

## **Introduction**

For both Die Deutsche Bibliothek and its users, the most significant event of the reporting year 1996 was the completion of the new library building in Frankfurt am Main. The keys to the new facility were officially turned over to the Director General by the Federal Building Ministry and the Construction Supervisor on December 12th, 1996. This ceremony marked the end of the building phase and signalled the official commencement of moving activities - which had already begun for the 6.5 million books in September - for the library as a whole. After a thorough review of the possible alternatives for a national library representing the reunified Germany, the Bundestag gave final approval of the new building project in 1991. Groundbreaking took place in 1992, the topping-out ceremony in 1994, and the building was ultimately completed on schedule.

Thus the final cornerstone of the unification concept has been put in place. Formulated by the librarians of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig and the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main in April 1990, this concept has been implemented in a step-by-step process with the support of the German government as well as German publishers and booktraders. With its two book archives in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main and its Music Archive in Berlin, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is now ideally equipped not only to collect, catalogue and make available all books published in the German-speaking countries of Europe but to pursue with vigour its course into the digital information society as well. The new building in Frankfurt am Main represents a timely response to the profound changes wrought by information and communication technologies in publishing and to the new needs of users from the academic and business communities. It also offers a solution for problems relating to the long-term preservation and availability of digital publications.

Despite the intensity of this preparatory phase and the tremendous burden it has placed on existing capacities, Die Deutsche Bibliothek can look back upon substantial accomplishments during the reporting year.

## **Collection and long-term preservation**

The total collections of Die Deutsche Bibliothek comprised some 15 million volumes at the end of 1996. Holdings at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig grew by 271,789 units to a total of 8,389,707 (not including special materials). The collections of the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main (including the Deutsches Musikarchiv Berlin), were augmented by the addition of 302,119 units, bringing the total figure to 6,536,825. A revision of collection guidelines in the interest of greater precision and concentration, undertaken at mid-year, resulted for the first time in a lower volume of accession than that recorded in the previous year. Restrictions had become necessary due to drastic personnel cuts. Collection requirements were defined in justifiable form on the basis of intensive internal discussion and outside consultation.

Digital publications on physical data media now account for 2 % of all accessions. With regard to the archiving of networked publications, which are currently not subject to mandatory collection, Die Deutsche Bibliothek proposed postponing the passage of legal regulatory measures in order to provide time to gather experience in co-operation with publishers and to pursue long-term preservation as a project. The Publishers' Committee of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels has since recommended that all publishers submit a complimentary archive copy of their networked publications to Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

With respect to long-term availability, the library now expends considerable effort towards ensuring long-term preservation of transitory digital publications. In a joint undertaking with the firm CSC Ploenzke, Die Deutsche Bibliothek developed a multi-media provider system (MMB) offering a variety of conversion and migration options. In addition, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is also involved in the NEDLIB project within the context of the European Union's Telematic Program. The goal of this project is to establish the technical prerequisites for a virtual European deposit library for digital media.

What is now in its infancy with respect to new media has meanwhile become large-scale, high-tech routine in the work of preserving our intellectual heritage in print. In terms of process technology, the Leipzig Zentrum für Bucherhaltung, has become a genuine success story for Die Deutsche Bibliothek since the political turnabout in 1990. The process of saving books through de-acidification, developed in co-operation with Battelle, has become an unrivalled preservation concept combining superior quality with industrial-scale mass capacity for the first time in history. As many as 200,000 volumes can be processed annually, and capacities are capable of expansion in the future. Restoration employing yet another innovation from Leipzig, the mechanical paper-splitting process, is based upon the principle of stabilising heavily damaged single pages. Currently, about 2,000 sheets can be treated per day - ten times more than could be processed manually. Eventually, it is hoped that the process developed by the Becker company will be able to handle 10,000 sheets per day. In conjunction with the 1996 Leipzig Book Fair, Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the European Commission on Preservation and Access jointly sponsored an international conference on this topic, attended by more than 200 participants from 30 different countries. Response to the Leipzig process was outstanding.

Despite Leipzig's uncontested world-wide leadership position in this field, it has not yet been achieved to turn the temporarily approved posts into permanent staff posts in order to protect investments and preserve the results achieved thus far within the library. The Executive and Advisory Boards of Die Deutsche Bibliothek have identified an approach to privatisation as a possible solution to this dilemma. Negotiations are still underway at this time. There is no question, however, that Die Deutsche Bibliothek has both a legal and a cultural mandate for long-term preservation of publications as a national memory.

It should be noted that this principle also applies to digital media. Die Deutsche Bibliothek now possesses a highly complex and effective information structure in this area as well.

However, employment cuts and a total hiring freeze have made it impossible to hire specialists needed to exploit the potential inherent in this system. At present, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is making do with project funds and retraining measures.

## **Processing, bibliographic control, bibliographic user services**

Descriptive and subject cataloguing of new accessions were updated with the required degree. The Frankfurt collections have now been compiled in their entirety in an online catalogue. The Leipzig online catalogue covers the period from 1974 to the present.

In addition to bibliographic recording, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is intensively involved in the development and expansion of authority files (Subject Authority File, Corporate Body Authority File, Name Authority File). These services are of great assistance to libraries, not only for cataloguing purposes but in support of inter-system networking and precise search entries in the Internet as well.

A DFG-supported project, the Name Authority File (*Personennamendatei, PND*) is accessible both on- and off-line. A weekly change service provides all new versions. In May 1996, the PND and the Subject Authority File (*Schlagwortnormdatei, SWD*) were published as an

Authority File CD. The Corporate Body Authority File (*Gemeinsame Körperschaftsdatei, GKD*) is to be added in 1997. A PND workshop held in Frankfurt in December formulated recommendations for the further development of this central authority file.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek is currently conducting negotiations with other national libraries, most notably the Library of Congress, for the purpose of establishing procedures for the mutual exchange of authority files. While the title data published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek are not authority files in the strict sense of the term, their widespread use in libraries and affiliate systems gives them the character of *de facto* standards. The 227,935 publications cited in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie provide the foundation for a variety of bibliographic user services. The Title Card Service comprised 3.1 million title cards. An extremely high rate of growth was recorded in the sale of electronic data records: a 60 % increase over 1995 resulting in a total of 16.7 million data records provided. The total number of available data records encompasses the citations of the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie in the MAB and UNIMARC formats, data records from the British National Bibliography and Casalini redistributed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the SWD and PND authority files. There a number of reasons for the marked rise in sales. Among the major contributors to growth were retrospective data record orders, the expansion of the floppy disc service and the intensified use of authority files. It is now possible to retrieve title and authority data online via FTP using the WEB-Z.39.50 gateway.

Significant work was accomplished in preparation for the integration of the Deutsches Musikarchiv into the online system of Die Deutsche Bibliothek (ILTIS) during the reporting year. Full integration is scheduled to take place during the first six months of 1997. All necessary preparations have been completed on the ILTIS-Z project for the computer-aided procurement of periodicals. Centralised periodicals management and indexing have been implemented for the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt a.M. and the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig beginning in January 1997. The standard data records for the Name Authority File have been incorporated into the main ILTIS database, thus fulfilling an important prerequisite for the transfer of the determinations of the headings Die Deutsche Bibliothek to the PND beginning in 1997.

Preparations have also been completed for the realisation of Phase II - Document Ordering - of the project entitled "DBV-OSI II - Open Communication among Special Information and Library Systems", which is being carried out under the leadership of Die Deutsche Bibliothek. Trial operation is to begin in the spring of 1997. The trial run for Phase I - Searching - came to an end in December and converted to routine operation in January 1997.

## **Use and special events**

Developments in user services differed in Leipzig and Frankfurt am Main. The transfer of books to the new building in Frankfurt beginning in September resulted in a steady decrease in the number of books available; a partial reduction of opening hours became necessary towards the end of the year and led to appreciable restrictions on use. Leipzig recorded a continuing rise in users. Open on 297 days, the Deutsche Bücherei processed 476,818 orders. The Deutsche Bibliothek received 222,444 orders on 296 opening days. Reading rooms remained completely occupied well into the evening during operating hours (until 10 p.m. in Leipzig; until 8 p.m. and beginning in September until 6 p.m. in Frankfurt am Main). The transfer of books to the new building in Frankfurt was completed in barely three months, with 60,000 - 80,000 volumes per day moved to the underground storage areas of the facility on the Adickesallee.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek continuously expanded the package of services offered on the Web server (address: <http://www.ddb.de>). Aside from access to the Leipzig online catalogue, Web users may now obtain electronic publications and information about the library, reach links to

related information servers and access GABRIEL, the server for the European national libraries. GABRIEL began routine operation in the Internet on September 30th, 1996, offering the services of 38 national libraries under a single Internet address and thus representing a virtual European library. The computer at the Royal Library in The Hague functions as the master server for GABRIEL. It is supplemented by three mirror servers in London, Helsinki and Frankfurt am Main (<http://www.ddb.de/gabriel>).

A number of significant events and international conferences, organised primarily by the Leipzig staff, served as high-level forums, the results of which were published in most cases. The most prominent of these events was the opening of the permanent exhibition of the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum entitled "Mercur und die Bücher - 500 Jahre Buchplatz Leipzig", which once again underscored the importance of the Book Museum as a national documentation centre for the culture of books in the German-speaking region. Opening addresses presented by the Chairman of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, the Chairman of the Publishers' Committee of the Börsenverein and the Chairman of the Administrative Council of Die Deutsche Bibliothek provided enduring testimony to the mutual interest on the part of government and the book trade in promoting books in our society.

Also worthy of note are the 23rd International Conference of Paper Historians, the International Book Preservation Conference - "Choosing to Preserve", the conference entitled "Das Loch in der Mauer" in conjunction with the Leipziger Arbeitskreis zur Geschichte des Buchwesens and the exhibitions presented in Leipzig: Bilder und Worte - Unikatbücher von Gertrud Bornieck, Richer A. Bermann alias Arnold Höllriegel, Mechthild Lobisch - von Taschenbuch bis Raumbuch, Rotraut Susanne Berner - Buchillustrationen, Alpha Presse - Künstlerbücher, Traditionen der Papiergeschichtsforschung, Zeichen über Grenzen - Papierkunst aus Österreich, Tschechien und Deutschland.

## Looking ahead

In the years since the political turnabout in Germany, Die Deutsche Bibliothek - in spite of all budgetary restrictions - has achieved successful internal integration and a significant degree of co-operation beyond its own walls. A great deal has been accomplished during this period. An essential contribution to the integration process was made by Dr. Gottfried Rost, Director of the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig and Permanent Deputy Director General since early 1991. The result of this efforts was a unification concept based upon the equality of the two library locations. At an impressive ceremony on November 14th, 1996, Gottfried Rost officially retired after 40 years of professional life.

He was succeeded by Irmgard Spencker, who also looks back upon many years of experience in Leipzig and, like her predecessor, brings a high level of identification and competence to bear on the tasks ahead. Summarising the unification process, Gottfried Rost remarked: "It is of historic interest to reflect that two similar cultural institutions have, in a forward-looking and systematic approach, accomplished the reunification of Germany in their own dimension not only without loss of substance, but that they have concentrated and intensified their activities, emerging from the process with the prospect of a shared future and a common purpose."

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