

KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Annual report 1997/1998 to the Conference of European National Librarians

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The Netherlands

Statistics KB 1997	
Budget Personnel costs Acquisition costs	NLG 41,6 million (1 NLG = 0,5 USD) NLG 21,3 million (= 51%) NLG 3,7 million (= 9%)
Staff	230 fte = 325 employees
Holdings	3 million items (incl. 2.2 million books)
New acquisitions Deposit collection Research collection	 44,000 books 18,000 books
Current periodicals Deposit collection Research collection	 11,000 periodicals 4,300 periodicals
Library use Registered users Day passes issued Visits Fulfilled requests for documents	 9,500 5,000 65,000 290,000

Strategic plan 1998-2001

The KB has issued a new strategic plan for the years 1998-2001. In this period the KB will continue the policy of innovation and consolidation. New activities will focus on three topics:

- Deposit collection of Dutch Electronic Publications

The experimental situation has to migrate into an operational service. For 1998, the government provided NLG 800,000 from the national Information Superhighway Fund. The same amount is needed for 1999 and following years (see also below).

- Digitisation and preservation

Parts of the collection will be digitised and made available through the KB website. The KB is co-ordinating a national programme for the preservation of library materials (see also below).

- Strengthening library services for the humanities

Six university libraries agreed upon a proposal of the KB for a national plan with the aim of strengthening library services in the field of the humanities through additional funds (see also below). According to this plan, the KB needs an additional NLG 500,000 for acquisitions. At the same time, collection-oriented research in the KB will be stimulated.

The strategic plan (in Dutch and English) will be available in print and via the KB website.

Finance and funding

The increase of personnel costs per annum is not entirely reimbursed by the Government (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science). Therefore, a cut-back in expenditure is necessary amounting to some 5% of the total personnel budget (=12 fte) in the next four years. Studies are being carried out to determine how the reduction can be achieved. From 1998 government funding will increase by NLG 5 million, earmarked for building maintenance. This is the favourable result of a long discussion with the Ministry. In fact, from 1994 the Ministry provided already additional funds for maintenance, but this was only temporary, awaiting a more permanent solution, which has now been provided. The KB is responsible for user maintenance, also on behalf of the other institutions in the building. The Government is still the owner and responsible for major repairs.

The KB has been successful in finding additional funds for R&D in several fields, especially IT and innovation, and preservation. A project management team is responsible for the planning and control of all projects. The financial management of projects is independent from budgets for exploitation, capital investment and housing. The R&D budget is NLG 2,3 million per annum on the average (1994-1997).

Deposit collection of electronic publications

Research

In the period 1 April 1996 until 31 December 1997 a study was carried out funded by the Steering Committee for Innovation in Scientific Information Provision. In 1997 reports were issued on:

- Selection criteria, selection methods and acquisition
- Bibliographic description, metadata, identification and authenticity
- Migration, storage, conversion and emulation
- Copyright issues, authors and publishers
- A test-bed with 100 publications.

The Institute for Information Law (University of Amsterdam) carried out a study on copyright issues in relation to the deposit of electronic publications. The study focused on the legal consequences of refreshment, conversion and migration of electronic publications. In February 1998 the results were presented at a symposium which attracted also attention in the national press. It was concluded that the present laws and regulations, at the national as well as the European level, do not allow the national library to take appropriate measures to ensure permanent access to electronic publications without the permission of copyright owners. Asking the permission for the preservation of specific publications is impractical and implies an effort that the KB can not afford. Discussions with the Dutch Publishers Association were started to reach a general agreement. Moreover, the issue will be put forward to the Government and members of Parliament whenever a revision of existing law or a new law is considered. The KB will strive for an article in the law to allow the national library to execute its task as guardian of the national cultural heritage. An English version of the report will be available in print and on the KB website.

In January 1998 the Nedlib project was started with the aim of building the basis infrastructure for a networked European deposit library. Many national libraries in Europe are participating in the project, as well as three large publishing companies. The KB is co-ordinating partner.

From experiment to operational service

A four-year plan to migrate the experimental situation to an operational service was submitted to the Government, which made NLG 800,000 available for 1998. It is expected that the same amount will be provided in the years 1999-2001. This allows the KB to acquire and process 3,000-4,500 electronic publications per annum. Elsevier Science, Kluwer Academic Publishers and Sdu Uitgevers continued to deposit on-line electronic publications (mainly journals); a special effort was made to persuade publishers to deposit CD-ROM's according to an agreement with the Dutch Publishers Association.

After experimenting with AT&T Right Pages and ICL Commands, IBM Digital Library was selected and implemented as the software for the operational system. The system manages all processes relating to the deposit collection of electronic publications.

Building and plant

After the opening of the new entrance in April 1997 the auditorium and foyer have been thoroughly renovated, including the audio-visual facilities. A new system for climate control in public areas, stores and offices was installed.

Acquisitions

From 1986 until 1996 the acquisitions budget remained unchanged as the price of library material increased an average of 7% a year. In 1986 the KB could purchase 24,200 books for its research collection, in 1997 this was only 11,600. Many university libraries experienced the same decrease of purchasing power. In a study carried out by the KB scholarly collections in the Netherlands were compared to those in Germany (*Sondersammel Gebiete*). The collections for the humanities showed the most severe lag in development. Only 60% of the foreign literature in German libraries could be found also in the Netherlands. The national Steering Committee for Innovation in Scientific Information Provision asked the KB to draw up a plan for additional funding of university libraries with large humanities collections and the KB itself. Detailed information on acquisition budgets and collection characteristics were collected and some 40 interviews were held with librarians, faculty members and university governors. In March 1998 a report was issued claiming an additional NLG 17 million in the period 1999-2002 for library acquisitions, on the basis of a division of responsibilities involving six university libraries and the KB. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific

Research is the most likely organisation to supply the funds.

Preservation

In 1997, a national programme for the preservation of library materials was launched, called *Metamorfoze*. The programme is an initiative of the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and is co-ordinated by the National Preservation Office of the KB. Libraries in the Netherlands are responsible themselves for the preservation of their collections, but a considerable part of the costs is subsidised by the Ministry through the *Metamorfoze* programme. The programme focuses on the preservation of manuscripts, books, newspapers and periodicals of Dutch origin, from the 1840-1950 period, in libraries with a preservation function. A review committee of seven experts from different academic disciplines supports the programme. A strategic plan has been drawn up for four years (1997-2000), which will be the beginning of the preservation of part of the material. The programme will provide for a threefold approach:

- Literary collections: it will be possible to preserve 20% of all literary collections in the next four years
- Preservation of Dutch Book Production (1840-1950): because the paper condition of the 1870-1899 period is worst of all, the books of this period will be handled first, a total of some 66,000 books
- Newspapers: national dailies from the post-1869 period and the Dutch newspapers from World War II.

IT and new technology

Library automation

The issues of the IT strategic plan 1997-1999 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. The migration of the library system from VAX/VMS to the Alpha/UNIX platform was started. The migration is planned for June 1998. Security policy has been determined; implementation will take place in 1998.

Office automation

Major effort was spent on the preparation of the migration of all employee workstations from DOS to Windows NT. The hardware and software components of the office automation server have been enhanced and a network management system has been added. The workstations migration roll out is planned for 1998. The first phase of the e-mail migration from the old X400-based to a new Internet-based system has been completed.

Services to readers

The use of the collections increased slightly, but the number of visitors is declining. This can be explained by new library facilities in The Hague: the main public library and the library of the School for Higher Vocational Training. These libraries attract now many students who used the reading rooms of the KB because of the lack of study facilities elsewhere. In the early nineties, when the reading rooms were crowded, the admission age was raised from 17 to 21 years (except for higher education students). As from September 1997 the former situation has been restored. The admission fee of NLG 30 per annum remained unchanged. The state-of-the-art Advanced Information Workstations (AIW), which integrate information services, network navigation tools and PC utilities, have been migrated to a new version. New facilities are index search, multimedia and pay-for-print. These workstations have replaced many of the old-fashioned character-based video terminals. The AIW facilities have been

integrated into the KB Network Information Service (formerly called Alexicon), which has been redesigned. The Service is available to visitors as well as internet-users.

The KB is responsible for co-ordinating interlibrary loan (ILL) and for maintaining the content of the Dutch Union Catalogue, which is hosted by Pica. A completely new version of the automated ILL system has been installed. In the new system speed of delivery and satisfaction rate, among other factors, determine the distribution of ILL requests.

Library co-operation

National

The KB co-ordinates national co-operation in the field of subject indexing and maintains the Dutch Basic Classification Scheme on behalf of the university libraries and other users. In 1997 the scheme has been revised in close co-operation with the libraries involved. The KB is also co-ordinating partner in the Dutch Electronic Subject Service, a national project for cataloguing and indexing internet-resources. At the end of 1997 the database, which is accessible via the KB Network Information Service, contained some 2,300 resources.

International

In October 1997 the Chief Executive was elected as Chair of CENL and in December the secretariat was handed over from Die Deutsche Bibliothek to the KB. The KB also provides the editor for Gabriel, CENL's network information service. The KB is participating in the CoBRA Forum and chairs one of the task groups. Much effort has been put into the preparation of the Nedlib project, which was started in January 1998.

The Chief Executive is vice-chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). In August 1997 the secretariat of CDNL was handed over to the library of CDNL chairman Peter Lor (State Library, Pretoria, South Africa).

The co-operation with the British Library focused on the digitisation of images in famous atlases in the BL and the KB, which will be made available via the network information services of the libraries. The KB has also relations with other individual libraries in Europe, mainly in Germany and Belgium.

Staffing matters

In general, new activities can only be initiated when existing services are reduced or terminated. A flexible organisation is needed as well as staff that is capable to cope with change. Therefore, the budget for management development and training has been increased. In 1996 the implementation of a planning and control system was started. In 1997 all products and services of the KB organisation have been defined. The Division Heads make activity plans, which show the specific products and services, the exploitation costs and the expected production in a year. Management reports are issued and discussed three times a year.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek 1798-1998

In 1998 the KB is celebrating its bicentenary. Many festivities are being organised. A large exhibition will be opened in Amsterdam on 18 August 1998. The KB will show the different aspects of its services, related to print on paper as well as to electronic information. A number of publications will be issued, such as a book on the history of the KB.

Statutory review

A regular review of the national library is a statutory obligation. In 1997 the preparation was started for a self-evaluation, an audit by IT consultants and a review by a committee of experts. Three experts were invited, from the academic world, the IT sector and the international library community (Peter Lor, Chair of CDNL). The final report (in Dutch) is expected to be available in August 1998.