

Introduction

After nearly five years of construction - groundbreaking in 1992, topping-off in 1994 and presentation of the keys in 1996 - the new library facility in Frankfurt a. M. was officially opened by Chancellor Helmut Kohl on May 14th, 1997. The ceremony was attended by an impressive gathering of highly impressed guests: book traders, publishers, librarians, politicians, authors, architects and representatives of universities, academic organisations, companies, trade unions, churches, the media and many other organisations and institutions. Nearly all of the national libraries of the European Union, central and eastern Europe were represented, alongside the major libraries of North America. Their presence bore witness to the close relationships *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* now enjoys all over the world. In his address the German Chancellor emphasised the role of the *Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt* and the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig* as pioneers in the process of unification: "Following the reunification of our fatherland, the two libraries joined to form a single entity which we can rightly call - there is surely no better word for it - a national library. This merger represents a much more significant sign of Germany's inner unity than a number of other events that made headlines."

The concept for this fusion, presented by the two libraries shortly after the collapse of the Wall in 1989, gained the support of both parliament and government. With collections totalling some 15.42 million volumes, Germany now possesses an impressive continuum of literature that gives permanence to the transient and thus serves as an unimpeachable record of our intellectual and cultural heritage. The completion of the new facility in Frankfurt a. M. and the extensive renovation of the beautiful building in Leipzig represented more than a gesture of reverence for the traditional book centres of Leipzig and Frankfurt a. M.; indeed, these accomplishments were a timely response to the profound changes taking in the publication sector under the influence of computer and networking technology. It was now possible to set priorities for the two houses in such a way that both the culture of books and that of digital publications would receive the focused attention they require.

The library facilities in Frankfurt a. M. and Leipzig

The plans drawn up by the architects Mete Arat, Hans-Dieter Kaiser and Gisela Kaiser for the new library building in Frankfurt produced a remarkably functional, rational and transparent facility. Utility and purposeful design are its dominant features. Two-thirds of the available floor space is located underground. Storage capacity for 18 million books has been created on 30 000 m² of space, distributed over three levels of stacks. Current holdings comprise about 7 million volumes. Assuming an accession rate of 1 000 new titles per day, the present capacities will not be exhausted before 2035. The above-ground structures include the administrative building, with workspace for some 300 staff members, public-access areas, including the circulation desk, information centre, readings rooms and the *Deutsches Exilarchiv*, and the conference centre with an adjacent exhibition hall, restaurant and cafeteria.

Particular emphasis has been placed upon the information infrastructure. The new communications network is built upon a foundation of state-of-the-art technology (ATM) and is capable of handling 900 passive connections, 50 multimedia PCs and 600 terminals. All in all, the system required 1 150 km of cable. The Leipzig and Berlin (*Deutsches Musikarchiv*) locations are connected via a logical ATM network. Access through open interfaces enables

users to search a wide range of systems offered by different information providers, library associations, individual libraries and other information servers on a global scale without changing search languages.

Renovation and rebuilding measures were continued at the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig*. The construction measures undertaken reflect a strong commitment to monument preservation as well as close attention to both architectural concerns and the requirements of efficient library operations. The results thus far are in keeping with the highest standards of aesthetics and functionality. Visible progress during the reporting year included the restoration of the Sciences Reading Room in the original Bauhaus style. Closed for two months during restoration, the reading room was reopened to the public on October 25th, 1997. All three readings rooms (humanities, sciences and technology) have now been renovated. In addition, work continued on measures designed to furnish the facility with modern networking technology and on the restoration of the façades facing the inner courtyard.

Collection and long-term preservation

By the end of 1997, the total collections held by *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* comprised approximately 15.42 million volumes. The *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig* added 260 000 units during the year, the *Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt a. M.* acquired 236 000 units. This amounts to a decline from the previous year's levels, resulting primarily from modifications of the collection guidelines made necessary by drastic staff reductions. The offensive approach to comprehensive collection pursued in the past required reassessment in formal terms as well, however, as the flood of publications generated above all by institutions outside the commercial publishers' book trade - due on the one hand to improved reproduction techniques and on the other to the intermixture of commercial and editorial information - resulted in a distortion of the collection spectrum. We shall continue to apply the principle of non-selectivity with respect to individual items within specific types of publications. The definition of excludable commercial and advertising printed matter was made more restrictive; the minimum page numbers and minimum printing sizes were raised for "grey publications". Unrevised new printings were excluded from collection. The number of such publications - which account for 25 per cent of monographs sold in the book trade - is very high. The new collection guidelines have been published. These modifications were unavoidable in view of the increasing number of digital publications, which require considerable time to process. The currently applicable law covering legal deposit copies of publications, take into account digital publications on physical media (CD-ROMs, floppy discs, magnetic tapes) but do not require legal deposit of networked publications. We at *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* are of the opinion that reliable data regarding the content and magnitude of the new legal deposit sectors must be available for assessment before a new law is drafted. For this reason, a procedure has been worked out in cooperation with the Publishers' Committee of the *Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels* providing for the voluntary submission of complementary copies of networked publications. After a period of 3 to 5 years, collection rules can then be drafted on the basis of the experience gathered in the meantime. This area of responsibility covers archiving, long-term preservation measures, cataloguing and the availability of materials for use at no charge in the reading rooms. Any types of use above and beyond this - e.g. electronic transfer and editing - as well as availability to external users will be regulated on the basis of corresponding agreements with publishers. This experimental phase was initiated in 1998.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek is obliged by law not only to collect publications in the most comprehensive manner possible but to ensure the long-term preservation of its holdings. It has made every conceivable effort to do so. Immediately after the political turnabout in 1990, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* established its own *Zentrum für Bucherhaltung* (Centre for Book

Preservation and Conservation) at the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig*. A decisive factor in this undertaking was the generous support provided by the *Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung und Technologie* (German Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Technology, BMBF), which provided funds amounting to several millions for the development of innovative mass-conservation processes designed to combat the effects of acid and paper deterioration. As a first step, the mass-deacidification facility, developed in a co-operative effort with Battelle, was put into operation in 1994. Immediately afterwards, the fully mechanised restoration of individual book pages was begun, using the paper-splitting process developed in conjunction with the Becker Preservotec company. Thanks to this process, the Leipzig library location has assumed a position of world-wide leadership in this field. Despite the tremendous success achieved in the development process, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* has decided, for a variety of reasons, to separate the *Zentrum für Bucherhaltung* from its organisation and establish it as a corporate entity in its own right. Government budget restrictions prohibit capacity expansion and multi-shift operations, both of which are indispensable in view of the extent of damage to library and archival collections. Large-scale technical facilities must keep pace with technological advances, and that requires investments in the millions. Continued operation of the *Zentrum für Bucherhaltung* would obligate *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* to set priorities to the detriment of its primary functions. Thus a Europe-wide campaign for the purpose of determining interest in the formation of an independent limited company was initiated in the summer of 1997, and has since produced highly satisfactory results. The *Zentrum für Bucherhaltung, GmbH* was founded at the Leipzig location. The existing professional staff and technical facilities were incorporated into the new organisation. Thus a strategic concept has been realised that will make it possible to preserve the cultural heritage - and that not only in Germany - in the long term. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* and the *Zentrum für Bucherhaltung, GmbH* will specify the nature of future joint efforts in a co-operative agreement.

In contrast to the preservation of print media in original form, digital media cannot be preserved as originals because of the diversity of distribution forms and variety of hardware and software needed to access them and due to the rapid pace of change affecting both. What is needed is a concept for preservation and migration that is as uniform as possible and which will provide for periodic conversion in the future. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* has begun work on such a solution: the European NEDLIB Project, which has now been approved by the European Commission. Project participants include seven national libraries, the publishers Springer, Elsevier and Kluwer and a number of software producers. The most significant benefit to be gained from the NEDLIB Project is the development of feasible instruments for an effective archiving system. The project is scheduled for completion in the year 2000.

Bibliographic Processing and Central Services

All new acquisitions received during the reporting year were completely processed in keeping with standards of currency and quality. The *Deutsche Nationalbibliographie* contained new citations for 210 000 publications. Since early 1997, CIP pre-publication notices have been received for processing through both conventional and electronic means. Work in the area of standards has been intensified. Thus the *Personennamendatei* (Name Authority File, PND) was expanded through the addition of the title records of *Die Deutsche Bibliothek*, for example. It now comprises 1.7 million names. The PND is maintained by *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* and expanded in a co-operative effort involving the *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek*, the *Hochschulbibliothekszentrum Köln* and the *Zentralkartei der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*. With respect to the *Schlagwortnormdatei* (Subject Authority File, SWD), substantive preparations are in progress for the creation of a multilingual thesaurus, which is to combine

the subject headings of the Library of Congress, the RAMEAU subject heading file of the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* and the German SWD into a single concordance. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* has studied the convergence capacity of the RAK-based catalogues still in common use and the rules of the ISSN system and arrived at a positive determination. In conjunction with the revision of the American AACR rules, this opens the way, given some modification of German conventions, for greater internationalisation, while providing as well for reliable identification of periodical titles in document delivery systems. With the international UBCIM bibliographic centre, which is part of the IFLA Core Program, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* seeks to make a direct contribution to international progress in bibliographic processing (UNIMARC, EDI, ISADN).

The development of new processing methods is the focus of the DFG project Meta-Lib, now being carried out by *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* in cooperation with the *Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen* and the *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München* for digital publications. This involves the use of metadata supplied by producers (Dublin Core Set) and augmented with national bibliographic elements (extension of data fields, links to authority files, links with numberings systems such as ISSN, ISBN, DOI). In this project as well, international viability is an essential criterion for decisions.

Access to catalogue data in Frankfurt is provided by an online catalogue covering the entire library collection. The database currently contains 6 million entries, and 1 200 data records are added daily. Searches using the graphic interface and the Web browser can be carried out conveniently via masks. In addition, external users may access the OPAC through the Internet. A gateway with open interfaces has been implemented. An external connection to the wide-band Academic Network (DFN) has been established.

The Leipzig online catalogue covers all publications since 1974. It can also be searched via the Internet. The existing card catalogues are to be converted into electronic form as soon as possible.

Conversion of the previous production systems to the SGML structure has been completed for central services derived from the central bibliographic database. This represents a system-independent solution that will make it possible to offer a broader range of services in the future. A total of more than 2.5 million catalogue cards and 12 million electronic title and authority-file records were issued offline in 1997. An increasing number of subscribers are moving from offline data acquisition to the Internet. In response to this development, a new Web interface has been introduced on a trial basis.

Beginning in 1997, the *AuthorityFile* CD comprises the *Schlagwortnormdatei* (SWD: 380 000 data records), the *Personennamendatei* (PND: 1.8 million data records) and the *Gemeinsame Körperschaftsdatei* (GKD: 660 000 data records). The CD-ROM *Musik* contains - for the first time - historical recordings and rental materials in addition to sheet music and sound recordings. With this significant expansion, the CD-ROM issued by the *Deutsches Musikarchiv* now contains entries for 500 000 publications and has thus become the leading CD-ROM for music sources of all types in Europe.

On November 17th and 18th, 1997, a users' conference held at the Conference Centre of the *Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt a. M.* was attended by more than 100 central services subscribers. A questionnaire survey was conducted prior to the conference for the purpose of gaining insights with regard to users' acceptance, assessment and needs for further development of these services.

In general, customers indicated a high level of satisfaction. The newest online services were welcomed. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* plans to conduct such users' conferences at regular intervals in the future.

The digital library

The *Multimedia-Bereitstellungssystem* (Multimedia Resource Provider System, MMB) was developed and implemented at the new Frankfurt facility for the purposes of identification, management, search and long-term preservation of digital publications. As the heart of the digital library, it offers the following functions:

- Access to the online catalogue, to digital publications and to the Internet
- Linking of the online catalogue and digital publications
- Work in both Internet and Intranet environments
- Use of publications pre-installed in the system
- Printout or downloading of results
- Conversion to archive versions of publications for the purpose of long-term preservation
- User-management and billing procedures

Digital publications are made available on physical media and as networked publications, converted digital publications and transformed analogue objects. Publications are stored on hard-disc drives (RAID system) or in CD-ROM jukeboxes. Copyright requirements and licensing rights are taken into account. A new information structure has been installed for interconnection with the *Deutsches Musikarchiv Berlin*, using a local PC network integrated into open communication structures. Plans for the high-speed network for the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig* have also been completed. Contracts have already been awarded for the next phase. In this way, all three locations are now directly involved in digital library services.

Within the framework of the digital library, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* fulfilled the preconditions for participation in the projects entitled "Verteilte digitale Forschungsbibliothek/Zeitschriften des Deutschen Exilarchivs 1933 - 1945" (Distributed Digital Research Library/Periodicals of the Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933 - 1945) and "Verteiltes Informationssystem für Rechtsquellen" (Distributed Information System for Legal Resources), the object of which is the digitisation of printed publications, to include the development of suitable indexing procedures. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* is also involved in the DFG "Dissertationen Online" (Dissertations Online) project initiated by the *Humboldt-Universität Berlin*. Phase II (electronic document delivery) of the project "DBV-OSI II - offene Kommunikation der Fachinformations- und Bibliothekssysteme" (Open Communication among Academic and Library Information Systems), now in progress under the leadership of *Die Deutsche Bibliothek*, was completed in 1997.

The DOD (Document Order Receive and Delivery) system developed in the course of the project was then acquired by "Subito", a federal-state initiative, as the central component for the acceleration of publication and information services. System development was promoted by funds provided by the BMBF and the DFG. The pilot phase began in October 1997. In November, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* set up a DOD system as a reference base for continuous further development. This system also offers the possibility of future use as an access and document delivery system.

An intensification of activities on the part of special departments towards the further development of the digital library can be anticipated. With its electronic inventory of archival resources on the history of the German book trade and publishing industry in the 19th and 20th centuries, the *Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum* (DBSM) has created a solid foundation for the provision of related services. Also worthy of note are the Internet activities of the *Papierhistorische Sammlung* (Paper History Collection) of the DBSM, which has opened an Internet site as a "virtual museum" featuring a selection of coloured papers. Although still to a certain extent experimental in nature, this program is expected to gain rapidly in importance as a source of scholarly information.

Library use, Events

Never before has the library had so many readers. This applies to both the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig* and the *Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt a. M.*, and there is no more convincing justification of an institution's existence than that. In Frankfurt, library use was stimulated by the new facility with its more spacious public-access areas, its expanded reference library and its new services, including multimedia and Internet access. The new building opened its doors to the public after only 2 months of interrupted service to allow for relocation and reorientation. The number of orders placed daily increased to 1 600 - a rise of 40 to 50 per cent over previous years.

The volume of orders also continued to rise at the *Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig* despite obstacles to public access resulting from construction measures.

While Frankfurt offers 55 hours of open access per week, Leipzig's doors are open 79 hours a week. The large volume of users and orders has challenged the library staff to - and beyond - the limits of its capacity to perform. The situation was also exacerbated by the fact that all government agencies and institutions have been required for some years now to reduce personnel by 2 per cent annually. A major handicap is the absolute hiring freeze imposed upon *Die Deutsche Bibliothek*. For a service institution whose services are - quite rightly - in demand and which must continue to evolve in response to changes in the fields of education and information, this situation is more than merely critical. With the introduction of an annual user fee of DM 30.00 (DM 5.00 for a weekly card) on September 1st, 1997, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* initiated an entirely new approach to the issue of securing adequate operating income. The proceeds from user fees are retained by the library to be used to employ temporary staff and in support of book conservation measures. In this way, the libraries in Leipzig and Frankfurt a. M. have regained at least a certain degree of flexibility as service providers.

However, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* has not focused its income policy upon users alone. It also relieves the burden on the federal budget through earnings derived from its central bibliographic services, for which a new fee schedule was also instituted.

The program of events in Leipzig and Frankfurt a. M. offered a variety of interesting facets. Among the most noteworthy events in Leipzig were the reading by Armin Müller-Stahl (from *Unterwegs nach Hause*), the "Thoughts and Reflections" of Avi Primor, the Israeli Ambassador to Germany, on his book entitled . . . *mit Ausnahme Deutschlands* [. . . with the Exception of Germany], an address he had previously presented at the *Frankfurter Haus*, and the Symposium "Buchhandel und (National)Bibliothek" organised by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sammlung Deutscher Drucke. The Frankfurt program included most notably the events related to the topic of "Portugal", the focal theme of the 1997 Frankfurt International Book Fair (the performance of Fernando Pessoa's *The Anarchist Banker* at the *Deutsches Schauspielhaus* in Hamburg and the jazz concert featuring Mario Joao, to name only two examples). The Federal Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Technology (BMBF) chose the *Frankfurter Haus* as the site of the starting session for its new sponsorship program "Global Info". In addition, interesting exhibitions were shown in both Leipzig and Frankfurt. The foyer of the *Deutsche Bücherei* in Leipzig served as the showplace for the exhibitions "Franz v. Suppé, Franz Lehar. Unsterbliche Operette", "Lichter und Finsternis: Raoul Wallenberg und die Rettung der Budapester Juden 1944/45", "10 Jahre alternatives Schrifttum. 30 Jahre Druck von unten" and "Gotthard de Beauclair - Buchgestalter, Lyriker, Verleger".

The *Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum* presented "Zeichen über Grenzen - Papierkunst aus Österreich, Tschechien und Deutschland", "Sammeln und Bewahren: Neuerwerbungen 1993 bis 1998", "Wolfgang Hauwinkel - Geheime Muster. Aquarelle, Papierobjekte,

Zellstoffskulpturen", "Wolfgang Nieblich: ohne ISBN, Installationen, Buchskulpturen" und "Reinhard Minkewitz. Zeichnung, Druckgrafik, Buchkunst".

On May 13th, the new exhibition hall of the *Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt a. M.* presented its first exhibition within the context of the opening ceremonies: "Typen und Macher: 300 schöne Bücher aus den Beständen Der Deutschen Bibliothek". The exhibitions "Lesen, unbegrenzt reisen: die Portugiesen und die Welt" and "Das Buch als Kunstobjekt" were shown during the 1997 Frankfurt International Book Fair. Gertrud Boernick presented her "Unikatbücher" near year's end.

International activities

Notwithstanding the strong local appeal of its facilities in the traditional book centres of Leipzig and Frankfurt a. M. and in Berlin, home of the *Deutsches Musikarchiv*, *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* remains an institution with significant national and international responsibilities. *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* has held the chair of the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) for seven years. During this time, the 38 national libraries in eastern and western Europe have carried out or initiated numerous co-operative projects devoted to strengthening the European information infrastructure, among them the creation of a virtual European library under an Internet address (GABRIEL) and the establishment of a digital European deposit library (NEDLIB), the interconnection of European online catalogues (ONE). *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* was intensively involved in the telematics section of the 3rd and 4th EU Framework Programs and is a member of several working groups. As a founding member of the European Commission on Preservation and Access and board member of the US council of Library and Information Resources, it is actively engaged in international programs in support of long-term preservation of printed and digital publications. Close working contacts have also been forged within the framework of central and eastern European library initiatives.

A data exchange agreement was concluded with the American Research Libraries Group, comprised of the most important academic libraries in the US. These are only a few examples of new alliances intended to help us continue to improve services related to the communication of information and knowledge.

Outlook

Despite the stress and strain, 1997 was a successful year, thanks not least of all to the many opportunities opened up by the new facility in Frankfurt a. M., by the modern information infrastructure, by our involvement in research projects and the to the flexibility, dedication and professionalism of our staff. At the same time, however, it was an exceptional year, upon which all of our operational burdens were focused.

This was undoubtedly a function of the physical move and the radical changes in infrastructure and organisation. In spite of the high expectations placed in it, the library must restore harmony and balance to the interplay of functional obligations, operating funds and personnel resources. If this is to be accomplished, the absolute freeze on new hiring must be relaxed to the extent that a hiring "corridor" for specialists is instituted. Moreover, available operating funds must be sufficient to guarantee our ability to fulfil our legal obligations, and we must have an innovation centre to ensure our capacity to develop and to make effective use of the fruits of work performed in research projects funded by outside sources.

In his address at the opening of the new facility, the Chancellor left no doubt in anyone's mind that it is worthwhile to invest in *Die Deutsche Bibliothek* in order to have and to preserve a record of our cultural and intellectual heritage, to strengthen the dialogue among cultures und

to foster the free exchange of knowledge and information. He underscored his view by citing Goethe: "A collection of books is the presence of a great capital that silently earns incalculable interest."

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