRT)” at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and Die Deutschen Bibliothek was established and will provide advice and guidance for database integration.

### **Research projects**

The META-LIB project at Die Deutsche Bibliothek funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft ended on January 31, 2002. The goal of the project was develop standards for the bibliographic processing of electronic resources using Dublin Core metadata and authority data and to test them in practical application at academic libraries. The most important outcomes are the “METADISS data-record format for online dissertations submitted to Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Dissertations Online project” and the “Recommendations for the definition of a metadata core set for distributed searches through virtual subject libraries”. Business procedures were developed for the submission and indexing of electronic dissertations. The goal of these efforts was to achieve compatibility in the bibliographic processing of electronic and printed publications, to ensure conformity with relevant international developments and to contribute to progress in the development of cataloguing rules. Die Deutsche Bibliothek will continue to pursue its commitment to metadata standardisation and compatibility in the bibliographic processing of electronic and conventional publications in close conformity with international developments. The first metadata workshop organised by the Office for Library Standards was held at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main on October 21 and 22, 2002. This was also the final workshop for the META-LIB project.

The Renardus project sponsored by the European Union came to an end after two years of successful work on June 30, 2002. The goal of Renardus was to create an interface which would provide access to distributed collections of high-quality Internet resources in Europe. This interface is embodied by the Renardus broker, which permits cross-searching and cross-browsing through distributed subject gateways subject to continuous quality control. Thus Renardus offers access to resources selected by specialists according to clearly defined quality criteria. Following the end of the project, Renardus will be administered by the Renardus Consortium.

In Work Package 4 (AP4) of the Carmen project, “Persistent Identifiers and Metadata Management in Science”, which was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the context of the Global Information funding programme, Die Deutsche Bibliothek tested procedures for issuing, administering and decoding Uniform Resource Names (URNs) in the NBN (National

Bibliography Number) name space. The Carmen AP4 project was completed in March 2002. The positive response and the high rate of use of the URN decoding service coupled with the strong potential offered by persistent-identifier applications underscore the importance of extending the life of this service and expanding it in such a way as to allow for complementary use of different persistent-identifier systems. This is one of the primary objectives of the successor project EPICUR (Enhancement of Persistent Identifier Services – Comprehensive Method for unequivocal Resource Identification), which was approved in early August 2002. An international URN information centre is currently being set up in co-operation with the National Library of Finland.

The joint “Virtual International Authority File (VIAF)” project being carried out by the Library of Congress, OCLC and Die Deutsche Bibliothek is devoted to demonstrating the feasibility of the interoperability scenario developed by the IFLA FRANAR task group for the various (national) authority files. In order to test the viability of this approach, two major authority files for personal names – the LoC Name Authority File and the Personennamendatei (Name Authority File, PND) of Die Deutsche Bibliothek - are presently being consolidated within the framework of VIAF project. Other national name authority files are to be incorporated in subsequent steps, followed by authority files for corporate bodies, publication titles and other categories. The project was launched in December 2002 with the first delivery of test data.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek is the chairholding member of the Dewey Dezimalklassifikationsystem Deutsch (DDC Deutsch) Consortium, which was founded in Frankfurt in October 2000. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has been providing funding for the project since February 2002. The goals are to adapt the DDC to search patterns and linguistic conventions familiar to German-speaking users and to issue DDC notations for German publications. Die Deutsche Bibliothek plans to restructure the various series of the Weekly Index of the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie according to the principles of the DDC. In the process, the library will refer to the restructuring scheme used for the Swiss National Bibliography (“Schweizer Buch”) and plans developed for the Austrian National Bibliography in a step-by-step approach to achieving uniformity in the national bibliographies of the German-speaking countries and thus to catch up with international developments. Response to a questionnaire on conversion to the DDC sent out to subscribers to the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie was overwhelmingly positive, and the majority of those surveyed were in favour of conversion.

The goal of the MACS (Multilingual Access to Subject Headings) project is to establish direct links between the subject headings of the three comprehensive subject authority files, RAMEAU, Library of Congress Subject Headings and the German Schlagwortnormdatei (Subject Authority File, SWD). This will enable users in the German-, French- and English-speaking regions to perform subject searches across language borders. During 2002, the institutions concerned with the development of MACS (the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the British Library, the Schweizerische Landesbibliothek and Die Deutsche Bibliothek) conducted extensive tests designed to determine the capacity of the link-management system to handle anticipated future workloads. It is now possible to search the collections of the participating libraries from a user portal via a Z39.50 interface.

Another project funded by the DFG entitled “Crosskonkordanz Standard-Thesaurus Wirtschaft (STW) - Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD)” was launched in March 2002. The goal of this project is to link the sections of the German Schlagwortnormdatei (Subject Authority File, SWD) relating to business and economics with the “Standard-Thesaurus Wirtschaft (STW)” in order to enable users to perform integrated searches in document collections whose content is covered by these thesauruses. The cross-concordance will translate search queries into the vocabulary of the respective other thesaurus, enabling the user to search effectively in multiple databases. Library and special information service users will be able to employ the indexing languages with which they are familiar. The participating thesaurus publishers and project partners are Die Deutsche Bibliothek, the Hamburgisches Weltwirtschaftsarchiv (HWWA), the Bibliothek des Instituts für Weltwirtschaft in Kiel (ZBW), the Universitäts- und Stadtbibliothek Köln, in its capacity as special library for business management information, and the Verbundzentrale des Gemeinsamen Bibliotheksverbundes in Göttingen.

### **International co-operation**

The European Library (TEL) project was initiated in 2001. The goal of this EU-sponsored project is to lay the technical, legal and organisational foundations for a pan-European information service on the basis of the distributed catalogues of both the digital and conventional collections of the participating libraries. Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Netherlands) have collaborated on

the development and testing of procedures for the retrieval of data from heterogeneous databases. These project results were presented at an international conference in Frankfurt am Main organised by Die Deutsche Bibliothek in the spring of 2002. Participants included 115 experts from 23 countries.

The role of Gabriel, the WWW service provided by European national libraries represented in the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), is also worthy of mention in this context. On the occasion of its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2002, Gabriel appeared in a new, more user-friendly layout. This multilingual Internet service provides uniformly structured information about European national libraries and their collections of printed and electronic materials as well as access to online national library catalogues and services.

### **UBCIM**

The IFLA focus programme for "Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC" (UBCIM) was established at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main in 1990. The purpose of the programme is to develop national and international systems and standards for bibliographic control and the international exchange of bibliographic data. UBCIM also provides support and guidance for further development of the UNIMARC format, a responsibility assumed by the National Library of Portugal in 2002. Preparations are currently in progress for the creation ICABS (IFLA CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards), an alliance that will assume responsibility for all other UBCIM functions. Present plans foresee a distribution of responsibilities among the participating libraries along the lines of existing areas of specialisation.

### **IFLA**

The one-week IFLA Annual Conference is scheduled for August 2003. Die Deutsche Bibliothek is involved in a number of activities devoted to preparation and organisation of the conference. As a member of the National Organisation Committee, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has assumed responsibility for preparations for the opening and closing ceremonies. The meeting of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) to be held in conjunction with the 2003 IFLA conference will be hosted by Die Deutsche Bibliothek. The library will also be organising the "First IFLA Meeting of Experts on an international Cataloguing Code" in collaboration with the IFLA Cataloguing Section.

### **Cultural programmes**

All three library locations once again presented an interesting programme of events and exhibitions during the reporting year. A brief selection of the most noteworthy events is presented below.

The Stiftung Buchkunst presented an exhibition entitled "Schönste Bücher aus aller Welt" at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig in the spring. The exhibit featured award-winning books of outstanding aesthetic appeal from 22 countries. Due to scheduled renovation work, it was not possible to present further exhibitions in the Vestibule during the reporting year.

The exhibition "Deutschsprachige Schriftsteller im Schweizer Exil 1933 – 1945" presented at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main was warmly received by the public and the press. In a fortunate, though unanticipated coincidence, the show opened during debate on the report by the government historians' commission on the position of the Swiss government vis-à-vis Nazi Germany and Swiss asylum policy from 1933 to 1945.

In keeping with established tradition, authors were invited to read from their works at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main on "Book Fair Sunday" in 2002. Amos Oz and Ulla Berkéwicz read passages from the novel "Allein das Meer".

The Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig organised readings for the traditional "Leipzig liest" and "Leipziger literarischer Herbst" events in Leipzig.

The Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig organised an extensive and enriching programme in conjunction with the "Nacht der Leipziger Museen".

As always, the Gesellschaft für das Buch, Friends of Die Deutsche Bibliothek provided valuable support for the library during the reporting year by helping fund the purchase of valuable works and assisting in the organisation of special events.

**Outlook**

According to an old proverb, "it is best to set one's own course for the future". Accordingly, Die Deutsche Bibliothek continues to place strong emphasis on playing an active role in shaping its own future and on seizing the opportunities offered by evolving literature and information markets. The new Law regarding Die Deutsche Bibliothek will certainly represent an important step in this direction, as it will help to ensure that our mandate covers digital publications as well and that no gaps emerged in our nation's collective memory. Alliances and partnerships at the national and international levels will continue to play an important role for Die Deutsche Bibliothek. These co-operative efforts and programmes involving both old and new partners will assume new dimensions in future, as we keep pace with a changing cultural and economic environment.