

## **KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK**

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Annual report 1996/1997 to the Conference of European National Librarians

The main mission of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek as the national library of the Netherlands is to preserve the national printed and written heritage. Apart from the deposit collection of Dutch publications, which covers all fields of subjects and interests, the KB has a high level collection of scholarly literature in the humanities and a number of special collections comprising incunabula, medieval and modern manuscripts, early printed books etc. The coverage of the social sciences is less in depth; literature in the field of science is not actively collected. In 1996 the KB had an estimated 2,200,000 bound volumes.

### **THE LIBRARY IN POLITICS**

Personnel costs, which are only partially covered by government funding, are a growing burden. The library has to continue its national tasks related to printed material. On top of that the library makes serious efforts to offer new services related to electronic information. An important new task is the building of a deposit collection of electronic publications (see also the next paragraph). In September the KB requested the government to supply additional financial means for this task. A paper was presented containing estimations of the investments needed for IT and personnel.

### **DEPOSIT COLLECTION**

Research and preparations for the building of a deposit collection of electronic publications continued. On the basis of a national deposit license, journals of Elsevier Science and Kluwer Academic Publishers with Dutch imprint were deposited as electronic files, which will be available for on-site online access. Research included a market survey concerning the production of electronic publications (online and offline) in the next five years, and criteria for the selection of deposit material. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the Dutch Publishers Association a substantial number of publishers were requested to deposit CD-ROMs and other offline publications. The response of the publishers is promising and more publishers will be approached in the next months.

A survey of the coverage of the deposit collection of printed material showed the success of the voluntary arrangements in the Netherlands. Nearly 97% of the Dutch books with ISBN, 90% of the periodicals and 70% of Dutch grey literature can be found in the national library.

### **THE LIBRARY BUILDING**

For the maintenance of the building, which is a joint responsibility of the library and the government, a temporary solution was agreed upon in 1995. However, a structural solution will be needed as from 1998.

After the many structural alterations of the inside of the library a new entrance came into use in April 1997. The entrance gives not only access to the library but also to eleven other institutions which are housed on the KB premises.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION**

A new IT strategic plan was formulated for the years 1997-1999. The goals are: consolidation of the office automation, innovation to improve services to the public, and development and maintenance of a technical infrastructure to support innovative projects.

Preparations were made for the implementation of the next version of the Advanced Information Workstation (AIW), which integrates information services, network navigation tools and PC utilities. This year AIW will form an integral part of the KB network service Alexicon.

## **CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS**

The KB formulated a national programme for the conservation of library material (1997-2000), which was presented to the government in February 1997. The Dutch government made NLG 18 million available for the implementation of the four year programme, which includes the conservation of collections of literary works and newspapers in Dutch libraries, and the conservation of the Dutch book production.

On behalf of the Dutch government the KB organized the European Meeting on Paper Preservation, which was held in the national library on March 20-22. The Recommendations of the meeting will be presented to the Council of European Ministers of Culture.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Much attention was given to the preparations for the celebration of KB's bicentenary in 1998. There will be a large exhibition from August to October in the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church) in the centre of Amsterdam. The exhibition will be sponsored by the government as well as by other organisations and companies. The KB will show the different aspects of its services, related to print on paper as well as to electronic information. Many international visitors are expected because of the IFLA annual conference, which will take place in Amsterdam August 16-21.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The KB participates in the Cobra+ Forum on national bibliographic databases and in related working groups on national networked resources, digitisation, catalogue access and publisher cooperation. The KB is involved in discussions with the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), which take place in the FEP/CENL joint committee on electronic publications.

Much energy was invested in preparing, together with other national libraries, a project proposal for the joint development of a generic demonstrator for a networked European Deposit Library (NEDLIB). The KB accepted the responsibility for the overall editorial maintenance of Gabriel, the WWW information service which aims to achieve comprehensive coverage of European national libraries. In 1997 new services of the individual libraries will be incorporated and the results of collaborative projects will be published through Gabriel. Other international projects in which the KB participated are Biblink, Desire and UseMarcon. A report was made for the UNESCO project Memory of the World.

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