KBR Where time is treasured
The Belgian Digital Legal Deposit and its implementation in KBR

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Current situation in Belgium

• Law on legal deposit since 1965

• The national library (KBR) is the only deposit library in the country

• Compile a unique collection

• The Belgian Bibliography
Big need to adapt to challenges of the ‘digital age’

- Changing user needs
- Rapid technical and technological evolution
- New practices in the publishing industry
- Legal issues
This legal obligation applies to

- Belgian publishers, including co-publishers and self publishers
- Belgian authors who are domiciled in Belgium but whose works are published abroad

Which publications should be deposited?

- 2 copies of printed non-periodical publications
- 1 copy for printed periodicals publications
- Microfilms
- Documents appearing on CD, CD-ROM, DVD, USB key or other digital supports (since 2006)
- Digital publications since 2018 but awaiting royal decree for effective application
What new digital content for digital legal deposit?

- ‘Traditional’ digital publications
- The Belgian web
- Social media
- Audiobooks
- Electronic literature
How do we prepare for this?

- Agreements with partners for the deposit of ebooks that receive public funding
- Start of voluntary web archive (public procurement)
- Extension of Legal Deposit legislation to online content
- New workflow for the digital born content deposit
- BelgicaWeb research project (API & access platform for research)
Proposed changes to the Law and to the Royal Decree on Legal Deposit

Definition of digital publication

Web Archiving

Second copy is digital version

Who should deposit? (Importer)
Broad consultation process

- Meetings with authors/publishers/advocacy groups
- Discussions about access, embargo, who has to deposit,…
- Difficult exercise: a balance has to be found between the missions of a national library and the interests of authors and editors.
Next steps

- Drafting legal texts with a law firm
- Discussions with publishers continue
- Long term preservation issues
- Right management system
Thank you for your attention

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