Let the music play – the collection of electronic music files at the German National Library

Cornelia Diebel
The German National Library's collection mandate encompasses all texts, images and sound recordings published in Germany [...] that have been issued since 1913.

The media works covered by the mandate include all physical publications [...] In 2006, our collection mandate was extended to non-physical media works or incorporate so-called online publications. These are non-physical publications made available through the internet, for example e-books, e-journals, e-papers, digital audio books, musical performances or websites.
Background – our approach to handle E-Legal-Deposit

We expand the collection of online resources gradually in a step by step approach.

From
► monografic works
► to journal items
► now to music files

We use automatic workflows for
► transmission
► processing
► transfer to long-term archive
► provision of online resources
Background – by the numbers

total number of online-resources:

~ **16 mio**  in June 2024

| ~ 3,6 mio | monografic items |
| ~ 11,8 mio | journal items (article or issue) |
| ~ 89 tsd  | audio books |
Background - our conditions

- Collection of resource and metadata
- Using standard metadata formats
DDEX as an industry standard

The goal:

“to improve efficiency and aid the automated exchange of information along the global digital music value chain”

Graphic/text from https://ddex.net/standards/
DDEX as an industry standard – Focus Areas

Graphic from https://ddex.net/files/general_overview_slides_200501_standard.pptx
DDEX - Electronic Release Notification Message Suite (ERN)

Enables record companies/distributors to send data to service providers
► describes the releases and resources the record company or distributor is making available.

The message in ERN can be used to communicate data about everything
► from a single release with a single deal, to the communication of a sales campaign
The most recent version of the Standard is ERN 4.3
► most live implementations are still version of ERN 3.8 (with version 3.8.2 being the most common)
► both versions are not backwards compatible.

DDEX defines two mechanisms to exchange ERN messages between two business partners.
► one is a defined Secure File Transfer Protocol standard which describes how SFTP should be used for exchanging messages and other files.
DDEX – good to know

We needed a new data model for music data
► we cover the track level not the album level with independent entries; the album is recorded as a string

Names of artists have a different meaning
► it is unimportant whether an artists name refers to a corporation or a person it’s an artist
Contact with the community is crucial
► the DDEX secretary is more than helpful
► to have a pilot partner, in our case Morr Music, is essential

We organized a virtual workshop “Delivery of music files to the DNB” with representatives from the music industry (associations, labels, service providers) in October 2022
Let the music play – Status Quo

We start with the import of music files end of June 2024!

We have:

- a new import format
- a new automated workflow
- all the documentation needed

https://www.dnb.de/ddexnp
(soon available in english)
Let the music play – prospects

Publications of the music industry are international

► the implementation of e-legal-deposit will reach limits – facing legal, technical aspects, also the high quantity has to be be considered

Perhaps a new, collaborative path for the collection of music files can be taken here?
Thank you for your attention

c.diebel@dnb.de